

Youth Settlement Program Report November 2011

The highlight of the month was the successful delivery of the youth teaching youth workshop presented by STOM R project.

Language Skills Development for Newcomer Youth - Wednesdays

There were four sessions held in November on Wednesdays. As per the topics rated by youth in the focus group discussions at the first fall session, two topics were prioritized for the month. There was one session on organizational skills III where they learnt how to plan an agenda for facilitating short learning/workshop sessions in preparation for an upcoming youth teaching youth workshop. There were two sessions on stress and stress management skills. Youth played a few stress relief games and also worked in groups to come up with ways to relieve or deal with stress. The fun outcome of what they learnt and contributed in discussion around the topic of stress, they wrote poems and songs based on their list of stress relief techniques. The participants did a wonderful job of composing their work of literature based on their learning topic of Stress; their works are now published in our youth newsletter December 2011 issue at <http://youthspark.weebly.com/december1.html>

We covered one session on confidence in November where they participated in interactive activities including making happiness list and playing confidence games of words, crosswords and actions to build confidence

Every session ended with a critical reflection exercise where they are encouraged to reflect on their experience. Each youth expressed their feelings in a brief sentence or a word to describe their experience or any turning points in their learning experience. This kind of exercise adds value and encouragement in sharing through communication. Some of the words they expressed in relation to learning topics:

Organizational skills: happy, facilitation, organizing, entertaining, stimulating, new people, fun, kind, motivating, knowledge, not so challenging and worthwhile.

Stress topic: were: fun, fantastic, fantabulous, interesting, chill plus relax, enlightening, lively, great, perfect, meaningful, alcohol tip, honesty, good day, outstanding, anxiety disorder, lot of thinking, lacking concentration, learned a lot about stress, ideas, creativity, dramatic, new experience as a judge, give yourself less stress.

Advocacy: fun, entertaining, cool, advocacy, laughs, creative, children's rights, interaction, Canada has work to do and awesome.

On average 12 youth attended each session.

Peer Tutoring Club - Fridays

Four sessions were held in November. The peer tutoring club provided peer support in helping with solving homework and assignments. On average 15 youth attended each session.

Parkdale Newcomer Youth Committee (PNYC) – a youth leadership group initiated by the Youth Program of PIA and PCIC

The highlight of the month was the successful delivery of the STOM-R workshop on youth teaching youth as part of our youth leadership development program. The workshop was held on Friday, Nov 4th where the STOM R project team members presented five workshops on the topics; health advocacy, youth projects of PNYC, brand placements, effective use of social media and denormalization of tobacco) STOM R project team members met several times in the month to discuss the project work plan and also design the team commitment chart. Three youth were appointed as ambassadors of the project to attend the monthly meetings held by Toronto Public Health for all the youth grant recipients to discuss the progress of the various projects. This provides the youth also with invaluable opportunity in developing their leadership skills further and networking among other youth from Toronto.

PNYC monthly meeting was held on Nov 25th attended by 15 members.