

fall 2010

newsbrief



OUR MISSION

We believe that establishing a positive relationship between cops and kids at risk will strengthen our community today and for the future. By funding programs that bring local cops and kids together, we help create an environment of mutual understanding and respect.

ProAction nets over \$120,000 for police-youth programs at annual golf tournament



Above: Master of Ceremonies, Gord Stellick, starts the festivities at the tournament dinner

Top Right: Chief Bill Blair braves the rain with the Mandrake foursome, the tournament's Title Sponsor

It was a rainy, cool day but that didn't stop 120 golfers from swinging in support of ProAction police-youth programs at Muskoka Bay Golf Club in Gravenhurst. The golfers enjoyed luxury transportation to the course with Toronto Police motorcycle escorts, fantastic drinks and food, our celebrity Master of Ceremonies, Gord Stellick and fabulous Sony gifts. The golfers also had the opportunity to beat Chief of Police, Bill Blair and have their photo taken with Toronto's top cop.

Our special guests for the day were police officers from 32 Division's Junior Blues Hockey Club. Constables Gord Callanan, Jason Fenton and Neil Ballard are integral to the program which is now celebrating its 20th anniversary. The program welcomes kids aged 7-11 years from the Lawrence Heights neighbourhood and focuses on mentoring, character development and the development of skating and hockey skills. Many of the kids who

participate in the program would not have been able to afford to play hockey otherwise. The program is always very successful in creating strong friendships between the cops and kids on and off the ice.

Const. Callanan gave an emotional speech at the ProAction golf tournament, telling the crowd how wonderful it is to be approached on the street by youth who know officers by name and consider them to be friends and community builders. Because of this speech, ProAction's golfers generously donated over \$10,000 to this one program alone, ensuring the kids will have another great year of hockey games and positive interaction with police.

Our thanks go out to our title sponsor, Mandrake, all of our generous sponsors and golfers and ProAction's volunteer Golf Committee for their support and dedication to ProAction police-youth programs in Toronto. See you next year!



Left: Players from the Driftwood and Tobermory teams in action



Centre and Right: The Lanes and Driftwood teams pose with their police officer coaches



ProAction and TAVIS team up to strengthen high-risk communities

ProAction teamed up with TAVIS this summer to fund some great new programs to bring police and youth together in some of Toronto's highest-risk neighbourhoods.

TAVIS is the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy, which aims to reduce crime and increase safety in communities via intensive violence reduction and community mobilization in three stages. First, additional police officers are assigned to areas experiencing an increase in violent activity. Once the neighbourhood has stabilized, the police shift their focus to increased collaboration with community members. At the end of the process, police officers offer their continued support to a now-empowered community.

ProAction funding has come in handy for police officers working on the community mobilization side of TAVIS. Over the past several months, ProAction has funded many TAVIS initiatives with the aim to bring police, youth and community leaders closer together for the betterment of the community.

From TAVIS coordinator, Sgt. Jeff Pearson: "Each team of TAVIS officers was tasked with initiating a ProAction youth-focused initiative. However it was soon evident that this undertaking was not an onerous 'task', but a passion that was experienced by the participating youth and by the involved officers too. It was interesting to see how these events had lasting effects. Some of the officers reported that when they were on patrol the youth that participated in the ProAction events would approach them, some hugging them, some calling them by name, some introducing them to their friends – all of them so excited to see them again, especially in their neighbourhood."

Jane & Finch Soccer House League

TAVIS officers were pleasantly surprised with the warm reception in the community for their Jane & Finch Soccer House League.

The program took place at the soccer field of Yorkwoods Public School, which is underused in the summertime. Before the first game, the officers spent time getting the park ready for the kids – sanding and painting the goal posts and cutting the grass.

Upcoming! ProAction Events

ProAction has a variety of exciting events taking place throughout the year. For more information on any of the following events, please contact Event Coordinator, Meredith Marino at 416-222-7011 or meredith@copsandkids.ca

★ **ProAction Elite Police Training at the Emergency Task Force**
Train like Toronto's toughest cops at the Emergency Task Force! Activities include gun range training, rappelling and demonstrations from Police Dog Services and the bomb squad.
Thursday November 4, 2010
Tickets: \$1500 each or \$2500 per pair
Only 14 spaces still available!

★ **ProAction Presents Brian Burke, Toronto Maple Leaf President & General Manager**
Wednesday December 1, 2010
Real Sports Bar & Grill
Tickets: \$500 each
Don't miss out – only 27 seats still available!

★ **ProAction Presents Billy Elliot**
Wednesday February 23, 2011
Dinner: TBA
Show: 7:30, Canon Theatre
Tickets: \$500 each
A great gift for the holidays!

OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS, OUR OFFICERS, OUR YOUTH

ProAction looks to the Toronto Police Service for fundraising support

Since 1991, ProAction Cops & Kids has funded over \$4 million in Toronto Police programs for at-risk youth. Through these programs, thousands of cops and kids have had the opportunity to create positive alliances and better our communities. Without support from ProAction, many of these programs simply would not have existed.

Over the years, ProAction has raised the necessary funds for these programs entirely from the generosity of corporations, foundations and individuals. ProAction receives no funding from the Toronto Police Service, the government or the United Way.

ProAction has always been there for officers needing money and support to make their programs a reality. You can help us continue the important work we've been doing for almost 20 years by donating to ProAction on our website: www.copsandkids.ca. Help us keep up the good work!





Above: At the Cooking with Cops program, police and kids have fun learning to cook together

The league was comprised of six teams representing different areas of the neighbourhood: Driftwood, Grassways, Lanes, Shoreham, San Romanoway and Tobermory. Boys and girls aged 11-13 were invited to play.

From the very first game, 50 to 100 parents and community members were on the sidelines cheering on the kids and officers. Residents in nearby apartment buildings also cheered from their balconies.

This program has been very successful in uniting the community and creating positive relationships with police officers. The officers hope to continue the league through the fall with indoor games.

Cooking with Cops

Scarborough Village has a disproportionate amount of gangs, drugs and violence than other communities in Scarborough so TAVIS officers made the effort to engage youth from the neighbourhood in positive, educational activities.

The group met weekly for cooking classes where they learned basic kitchen skills, nutrition and how to shop on a budget. The group put

together many delicious appetizers, entrees and desserts and enjoyed them at the table together over discussions of the real issues facing youth today. Many of the kids were already interested in cooking and in some cases, they are cooking regularly at home when their parents are too busy or working.

The program was well received in the community and successful in creating a positive environment for police and kids to interact, while equipping the kids with a valuable life skill.

Other TAVIS initiatives funded by ProAction

African Lion Safari Trip

CNE Trip

Take me out to the Ball Game

Movie Nights with Cops

Getting to know your Toronto Police Service

Rowntree Community Centre Baseball Program

Click It Photography Club

You can make a difference. Donate Now!

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www.copsandkids.ca

Phone
416 222-7011

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ProAction Cops & Kids
40 College Street, 6th Floor
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Charitable registration #887700862 RR0001

did you know?

ProAction Cops & Kids is completely independent from the Toronto Police Service and receives no government funding. We rely completely on financial contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations to fund over \$400,000 of police-youth programs each year in Toronto, Durham and Hamilton.

Please donate now!



"Without ProAction's help and funding we never would have been able to provide the equipment and the opportunity to the kids we reach out to."
Const. Rob Tajti,
MUSIC! Not Mischief

Add my support to ProAction Programs!

\$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

Cheque enclosed, payable to ProAction Cops&Kids

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