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Get Involved!

Donate clothing in good condition, especially winter wear for youth (coats, sweaters, boots, socks, etc.)

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Donate a gift for the holiday season for a youth aged 12-21

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Volunteer and develop your leadership skills with our TOPS program and Youth Leaders in Action

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Volunteer as a tutor at our Scarborough Village Pathways to Education Program

DONATE NOW!
youthlink.ca

Independence Cultivated in Cooking Class

Week after week, they cook up a storm. From Chinese stir-fry, pasta and Caesar salad, to fried plantain, French toast, macaroni and cheese and much more, their creations take them around the world.

YouthLink's Around the World Cooking Experience is a 10 week cooking group offering a fun, interactive and supportive environment for youth aged 18 – 21 who have an intellectual disability. YouthLink provides the recipes, ingredients, kitchen, and the guidance to help participants learn basic cooking skills, expand their cultural knowledge and become more independent.

Each week students learn the nutritional components of foods and discover healthy and affordable shopping alternatives while also learning facts about the country they visit through their cooking. The class works with picture recipes which the students keep in a cookbook. Of course, they always enjoy the fruits of their labour for lunch.

"The course is helping these young members of the community learn the lore of the kitchen, but also gain valuable long-term life skills," said Blair Coombs, the program's facilitator.

By the end of the first session, participants learned kitchen safety, meal planning, budgeting, and how to make healthy choices. They were able to follow a step-by-step recipe, do kitchen prep, and clean up afterwards. They also learned tips to reduce the amount of clean up, such as boiling vegetables with the pasta in the last few minutes of cooking. One less pot to wash is always a plus.



BluesLink Leaves Everyone Singing a Happy Tune

It was a memorable night for hundreds of music lovers, especially fans of blues and jazz. Guests gathered at the Scarborough Golf and Country Club on a beautiful summer evening for BluesLink 2015, raising over \$18,000. A tremendous achievement and YouthLink's most successful fundraiser of the year!

Since its inception, BluesLink has benefitted from many generous contributions. This year, youth from the community who otherwise might not have been able to afford a ticket were given the chance to attend BluesLink thanks to sponsors and ticket donors. Funds raised at this event enable YouthLink to provide counselling and residential treatment

programming, as well as create new programs like Art Therapy and Around the World Cooking for youth with developmental intellectual disabilities.

Paul Bliss hosted and charmed the crowd. Guests danced the night away to the amazing vocals of featured artists Shakura S'Aida and Andria Simone. And delicious international food and amazing dessert stations were the pièces de resistance.

The silent auction, always a popular feature at BluesLink, did not disappoint. Among the many great items up for grabs: Rudd Oakville Samantha's Cabernet Sauvignon 2008; LPGA 2015 Inside the Ropes;

jewellery by Karin Domnick; and a 2006 signed women's gold medal-winning hockey team jersey.

Special guests Mitzie Hunter, MPP, and Dan Harris, MP, were in attendance.

We thank everyone who helped to make the night a success, including those who attended, donated or volunteered in any way. Your commitment to BluesLink will help to expand programs and services in the Scarborough community to those who need them.

Thanks to our sponsors TD Bank, Deloitte and DonWay Ford/Lincoln. Thanks also to GenX and PWC and our many silent auction and raffle donors.



YouthLink 2015 AGM Brings out the Best

“YouthLink’s Empowering Young Women’s Group is essential in our community,” said Christine Tusien, a Grade 11 student at Francis Libermann Catholic High School. “The impact it has in our community is unimaginable.” With opportunities to build her leadership skills and confidence; to explore such issues as peer pressure, relationships and body image; and to acquire learning techniques to enhance emotional well-being, Christine believes the Group plays an important role in the lives of young women like herself.



Christine, a former participant in the Group, spoke at YouthLink’s 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM marked the agency’s 101st year of serving Toronto communities and celebrated the many accomplishments of the past year. The evening was marked with inspirational stories, stellar performances and recognition of notable achievements.

Here are some highlights.

- Sisters Alicia and Tiffany LaFleur, whose siblings recently came under their care, shared their story as adoptive parents—feeling overwhelmed and needing guidance to navigate certain situations. They were very eloquent in expressing how YouthLink’s Positive Parenting Program helped them overcome these challenges, and how they felt empowered by the program and instructors.
- Eirini Manatos, a passionate youth and former YouthLink client, performed an empowering song of hope and strength.
- Led by Steve Worrall, participants in the My First Guitar program entertained guests through the evening with beautiful performances.
- Home Depot was recognized for their amazing support of YouthLink and our residential and cooperative houses.
- YouthLink’s new youth centre, the Link, was showcased.
- Phil Howe was honoured as he stepped down as president and Stephen Drielsma was welcomed as the new president.
- New board members were welcomed: Douglas Lamb, Rick Owens, Muneeb Ruhi and Andrea Wolf-Strike.

A heartfelt thanks to all those in attendance for their support, and to all who continue to work to make YouthLink a strong, successful and vibrant organization for Scarborough youth and families.

Holiday Donations for Teens

The holiday season is a time when your gift goes the extra mile to bring joy to those in need. Your generosity can positively impact the lives of youth right now and create a memory that lasts all year long. As you plan your giving this holiday season, please know that your donation will make an immeasurable difference for our youth.



HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE FOR TEENS!

Last year, donations were generously provided by Michael Thompson Food Drive, Air Cadet Squadron, Scarboro Golf and Country Club Day Lady Curlers and Business Women Curlers, Three Valleys School, Kingsway-Lambton United Church, Toronto Firefighters. This holiday season, gifts for youth 13-18 is where we really need the most help from the community!

If you would like to help, please drop off a gift at YouthLink (747 Warden Ave) by **Monday December 7th**.

CALL FOR DONATIONS:

- Gift cards
Best Buy, SportChek, Ardene and clothing store
- Movie passes
- Video games & electronics
- Sports equipment
- Make-up, lotions
- Wallets and purses
- Hats and scarves

Funders' Corner

Our sincere thanks to our many funders for their generosity.

City of Toronto
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Home Depot Foundation
J.P. Bickell Foundation
Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE)
TD Bank
Trillium Foundation

A Word from the Monitor Deloitte Team

The Monitor Deloitte Toronto Group was hard at work over the course of two weeks to gather backpacks and school supplies for YouthLink's school support program. The practice was divided into teams led by partners at the organization. The teams were encouraged to raise funds, go out and purchase the supplies, and put together complete backpacks (including school supplies) that would be ready for the new school year in September. It was a pleasure for us to partner with such a wonderful organization and everyone at Monitor Deloitte had an amazing time with the task. We truly appreciate the hard work that YouthLink is putting in to support the local community.



Stay connected. Follow us on  

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