



ProAction Cops & Kids *Guiding kids to a brighter future*

Chapters in Toronto, Durham Region and Hamilton

MISSION

At ProAction Cops & Kids, 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.

FACTS

In 2010...

- ProAction funded over 118 different programs totaling over \$515,340.
 - Toronto Chapter – 110 programs
 - Durham Chapter – 5 programs
 - Hamilton Chapter – 3 programs
- Programs included: sports, educational, leadership and arts programs
- Thousands of youth and hundreds of police officers came together under positive circumstances because of the ProAction-funded programs

Since 1991...

- ProAction has funded over 1000 programs with over \$4,500,000 in three chapters: Toronto, Durham Region and Hamilton.
- Over 350,000 youth have participated in the programs run by more than 6000 police officers

BACKGROUNDER

ProAction Cops & Kids is a charity that funds programs, developed and run by police officers, to reach out to youth in our communities. Our goal is to build mutual trust and respect between cops and kids, breaking down stereotypes and improving the safety of our communities for everyone.

ProAction was founded in 1991, when John Bitove Sr. saw an opportunity to create an organization that would enable officers to make a positive connection with youth.

Over the years, ProAction has helped over 350,000 youth in Toronto and funded over 1000 police-initiated programs. ProAction Cops & Kids is the largest private funder of Toronto Police programs for youth at risk. ProAction also supports Chapters in Durham Region (est. 2007) and Hamilton (est. 2008).

By working with a variety of generous corporate donors and sponsors, ProAction continues to fund police-run programs that create fun and safe environments for youth. With a mandate of promoting positive relationships and mutual understanding between these two groups, ProAction works to ensure that the communication gap between them is reduced each time a ProAction-funded program is implemented.

For more information or to request an interview, please contact:
Sabrina Holmes, Special Events and Communications Coordinator
T. 416-222-7011, E. sabrina@copsandkids.ca



ProAction Cops & Kids *Guiding kids to a brighter future*

Chapters in Toronto, Durham Region and Hamilton

Community Policing Units and individual officers who donate their time nurturing these relationships and programs can be found camping on weekends with ProAction kids, playing ball on local courts with teams of at-risk youth and spearheading after-school activities designed to keep kids engaged, optimistic and motivated.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Need?

- Police officers report that kids are at-risk from negative peer pressure, dysfunctional families, criminal tendencies, drug-abuse and other environmental factors
- Three distinct and alarming trends have appeared: the growth of gang-type or group violence, the rapid escalation to weapons in conflicts and an increase in female violence

How does ProAction Help?

- Programs are initiated by members of the Toronto, Durham and Hamilton Police Service who identify the needs of the youth in the communities they patrol. Police officers design programs to address those needs and approach ProAction for funding.
- Having a fast and stable funding source allows officers to concentrate on their program and spending time with youth.
- All programs are free of charge allowing youth to participate in activities they otherwise may not be able to afford.
- The variety of programs represents the diversity of interest of each officer. Rock climbing, opera, guitar and camping open up new experiences for kids.

What are the Benefits?

- The programs offer youth a safe place to go after school, in the evenings, and on the weekends
- The programs can provide a great socializing experience for youth
- Youth can develop leadership, cooperation and social skills that will help them in the future
- Youth feel more comfortable around police, and begin to think of them as friends

For more information or to request an interview, please contact:
Sabrina Holmes, Special Events and Communications Coordinator
T. 416-222-7011, E. sabrina@copsandkids.ca