



The Village Keepers

For Youth By Youth: Community Garden

The For Youth By Youth Community Garden Project kicked off the season with a "Planting Party" in the Spring. Over 20 youth got together and designed the garden, chose the crops and sewed them. The event was full of good times, lots of laughs and lots of learning about the environment. Many of the youth involved had never gardened before or even thought they would ever want to garden. The For Youth By Youth project has allowed many of the youths to engage positively with the environment, as well it has allowed for a space to have dialogue

around the environment and its sustainability. Many of the youth have discussed varying ways that society on a whole can be proactive around creating a sustainable future for their children. Another important discussion that has been had with the youth is the idea of food security. Many of the youth have been touched either directly or indirectly by food security issues. The youth began intense dialogue around how the community could better address food security issues. Some suggestions were to create smaller gardens in school fields where

the students could actively be involved with providing food for fellow students. The students will follow up on this issue. This project is funded by the United Way of Peel Region and the Region of Peel.



Children's Talent Show

The Village Keepers Child and Family Centre offers preschool activities for members of the community. The Preschool Activities are geared towards newcomer/immigrant families. Our Program had Children

and their caregivers working together to perform a Talent Show. The Talent Show showcased all the great work that the children and parents have completed over the past few months. We definitely have

some future stars on our hands. Move over Ashwariya Rai and Denzel Washington.

The Village Keepers Child & Family Centre

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Summer 2011

Highlights

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Spring Fling Event

The Village Keepers Child and Family centre was excited to hold its first Spring Fling event. The Spring Fling event marked the advent of the Spring Season. The Village Keepers Child and Family Centre had a great event which was full of great food donated and catered by Chef Squad Catering of Brampton. Chef Squad Catering was able to sponsor the event and provided all attendees with a great array of Caribbean food which was delicious. The great music was provided by Heart's Desire Entertainment. The Village Keepers had many attendees from the GTA as well as

The United States: Chicago Caribbean Cricket Team. The attendees were very impressed with the event and impending hospitality. On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the event we want to thank you once again for your support.



Tea and Talking-ESL Classes

The Village Keepers Child and Family Centre has a FREE English as a Second Language Class. Tea and Talking operates Saturdays from 11:00 to 12:30PM. Tea and Talking has participants learning conversational English with an ESL instructor. The program is offered in a safe space over tea and snacks. Participants learn conversational English and have the opportunity

to practice what they have learned with friends that they have met through the program. Tea and Talking provides many of our participants a way to learn English on the weekend which works well with their schedule. Many of our participants work full time and have children which act as barriers for them to upgrade their English skills. Tea and

Talking also offers child minding services for participants who require it.



Summer Camp

Do you have any children that you would like to be involved in daily fun activities?

The Village Keepers Child and Family Centre is pleased to offer an interactive summer camp for school aged children. The summer camp offers children learning opportunities as well as lots of fun.

The Village Keepers Child and Family

Centre believes in the importance of health & nutrition and physical activity for our young people. Therefore, we have created a summer camp that hinges on encouraging the holistic health of our children by exposing them to a variety of different educational and fun activities to keep them engaged and happy throughout the summer.



For Youth By Youth Summer BBQ/Dance Event

The For Youth By Youth project was pleased to have their first community event July 8, 2011. Youth came together to plan, coordinate and offer an exciting Summer BBQ/Dance. The youth utilized consensus building to arrange for all items required at the event i.e. food, entertainment, and venue. The youth involved decided to have a Summer BBQ/Dance to engage other youth in the neighborhood. The youth utilized social media, flyers and word of mouth to get the word out. The event was successful and the youth enjoyed being able to utilize a safe space where they could enjoy

good food, good music and make new friends. At the beginning of this process some of the youth were reluctant and cautious as they were unsure as to if they would really have ownership of the event. Once the trust was established and the youth became empowered by being able to have a voice and control over the event itself, it provided a great opportunity to really see the power of our youth. As an observer, I was amazed to see great examples of leadership. As well, I was humbled and feel proud that these young people are the voice of the future.



Family Literacy Program

The Village Keepers Child and Family Centre offers a Family Literacy Program led by the Region of Peel Family Literacy Team. The Family Literacy Program is a FREE 9 week program designed for families with children ages 0 to 6 years old. Parents are taught techniques by a trained volunteer on enhancing early literacy. The program includes reading, crafts,

songs, snacks and involves the caregivers as well. The program has been well received by participants who met other families and learned useful techniques to assist their child/ren with early learning. Although the program runs weekly, many of the children want the program to meet more than once per week. Parents involved with the program have told us that

they have learned a lot and enjoyed the experience. This project is supported by the Region of Peel: Children's Services-Family Literacy Team.

Youth Engagement: Inclusion

The Village Keepers has a special interest in youth in our community. With summer upon us, we want to engage our local youth in positive and meaningful activities. In consultation with local youth we gathered information around what we could do to engage them. Youth unanimously told us that they want to be "busy" over the summer whether with employment or

volunteer opportunities. Subsequently, we have created many opportunities for youth in our community to be involved with employment or volunteer opportunities at the centre or in the community. One of the primary objectives of our youth program and community garden is to provide an inclusive space where all youth are included and valued.



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"It Take a Village to Raise a Child"



The Village Keepers
Child & Family Centre

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Summer BBQ
- ☺ For Youth By Youth
- ☺ Sister' Green Cleaning Co-op
- ☺ Summer Camp: starting July 4, 2011
- ☺ Fall Programs: Registrations
- ☺ Positions available:
 - Receptionist

PHAT Soccer Program

PHAT offered African/Caribbean boys (8 to 13 years old) a venue to learn and participate in soccer classes that are culturally sensitive, safe and inclusive. Participants learned how to play soccer, improve gross motor skills, self confidence, trust and co-operation. The structured class allowed them to obtain individualized support where they could progress at their own pace in a safe, supervised environment with their peers and mentors cheering them on. By providing the physical activity at a minimal cost and inclusive and ethno specific, programming the financial and cultural barriers were removed, allowing kids

who would not otherwise participate become involved. Our vision was to reach out to this target population of children to engage them in team and leadership building. This program is funded by Tru Sport.

