ProAction Cops & Kids

Our Strategic Directions

OUR MISSION
At ProAction Cops & Kids, we bring cops and kids together in skill-building and mentoring programs to create trust, respect and safer communities.

OUR VISION
At ProAction Cops & Kids, we envision a community that trusts and collaborates with police to create safer neighbourhoods and opportunities for young people.

OUR VALUES
Trust - Inclusion - Diversity - Collaboration - Accountability

OUR PRIORITIES
To reach more youth, the following 3 strategic priorities will guide ProAction Cops & Kids over the next few years:

1. **Funding Programs**: Support high impact and vibrant police-youth programs.

   Build and grow best practice programming with measurable impact and expand to new regions through community and police engagement.

2. **Raise Awareness**: Build the image, profile and presence to broaden support for ProAction’s mission.

   Implement a communications and marketing strategy that maximizes newer technologies and increases ProAction’s relevance with youth.

3. **Sustainability**: Increase and diversify ProAction’s revenue generation strategies.

   Develop and implement a national revenue diversification plan that expands corporate involvement, leverages special events and supports local chapter fundraising.

ProAction’s head office is located at:

Toronto Police Headquarters
40 College Street,
6th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2J3
As President of the Board of Directors for ProAction Cops & Kids, I have had the pleasure of working with a team of dedicated volunteers who are all deeply committed to moving ProAction’s mission forward by creating positive and stronger relationships between cops, kids and their communities.

Over the past four years, I have seen exceptional growth across all our chapters and new interest in our work generated from other communities. This growth is fueled by the positive impact ProAction programs have on our kids and communities which was clearly demonstrated as we celebrated our 25th Anniversary in May 2016 at the Art Gallery of Ontario. At this milestone event, long-time and new supporters came together to show their support for the many officers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to run programs and help guide our young people to better life choices. With 25 year’s experience, the quality and impact of ProAction programs have become stronger and the stories of success have become increasingly inspiring. As officers see how these programs help them to keep our communities safe and improve the quality of life of our young people, more officers, youth and regions are interested in joining our team.

Since inception, ProAction has touched the lives of over 402,000 youth through 2,000 programs in partnership with 17,000 police officers across our chapters. In 2016 alone, ProAction supported over 150 programs engaging over 6,000 young people. The $7.3 million dollars distributed to support all these programs would not have been available if it weren’t for the efforts of ProAction’s board and volunteers and our donors’ deep commitment to giving young people opportunities that help build stronger and safer communities. Please take a moment to review this annual report to learn more about our many successes throughout the year.

As my term comes to an end, I welcome John Lago as the new Board President and wish him much success in this rewarding position. I would like to thank my fellow board members, our Chapter Council members, all ProAction volunteers, supporters and staff for the time and effort each person has dedicated to increasing ProAction’s presence and reach in our community.

Roy Hryn
President, ProAction Cops & Kids
To celebrate 25 years of supporting police led youth programs, ProAction Cops & Kids hosted a historic celebration at the Art Gallery of Ontario. This milestone event was presented by Scotiabank and welcomed 400 guests to a night of fun filled entertainment.

With Canadian comedy icon Eugene Levy as host, Dragon’s Den Jim Treliving as Honourary Event Chair and performances by the cast from Second City, guests at this sold out event enjoyed an evening of laughter filled with fine wine, dining and inspiring stories of success.

ProAction was honoured to have in attendance long-time supporters who have seen this organization grow over the years and new supporters who have recently been introduced to our good work. All celebrated the life of our founding father John Bitove Sr. through a special tribute that shared this visionary’s goal of connecting cops and kids to make lives better and communities safer. This vision has grown far beyond any expectations that Mr. Bitove initially had for ProAction by expanding to four chapters and benefiting over 402,000 young people, their families and their communities.

To demonstrate the positive impact of ProAction programs, youth participant Quandon shared his personal story and how he has overcome unfathomable challenges. Thanks to his experiences in ProAction programs and the guidance of his police mentors, Quandon has completed his post-secondary education and has established a personal goal to become a police officer. Quandon has made great progress towards this career goal by obtaining his security guard license and securing employment with a leading security company. From living in a shelter to helping to make our communities safer, Quandon is truly a ProAction story of success.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and donors, this event raised almost $350,000 allowing ProAction's police partners to engage even more young people in their programs. Without the support of our donors and sponsors, these important programs would not take place and inspiring success stories like Quandon's would not exist.

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!
Early in my policing career, I had the opportunity to lead several ProAction programs and experience first-hand the value and impact these programs have on our youth, communities and an officer's ability to keep our communities safe. As ProAction's police liaison, I welcome the opportunity to move ProAction's mission forward by working with the dedicated members of ProAction's board and by promoting these valuable programs to officers throughout the Toronto Police Service (TPS). In 2016, Toronto experienced a 20% increase in ProAction programs as more Toronto officers created opportunities to serve their communities in a positive way. Contributing to this increase were programs led by Neighbourhood Officers, a new program launched by TPS that brings officers closer to the neighbourhoods they serve. With plans to expand the Neighbourhood Officer program to more neighbourhoods throughout Toronto, the need for ProAction programs will continue to grow. Thanks to ProAction, Toronto officers are able to provide safe, positive and impactful opportunities for youth in a way that helps officers to become accepted and engaged members of every neighbourhood.

Thank you for your support!
TORONTO PROGRAMS

11 Division
Division Teen Ranch - Cops and Kids
11 Division Bicycle Rodeo
11 Division Chess Tournament “5th Annual Push Pawns-Not Each Other”
Swansea Basketball Program
4020 Skating Program

12 Division
Stone Soup Cooking Club
D12 York Memorial Miniature Painting Club
12 Division George Harvey Ball Hockey Program
12 Bike Rodeo Program
Amazing Race - 12 Division
Kids, Cops and Books
12 Division Youth Photography Club

13 Division
13 Division Cooking with Cops
Cowgirl Up
Kicks for Kids and Cops

14 Division
KRAV MAGA Self Defence & Mentoring
Amazing Race - 14 Division
ProAction Hockey League - Parkdale Division

22 Division
Islington Community Golf Association
Amazing Race - 22 Division
22 Division Community Open House + BBQ
222 Kicks

23 Division
Youth Citizens Academy
Yoga at Dixon

31 Division
31 Division Open House
Students Taking Action Against Negative Decisions (S.T.A.A.N.D)
TPS / PYB Raptors Event
The Amazing Race - 31 Division
Jane & Finch Cricket Clinic

32 Division
Cops and Chords
Cliffhangers
Discover Toronto
New Heights Soccer Program
32 Division Junior Blues Hockey Program
Fresh Start
Sweeping for Success Junior Curling

33 Division
Cooking with Cops
A.Y. Jackson Soccer Club
George Vanier Soccer
Operation Sandwich Run For The Homeless
Parkway Forest C.C./33 Division TPS 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
Amazing Race - 33 Division
Healthy Body and Mind Through Yoga
Bridging the Gap
2nd Annual Police & Youth Cricket Festival
Police and PALS Baseball Day
Sparroways United Soccer Club

41 Division
Amazing Race - 41 Division

42 Division
Cycling for Success
Reading Falcons Book Club
Weight Lifting, Strength + Conditioning Project Fresh Air
The Amazing Race - 42 Division
Malvern Skateboard Club
Stone Soup Cooking Club

43 Division
TPS At Risk Youth Partnership
Amazing Race 2016 - 43 Division

51 Division
200 Sherbourne After School Club
Girls Fit Club
51 Division Cycling Club #4
Fitness
Amazing Race - 51 Division Moss Park

52 Division
Amazing Race - 51 Division Regent Park
The Next Step
The Summer Youth Fashion Initiative
Know YOUR City

53 Division
Thorncliffe Basketball Tournament
Thorncliffe Youth Cricket Tournament
Kids Day Out-Rewarding Commitment, Improvement and Success
Annual CUPE 79 Youth Ball Hockey Tournament
EMS Challenge
Amazing Race - 53 Division
53 Division Youth Baseball
53 Division Thorncliffe Exhibition Soccer Game
53 CRU Floor Hockey Program

54 Division
ProAction Mountain Biking
Youth Soccer League
Girlz Will Be Girlz
Cops & Kids Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
Cops & Kids Table Tennis
ProAction Soccer League
Cops & Kids Weight Training Program
ProAction Hockey League
Youth Basketball League
O’Connor Community Centre Guitar Program
Lead The Way

55 Division
Project Interact
First Nations Jr and Sr Public School Boys Club
S.I.S.T.A.
Chopped 55 - Into the Wilderness
Amazing Race 2016 - 55 Blake/Boutilbee
Amazing Race 2016 - 55 Walpole & Lower Gerrard
Amazing Race 2016 - 55 Rivertowne
TORONTO PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Three Amigos Golf Tournament

For the past 7 years, social minded golfers have headed down to Florida to participate in the Three Amigos Annual Golf Tournament. ProAction Cops & Kids has been a fortunate recipient of the proceeds from this fun and exclusive event since it started. This year a generous gift from the Brandon Prust Foundation contributed to the $33,000 donated to ProAction Cops & Kids. These funds will support ProAction camping programs and provide kids who have never been beyond the boundaries of their neighbourhoods with the opportunity to experience unique outdoors activities. These programs help participants develop important life and survival skills while developing special bonds with officers and peers that change their lives. From a simple camping experience, many ProAction program participants have developed new skills and resources that have led to new educational and employment opportunities.

3rd Party Events in our Toronto Chapter

Aboriginal Unit
- Billards Tournament
- Keeping the Circle Strong

Employment Unit
- Wisdom of Mkwa

Divisional Policing
- SMILE Camp - Elementary
- SMILE Camp - Highschool
- TROOP
- Amazing Race Day 2016
- Women’s Habitat Wellness YOGA
- STREETS2LADDERS

Homocide Squad
- Jarvis CI Centurions Rugby Club

Marine Unit
- Community Outreach Rescue Program
- Ski Hill Blues

Traffic Services
- Motor Day

When I was a kid, I wanted to play ice hockey, but I couldn’t because of the cost. Now, I’m in a position where with the help of ProAction Cops & Kids I am able to help give kids the opportunity I never had. Most of the kids in the program are 1st generation Canadians. It was great introducing these kids and their families to Canada’s game.

ProAction Program Officer
Toronto Events

**20th Annual Golf Tournament**

**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2016  
**Location:** Oviinbyrd Golf Club  
** Raised almost $150,000**

This year’s tournament marked another milestone in ProAction’s history as we celebrated 20 years of hosting this successful golf tournament. Over the years, ProAction’s golf tournaments have helped raise much needed funds that have significantly contributed to the growing number of police programs we support as well as our expansion into new regions. ProAction golfers are not only enjoying access to exclusive and challenging courses such as this year’s venue at Oviinbyrd Golf Club, they are truly impacting the lives of young people.

ProAction program youth enjoyed the day by hosting a food station at one of the holes. These young chefs prepared their favourite foods to thank our golfers, sponsors and donors for the generosity that has helped them to learn a valuable skill, and for some, find a new career path. To ensure proper golf etiquette, our police partners carefully patrolled the greens by monitoring strategically placed speed traps and posing for pictures with our guests. This year’s golf tournament raised close to $150,000 to support ProAction programs and provide youth with life-changing opportunities.

ProAction’s 2017 Golf Tournament will be hosted on Monday, September 18th, at Coppinwood Golf Club in Uxbridge. Located 30 minutes northeast of Toronto, this golfer’s paradise is located on 357 acres of rolling terrain with stunning elevation changes that will challenge any golfer. Please join us for our 2017 Golf Tournament and help make our communities safer by giving young people new opportunities and better futures.

**Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!**
Toronto Award Winners

Toronto Youth Award

Award Winner: Sal
Program: Fitness Program - 51 Division

Sal was the first Muslim female youth to join 51 Division’s Fitness Program. Participating in this program was outside of her comfort zone and as a result, she appeared shy and had difficulty expressing herself when she first started the program. As the program progressed, officers learned that Sal was facing many personal challenges. Fortunately, these challenges didn’t stop her from reaching out to officers and accomplishing great things through this fitness program.

Sal’s performance in the program began to improve over time and led to her taking on a leadership role to further her involvement. She clearly was a team player and enjoyed helping and motivating others with her upbeat personality. She was always on time, courteous and professional. She engaged with officers and asked them questions. When she learned something new, she would pass that knowledge along to other youth.

The positive change in her attitude has been rewarding in many ways. Through this program, Sal became goal oriented and a community advocate. She promotes fitness and health in her community and has the ability to set her mind to achieve greatness. Her boost in confidence assisted her in developing her own successful non-profit organization based in Regent Park called “Youth Gravity”. Through this initiative, officers are able to positively connect and better interact with local women’s shelters. By improving her fitness skills and developing a healthier lifestyle, Sal has been able to improve both her physical and mental health as well as the health of her community.

My child had a great experience playing in the Police basketball league. Not only was he able to play with his friends, he also met other children from across the city with the same likes and interest. The league also connected my son with police officers that he feels he now has a relationship with as they were instrumental in mentoring the players throughout the season.

ProAction Parent
The Jack Sinclair Award

Award Winner: PC Nelvin Forde
Program: Double Nickel Ninja Warrior Program

PC Nelvin Forde is an avid watcher of the show American Ninja Warrior and wanted to share this interest with kids in the communities he serves. His primary motive was to provide kids who do not excel in sports with an opportunity to become more active. He created the Double Nickel Ninja Warrior program to challenge youth both mentally and physically. The program involves boot camp fitness sessions and obstacles that require thought and planning to successfully complete.

Program participants were recruited from five local schools. Due to living in a high crime area, many of these young people have unfortunately been subject or witness to some sort of criminal act. Several face the added challenge of a physical disability including one participant who is blind. To ensure this participant’s safety, workouts were tailored to accommodate his disability and he was provided with an assistant for added support. This was the first time this youth had ever been involved in a program of this nature or magnitude. Thanks to the inclusive nature of this program, this participant has become more physically active, learned some defensive tactics and according to his school’s principal, has notably boosted his self-confidence.

The program included a semifinals competition that took place at the Toronto Police College where the participants were able to see and participate in police training. The finals took place at an elite obstacle course that challenged the youth at a higher level.

Through his programs and work in the community, all the kids know PC Forde as officer “Nelly”. PC Forde loves spending time with the kids and constantly says that he will do anything within his power to keep these kids out of trouble.
Toronto Award Winners

The Jim Sneep Award

Award Winner: PC Jennifer DeKezel
Program: Girlz will be Girlz

In a true show of dedication, PC Jennifer DeKezel has been running the “Girlz will be Girlz” program since 2007. Through this program, PC DeKezel supports and assists young girls who have come from broken or single parent families in developing important life skills. Many participants are new to Canada and have very little trust towards police. To fully engage the participants, PC DeKezel ensures the program is fun, educational and encourages physical activity.

PC DeKezel works with parents, teachers and school principals to recruit participants who are at risk and would best benefit from her program. Some program participants are victims of sexual and physical abuse, have eating disorders and/or other social disorders. One program participant who attempted to take her own life reached out to PC DeKezel for help. With the help of her ProAction program, this girl has progressed very well and started her own self-help group for other girls suffering from depression and bullying.

PC DeKezel goes above and beyond the call of duty by making herself available to these young girls both on and off duty. This allows her to respond to the girls in times of distress. Following any crisis, PC DeKezel monitors the girls to ensure they are receiving the care and support they need to succeed. PC DeKezel strengthens relationships between cops and kids and also between kids and their families by encouraging estranged family members to reunite.

She actively recruits members of the service to participate in the program to ensure a safe environment on their outings and events. This engagement has led many officers to start their own ProAction program to experience the benefits.

Many participants come back to the “Girlz will be Girlz” program and assist PC DeKezel with other programs and events that she’s involved in. She has certainly been and continues to be a mentor for young women in our community.
Toronto Programs

Bridging Communities and Police through Athletics

Through the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, CIBC and MLSE Foundation, the Bridging Police and Communities through Athletics (BCPA) initiative experienced great success and positive growth. Over the past three years, there was a 43% increase in the number of programs and 58% increase in the number of youth and officers participating in these program.

This year over year increase allowed more young people to experience the benefits of developing important new skills by playing one of their favourite sports while also improving their physical health and well-being.

In addition to revitalizing a 130-year old tradition by engaging more officers and youth in the Annual Toronto Police Games, this initiative truly helped improve community safety by opening lines of communication that increased community collaboration.

Outdoor Survival Skills Program

Funded in part by the Motorola Solutions Foundation, ProAction’s Outdoor Survival Skills Program includes different camping programs that give young people an opportunity to experience the outdoors like never before. Many of these young people have never been beyond the boundaries of their neighbourhoods. Spending days and nights in northern Ontario away from the challenges of their daily lives builds a new perspective and appreciation for things they can achieve.

Highly trained officers leading these programs teach a variety of skills from basic camping to rapelling, advanced canoeing and lifesaving. Many of the participants leave this program with skills, certifications and opportunities that lead to new career and academic opportunities. Participants of this program have successfully completed their secondary education, been accepted into post-secondary and/or trades programs and some have even gained employment thanks to their new outdoor survival skills.

Proof that these programs save lives was clearly demonstrated when ProAction officers and participants led two different rescues of fellow campers who were stranded in deep water. Two of these campers were young boys who swam too far out in deep water and a couple whose canoe capsized. Thanks to this program, young people experienced first-hand how police officers save lives.
I am proud to lead the Durham ProAction Council into our future as I strongly believe that Durham ProAction is now entrenched in the Durham Regional Police. I see an increase in officer involvement; more officers becoming motivated by the opportunities to engage in programs with youth. The past year saw more programs, unique programs and numerous success stories. The growth in police and youth partnerships is the ‘Why’, we as a Council work so hard to enable the programs to be supported. Our Council believes in making an impact in Durham Region. I thank the Durham Council and our Community supporters for enabling officers and youth to build relationships.

The Durham ProAction Chapter has reached a milestone. In 2017, we will be celebrating our 10th Anniversary. This is a very proud moment for us and we will certainly demonstrate our pride and commitment by hosting our best ever fundraising event in February at our Annual Jeans & Jewels event.

For the 9th consecutive year, the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) and ProAction Cops & Kids exceeded the benchmarks set in the previous year. In 2016, we increased our programs to 30 which positively influenced over 400 youth. We are making a difference in Durham with over 95 officers interacting with youth through programs that create a unique venue to provide mentorship, support, and guidance to vulnerable and at-risk youth within our community.

DRPS recognizes the importance of all youth within our community. They are our future leaders and are at the forefront of change innovation. To this end we are committed to providing opportunities for youth to succeed. Without the collaborative efforts of ProAction staff and the dedicated Council Members of the Durham Chapter our accomplishments would not have been possible. It is also important to recognize the 95 officers that initiated and/or participated in the 30 programs over the past year. Thanks to each of you for your commitment to your community and the community of our youth.

Finally to all who have sponsored and supported ProAction Cops & Kids over the past year please accept my sincere gratitude. Your generosity and commitment to youth is positively influencing our future as a community and creating a healthier and stronger Durham Region for each of us to live, work and play.
PC Rebecca Ruttan designed the Expression Painting program for under-resourced kids who struggle with social, physical and/or mental health issues and would benefit from a calming and creative experience.

Twice a week during lunch, PC Ruttan supported these program participants by providing ideas and assistance with art technique to create their own beautiful pieces of art. At the end of this four month program, the young participants produced their own masterpieces that were proudly displayed on the walls of their school.

Several of the participants donated their art to be sold in a silent auction. The pieces were of such great quality that they raised several hundred dollars for charity. Congratulations to our young aspiring artists for their great accomplishments and contribution to making their community a better place.
On Saturday, February 6th, guests gathered at the Jubilee Pavilion in Oshawa for the 4th Annual Jeans & Jewels fundraiser and raised more than $30,000 for Durham Region’s ProAction Cops & Kids Chapter.

Everyone had a great time dancing the night away to performances by crowd favourite Two for the Show and captured many picture perfect moments dressing up at our photo booth generously donated by More than Fun. Guests heard from program participant Justin and his mother Carol about the positive impact that ProAction has had on their family. Justin bravely shared his personal challenges that he was able to successfully overcome thanks to his involvement in Const. Jen Miglia’s Run for Me Run for Us program. This program not only helped Justin to stay on track, it opened opportunities for Justin’s entire family bringing them closer than ever before.

After enjoying a delicious buffet dinner, CTV news anchor Ken Shaw hosted a live auction that offered unique once in a lifetime packages donated by many ProAction partners and supporters. We had a record turn-out this year and look forward to celebrating the Durham Chapter’s 10th Anniversary in 2017.

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors:
Heading Down The Right Lane

8th Annual Durham Chapter Bowling Tournament

Date: Thursday, June 9, 2016
Location: NEB’s Funworld
Raised more than $12,000

For the past eight years, Durham officers, program youth and ProAction supporters have hit the lanes at NEB’s Funworld and enjoyed a night of fun and friendly bowling complimented by a great pizza dinner, prizes and a silent auction that has a gift for everyone.

After a few rounds, the team with the highest score played Chief Paul Martin and his team in a final game. Congratulations to East Division A Platoon, this year’s winners, who took home the final prize after a close scoring, nail biting game against the Chief and his team.

This year’s bowling event raised over $12,000 for ProAction programs in Durham Region – one of our best years yet! These funds will support a wide range of healthy active programs led by Durham police officers that engage at risk youth. Thanks to all who came out and supported this event.

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors:
In our Durham Chapter

Durham Third Party Events

McHappy Day
For the second year in a row, ProAction’s Durham Chapter was a proud recipient of over $25,000 raised by McDonald’s restaurants in Oshawa and Clarington for McHappy Day. On May 4, 2016, ProAction staff and program officers served customers at these McDonald’s restaurants and helped to build support and awareness for our programs. Thanks to Durham Council Member Steve Wilson for making ProAction one of the charities of choice for this great day.

John Strange Memorial Golf Tournament
The third annual John Strange Memorial Golf Classic had another successful year raising over $20,000 to support police led youth programs in Durham Region. ProAction Cops & Kids was honoured to have John Strange chair our Durham Council before his sudden passing in 2013 and we are committed to continuing his legacy of building a stronger safer Durham through ProAction programs.
Durham Award Winner

Durham Youth Award

Award Winner: Ty
Program: Durham Dog Sled Adventure & Durham Wilderness Adventure

Ty has been a participant of ProAction programs for a year and a half. He came to the program from a third party referral and at first presented as a shy youth who kept to himself. It was clear that he thoroughly enjoyed the experiences provided by ProAction programs and he was quick to show officers that he wanted to stay involved. He has taken on a leadership role at a young age and has progressed from a shy young man to an interactive youth who demonstrates maturity beyond his age.

Ty has requested to participate in extra learning, obtaining canoeing certifications beyond his peers. He practices his skills throughout the year and he is eager to showcase his improvements to officers on trips. Ty has kept in touch with program officers throughout the year between trips and he often reaches out to provide updates on his progress, his challenges or just to ask for advice. His positive attitude is infectious amongst his peers and he sets a great example for others. He is quick to offer assistance, provide a helping hand and explain to new participants how to work through similar problems he once faced.

Ty is an absolute pleasure to have in our program and officers always look forward to his return. He has built a strong and lasting relationship with officers. Ty’s development over the course of these programs is a testament to the positive change that these programs have on the youth of our communities.
Durham Award Winner
Chuck Mercier Award

Award Winner: PC Jason Cockburn
Program: African Drumming Program

The African Drumming Program was the first program of its kind for the Durham Chapter. PC Jason Cockburn initiated and ran this program at two separate schools starting at the beginning of the 2016 school year. As a School Liaison officer, PC Cockburn is heavily invested in the community of our youth and wanted to find a way to positively interact with youth while also providing a unique learning opportunity. The participating schools are in high risk areas and youth living in these neighbourhoods do not have the resources to engage in extra-curricular activities.

This program was created as an after school program to provide youth with the opportunity to engage positively with police and learn a new musical instrument. Certainly the African Drum or ‘Djembe’ is not a traditional instrument. Not only did the youth learn to play this instrument, but they also learned about a different culture.

As this was an after school program, PC Cockburn either altered his working schedule or remained after his shift to facilitate the program.

By learning how to play the instrument alongside the youth, participants were able to see an officer at the same level as them and grow as a team.

Making a difference
As an officer I was able to see the change with many of the youths in regards to their relationship with the officers in attendance. By the end of the program the evident swing in the trust factor by some of the youth was inspiring.

ProAction Program Officer
Durham Award Winner
Dave Wilson Award

Award Winner: PC Rebecca Ruttan
Programs: Learn to Ski, Durham Dog Sled Adventure, Durham Wilderness Adventure, Durham River Adventure

PC Ruttan has both initiated her own program and assisted with several others for over three years.

PC Ruttan has an immensely busy life both personally and professionally. She is passionate and caring and sees the value that ProAction programs have on the lives of young people within our communities. She puts aside personal priorities to ensure she can contribute to and attend ProAction programs. PC Ruttan is professional, kind and genuinely involved with the youth. She is a great role model and values and cares for each kid as she does her own.

During an event last year, police responded to a medical call at a local university where a female student had collapsed and was transported to an area hospital without vital signs. PC Ruttan became aware of the incident and identified the student as a sibling of one of the youth from a ProAction Program she had participated in. Going above the call of duty, PC Ruttan was able to locate this former ProAction participant, who was attending a different school in a different city, and notified him of his sister’s condition. This ProAction participant was exceptionally grateful for PC Ruttan and for her quick response during his sister’s medical emergency.

PC Ruttan has motivated additional officers to become involved in ProAction programs and has assisted those same officers with the creation of their own programs. PC Ruttan is a selfless individual who exemplifies her role within ProAction.
ProAction's Hamilton Chapter has been active since 2008 and since that time has granted over $158,000 to support 70 programs that have engaged 2,000 youth. It has been an honour and a privilege for me to serve as Chair of this Chapter starting in 2016. As a passionate Hamiltonian, I am encouraged by the tremendous interaction and development of youth and police relationships created by our programs.

I want to acknowledge our outgoing Chair, Paul Field, who has provided incredible leadership in this role since 2010 and has been integral in spreading awareness around the benefits of ProAction within Hamilton Police Services and our community. I also want to acknowledge Deputy Chief Ken Weatherill and the significant contributions he has made to our Chapter through his proactive hands-on and lead by example approach in promoting and participating in ProAction events.

Over the next few years, our Council will be focused on continuing to fuel the positive momentum in the growth of our programs and build on past successes as we support new and exciting ways to facilitate valuable connections between officers and at-risk youth in our community.

I would like to thank the Hamilton business community for their financial support of our fundraising events and my fellow Council members for their enthusiasm, support and active participation. I look forward to sharing more successes in the coming years!

Deputy Chief Ken Weatherill has been ProAction’s police liaison for our Hamilton Chapter since October 2014. During his tenure, Deputy Chief Weatherill clearly demonstrated his commitment to building positive relationships between cops, kids and the community through his leadership and encouragement of officers to become involved in ProAction programs. By establishing an internal ProAction subcommittee, police officers were given support from seasoned ProAction officers to develop and deliver programs that would have a strong impact. Efforts were also made to ensure that proven programs were sustained and the participating youth continued to receive the support and activities that lead to success.

As Deputy Chief Weatherill moves on to his new role of Deputy Chief of the Barrie Police Service, ProAction Cops & Kids wish him much success in this new role and thank him for his support and dedication to building positive relationships between cops and kids.
Throughout the school year, Constable David Hamilton assisted teachers at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School with a weekly afterschool badminton program. Every Monday, up to 40 kids would come out to play recreational badminton in a non-competitive format.

The program gave these kids the opportunity to learn a fun new sport under the guidance of a police officer and develop a positive peer network. To celebrate the kids’ success and commitment to the program, a final event was planned where participants played open badminton with peers, teachers and police officers teaming up in different ways as they rotated on four different courts. This approach to play ensured that all participants were fully engaged throughout the event. A pizza dinner was also provided to keep the celebration alive.

As the event progressed, students were sharing stories, laughing and having an all-around good time with the officers which is the foundation for building positive relationships between youth and police.
Date: Saturday, September 17, 2016
Location: Gage Park
Raised over $19,000

After 5 years of having glorious weather, the ProAction Cops & Kids’ 6th Annual Baseball tournament in Hamilton was challenged by the elements. The threat of heavy thunder and lightning storms resulted in the original June tournament date being rescheduled to a rain date on September 17, 2016.

On this new date, Hamilton officers and youth from different schools across the city assembled at Gage Park for another year of fun, friendly baseball. Cops and kids were divided into four teams and set out to play a round robin style tournament. It was just after the first round was completed when the clouds covered the diamonds and the rain began to fall. What turned into a torrential downpour was not enough to dampen the spirits of these cops and kids. Running through puddles, sliding through mud proved to be more fun than they imagined. It wasn’t until the pizza lunch arrived that the kids abandoned the rain and the games came to an end. The participating officers found that playing with the kids in the rain created impactful memories and a very special lasting bond. Although the day was cut short, the positive relationships that formed were not.

Thanks to our sponsors and donors, the tournament raised over $19,000 in support of ProAction programs! This support helps ProAction officers to develop programs that allow them to mentor young people as they participate in healthy skill-building activities.
Hamilton Award Winners

Hamilton Youth Award

Award Winner: Abuzar
Program: Fortis Vitam CrossFit

Abuzar has been a participant with ProAction Cops & Kids, Fortis Vitam CrossFit since 2014. He is a first generation Canadian who was shy, reserved and slightly untrusting of the police and of Crossfit when he first started the program. Regardless, he continued to attend Fortis Vitam and not only did he increase his strength and conditioning but he also strengthened his trust in police.

Abuzar has now emerged as someone the younger kids look up to and model themselves after. He continues to push himself in and out of the gym. He is on the honour roll at school and also has a part time job at a banquet hall. Abuzar loves Fortis Vitam CrossFit but has discovered that his true passion is Canada’s favourite sport - hockey. Fostering his career aspirations in hockey, this past summer, he was selected to attend a Bauer Hockey experience in Quebec where he met Vancouver Cannucks star Bo Horvat and was outfitted in custom Bauer Hockey equipment.

Abuzar is an amazing young man with an extremely bright future. He is a perfect example of what ProAction is all about.

Reaching out

Previous to this program I didn’t really know members of the community, but now during my patrols I see them from time to time. It is nice to know that they feel comfortable speaking to me as a police officer. They know if they have a concern or question they can call or email me.

ProAction Program Officer
The ProAction Cops & Kids Niagara chapter is up and running in the Niagara Region! Last year, our chapter was proud to have hosted the first annual Police Chief’s Gala in Niagara Falls. We partnered with Victims Services Niagara, and had an extremely successful evening raising awareness and funds for ProAction. The Police Chief’s Gala has now become our signature event, and we are looking forward to another fun evening next year. We would like to extend an invitation to all other ProAction Cops & Kids chapters to join us for a wonderful night in Niagara.

Our programs have had another strong year, and we would like to thank all of the officers who gave their time and talents to ensuring the success of the programs.

We are grateful to all our sponsors and donors - because of your commitment, we are able to establish positive relationships between cops and kids to build a safer Niagara community today and for the future.

The Niagara Chapter of ProAction Cops & Kids experienced great success in its second year of operation since becoming the newest ProAction chapter in 2014. In 2016 the ProAction message continued to spread across the Niagara Regional Police Service as more officers were invited to participate in ProAction funded programs. Young people from across the Niagara Region continued to benefit from the ProAction mission to establish positive relationships between cops and at-risk youth as they attended numerous ProAction funded events. Our events included the Student Inter-School Film Festival, Medeba leadership camp, Niagara Life Skills Culinary Program, Mulligan Club golf program, Students Rock guitar competition to name just a few. We also hosted our first Chief’s Gala to raise awareness and support for ProAction Cops and Kids in Niagara. This event which was spearheaded by our Niagara ProAction Chapter in partnership with Victim Services Niagara was a huge success!

Thanks to ProAction, the members of the Niagara Regional Police Service now have the support to make a difference in the lives of young people from across the Niagara Region.
**Niagara Programs**

**Students Rock**

The Students Rock program is a three month program that engages schools, youth and officers from across Niagara Region in a friendly guitar competition.

Students from both the Public and Catholic District School Boards are paired one-on-one with a police officer who mentors and supports the youth as they practice and improve their guitar playing skills. Each youth chooses a rock song and practices the guitar lead in preparation for playing this song with a full band at the Scotiabank Convention Centre.

Although many of the participants have some musical experience, few would ever have the opportunity to play in a venue such as the Scotiabank Centre in front of a live and sizeable audience. Each participant is cheered on by their schoolmates, family and friends as they share their talents and passion for music. A panel of judges including local musical talent, radio hosts and senior police officers have the challenging task of selecting a winner of the competition who takes home a trophy.

The program does not stop at the guitar competition. The relationships that officers are able to build with the youth through their one-on-one mentorship continues beyond the program. The love for playing music that is instilled in the participants often leads to other performance opportunities that showcase their talent and ProAction programs.

Thanks to the support of the Sleep Cheap Charities Reap initiative, this valuable program has helped kids to play great music for the past two years in Niagara Region.

---

**NIAGARA PROGRAMS**

**Niagara Falls**
Student Inter-school Film Festival
Students’ ROCK
Medeba Adventure Camp
Student Inter-school Film Festival 2

**St. Catharines**
PACE - Police and Community Engagement
Niagara Life Skills Culinary Program

---

**ProAction Program Youth**

The program gave me a different look on police because I always thought they were just hard and cold, but now I know they are just people with a uniform who care about students.
Niagara Events

Chief’s Gala

Location: Crowne Plaza
Date: Saturday, September 17, 2016
Raised over $90,000

On Saturday, September 17, 2016, ProAction Cops & Kids and Victim Services Niagara (VSN) hosted Niagara Region’s Inaugural Chief’s Gala in honour of Chief Jeff McGuire and the Niagara police officers who keep our kids and communities safe.

This event proved to be a huge success welcoming 300 guests from across the Region to the Crowne Plaza’s Grand Ballroom. Community leaders including Hamilton’s newly appointed Chief of Police Eric Girt, senior police officers, business leaders, local politicians, educators, community agencies and invested community members showed their support by attending this event and learning more about the valuable partnerships between Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS), ProAction and VSN.

Gala guests enjoyed an evening of fine dining, wine tasting and entertainment from talented musicians. Messages shared by Chief McGuire, ProAction and VSN reinforced the value and impact of a community that works together towards common goals. Through our collaborative efforts NRPS, ProAction and VSN are able to impact and better the lives of children and families across the region by providing valuable youth programs that build stronger relationships between cops, kids and their communities.

The evening was a great success raising close to $90,000 to support police-led programs for at-risk youth and vulnerable victims.

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!
Thank you for your support!
Niagara Award Winners

Niagara Youth Award

Award Winner: Shannon
Program: Niagara Life Skills Culinary Program

This was Shannon’s first time participating in the 6-week Niagara Life Skills Culinary Program. Shannon was not “police friendly” in any way when the program started. He was reserved and a little confrontational with officers. He did not like that police were involved and he did not trust them. With each week, the friendly attitude of the officers helped bridge the gap and he became more receptive to them. This led to him being willing to be more involved and eventually participating fully in the program. His attitude transformed over the course of the program. With each week, he became much more trusting of the officers and worked with them in every aspect of meal preparation. The impact of this program translated into many other positive changes he began to make in his life even after the program ended.

Shannon’s community support workers identified an ongoing positive change in his attitude and attributed this change to the Culinary Program. Shannon may not be a ‘fan’ of police officers but he has had positive interactions with officers and as a result of this program is now more receptive to speaking with and interacting with police and anyone of authority.

Helping Youth
One of the most positive things that can be taken away from this program was that students and police joined together to identify and share the responsibility in bringing awareness to teen suicide...one student in particular, who was having difficulty with the topic on a personal level, was able to reach out to the officer for help.

ProAction Program Officer

Building Bridges
One of the things we do as SRO’s is try to break down any previous negative ideas that youth have regarding police. It can be difficult throughout our regular duties to accomplish this. Camp Medeba is a great place to be able to “be real” with the young people. To be able to laugh, encourage and hang out with these young people are invaluable ways in which to build those bridges.

ProAction Program Officer
Niagara Award Winners

Commitment to Police-Youth Programs

Award Winner: Constable Shawn Cuke
Program: Students Rock and Mulligan Club

Cst. Shawn Cuke was one of the first officers to run a ProAction program in Niagara Region. Cst. Cuke was a School Resource Officer and as a result of his position he participated and assisted with several ProAction funded programs including Camp Medeba and the Student Inter-School Film Festival.

Being an avid guitar player, Cst. Cuke took a lead role with the Students Rock program in 2015 and 2016 and then created the Mulligan Club in 2016 to share another one of his passions with kids – the game of golf. Cst. Cuke planned the program, recruited three other officers and identified four youth to participate. He partnered with a local golf course that gave free lessons to the youth for one hour before each round they played. As a result of his efforts, he and the other officers were able to spend several hours each week developing positive relationships in mentoring roles with at-risk kids.

Cst. Cuke is a very community minded and caring officer which is evident in everything he does. For the Students Rock and Mulligan Club programs, he was careful to make sure police mentors were partnered with the best student to increase the chance of a positive relationship between the two. With planning he needed practically no help. He knew exactly what had to be done and addressed all aspects of each program in a timely manner. Both programs were extremely successful. Cst. Cuke is recognized and respected by the youth who have participated in his programs and their relationships have extended beyond the end of the program.
Niagara Award Winners

Most Innovative Police-Youth Program

Award Winner: Staff Sergeant Dave Weeks
Program: Niagara Culinary Life Skills Program

S/Sgt Dave Weeks started the Niagara Culinary Program in April 2016 in partnership with a community residential program for youth who had been through the criminal courts and lacked family supports. He identified that many of the youth had very skewed views of police officers and lacked many necessary lifeskills required to transition to independent living. He recognized that cops and kids preparing meals together would teach the youth important life skills while also creating common ground for communication and developing positive relationships.

This program is different in that it focused on some of the hardest to reach young people around. Teenagers with criminal convictions, who have had very difficult lives, poor family support and had been told that police and all authority are bad. These youth would not have ever participated in a ProAction program out of the school setting but being connected to this residential program provided an opportunity for police to connect with them where they live.

S/Sgt. Weeks had been invested in the welfare of this population for many years and recognized the value of a ProAction program. He met with the staff regularly to prepare for the program and connected with officers from throughout the NRPS to find the right participants. His energy and commitment was evident from the beginning and motivated all who participated. This program would not have happened or been successful if not for his commitment and energy.

Building Trust

I felt that the kids learned that the police are friendly, approachable, and will listen to their concerns. [...] this opportunity helped to build positive relationships with kids, their family and the police.

ProAction Program Officer
Thank you for your support

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Thanking our generous supporters & donors

John Bitove Sr. Award

Named after ProAction’s founding father John Bitove Sr., this award recognizes the corporation or foundation that stands out for its level of leadership in supporting ProAction Cops & Kids through financial contributions or in-kind donations.

Q Residential has been a long-time devoted donor to ProAction Cops & Kids. By providing apartment suite rentals to thousands of families throughout Ontario, Q Residential understands first-hand the value of a safe, strong community and the benefits of active kids who are positively engaged in their communities.

This year, Q Residential’s support was widespread across our Chapters. As title sponsor for ProAction’s 2016 Annual Golf Tournament, Q Residential ensured that the 20th Anniversary of this annual event was our most successful to date. In addition, Q Residential supported ProAction’s 25th Anniversary Celebration, ProAction’s Annual Jeans & Jewels fundraising event in Durham and the launch our new Annual Chief’s Gala in Niagara Region.

Thanks to the generosity of Q Residential, many young people throughout our chapters benefited from a ProAction program and the mentorship they received from ProAction police partners.

Thank you for your support!
Thanking our generous supporters & donors

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- Hamilton Police Service
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- Longo Bros. Fruit Markets
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- Fallsview

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Paul Williamson
David R. Wilson
Danielle Wilson
Kim Wosnick
Shannon Wraxall
Filomena Wylie
Tony Zarrillo

THIRD PARTY EVENTS
John Strange Memorial Golf Classic
McHappy Day at McDonald’s Restaurants in Oshawa and Clarington
Three Amigos Golf Tournament
Moksha Yoga Hamilton Community Night
Saltfleet District High School Blue Line Hockey Challenge

IN KIND GIFTS
Coca-Cola Refreshments Canada Company
Filo Entertainment
G & A Corporate
Gildan
Go Produce
John Bitove
MLSE Foundation
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The Bitove Foundation

Thank you to all our donors for their generous gifts and support. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. However, if your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly placed, please accept our apologies and let us know.
Thank you for your support

Financial Statements

Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended December 31, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>Donations and fundraising events</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>Public awareness</td>
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<td>Fundraising events</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Excess (Deficiency) of revenue over expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Investment (loss) income</td>
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<td>Fund balances, beginning of the year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund balances, end of year</td>
<td>1,082,967</td>
<td>1,017,010</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Message from the Treasurer**

Kim Copetti, CPA, CA

It is my pleasure to provide an update on the financial performance of ProAction for the year ended December 31, 2016.

We were fortunate to achieve a 55% increase over last year in our fundraising due to donations received from our corporate and individual supporters and sponsorships for our 25th Anniversary Gala and other fundraising events held throughout our chapters.

We work hard to channel the funding of our supporters back into the community.
Thank you for your support

Financial Statements

Summary Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Donations and other receivables</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
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<td>Deferred revenue</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<table>
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<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fund Balances</strong></td>
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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Internally restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Balances</strong></td>
<td>1,082,967</td>
<td>1,017,010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audited statements, including an auditors’ report by Collins Barrow Toronto, Chartered Accountants, are available on request from the office of ProAction Cops & Kids.

Demand for our programs in all our chapters is stronger than ever which is reflected in the 21% net increase of police funded programs in 2016. Excluding the cost of running our fundraising events, 51% of our costs in 2016 were channeled directly into programs, 13% to building awareness of our organization to officers and the community, and 7% to administrative costs. By building awareness of our organization, we are able to promote community safety, increase the number of programs we support, and expand the communities that benefit from our programs.

In closing I would like to thank all of our supporters, the Board, our staff, and all of the officers who give their time so generously to make our programs possible.
Jean Milligan
Executive Director

Neelofer Samaroo
Program Manager

Jessica Field
Administrative and Event Coordinator

Alan Francomb
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