

The Truth About Youth

An initiative that demonstrates the positive impact that intergenerational programs have on building strong communities.

Project Goals

- ▶ “Teenagers and alternative education students, especially, have a reputation of being bad people and the truth is we are good people capable of doing good things in our community” – Program Participant
- ▶ To connect youth with their local community through projects that respond to community identified needs. By being involved in these projects, youth will develop new skills, meet new people, and gain valuable experiences all the while giving back to their community.
- ▶ Target populations: at-risk youth and seniors



Community Impact

- ▶ There are common ageist stereotypes about youth and seniors. However, intergenerational programs like this one allow both groups to look beyond the stereotypes and focus on the person in front of them

“People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” - Maya Angelou

1st Project: Raking Leaves in Mount Forest

- ▶ October 18, 2016 from 9am–11:30am
- ▶ Participating Organizations:
 - ▶ Seniors' Centre for Excellence
 - ▶ North for Youth Community Group
 - ▶ Wellington Heights Secondary School
 - ▶ Ian Turner– Community Champion!
- ▶ 18 students from Wellington Heights Secondary School participated
 - ▶ Gr. 11 Geography class
 - ▶ Alternative Education Program
- ▶ 16 seniors signed up to participate
 - ▶ Although we set out to rake leaves at 16 homes, a total of **21 homes** were supported by this project!







Feedback from youth and seniors

▶ Youth:

- ▶ 100% of the youth involved said they would like to participate in an initiative like this again
- ▶ “I enjoyed helping people in need.”
- ▶ “I enjoyed helping the elderly.”

▶ Seniors:

- ▶ “It was a blessing to have the help! Since I have started using a walker, I can’t rake my leaves anymore.” – Joyce
- ▶ “I really appreciated the help”– Shirley
- ▶ “The kids did a great job with all of those leaves. It is great to have them raked up; their help is greatly appreciated”– Irene

1) What did you like/enjoy about the Yard Clean Up Day?

The cookies that the nice lady had made
for us. The friendly people.

I felt good after

2) What did you dislike? What should we change?

That there should be more people in the
community, to get involved. Be more out in the
open.

1) What did you like/enjoy about the Yard Clean Up Day?

helped out the community

we got to contribute positively

2) What did you dislike? What should we change?

that some groups missed
big spots of leaves

Looking to this fall...

- ▶ We would like to offer this support to Minto residents!
 - ▶ Seniors have expressed interest
 - ▶ MYAC has agreed to help rake leaves
 - ▶ The alternative education class at Norwell has also agreed to help rake leaves
- ▶ What we ask of you:
 - ▶ Promote this Leaf Cleanup project to your networks: seniors who need the help and youth willing to provide muscle!
 - ▶ Do you offer a leaf pick up day? Can we combine our efforts
😊

Additional Projects Completed in Minto



Feedback from staff and students

- ▶ Dave Griffiths, Alternative Education Teacher:
 - ▶ “I saw an improvement in attendance and the students experiencing their ability to make a difference in someone else’s life. The students took ownership of the projects they were involved in.”
- ▶ One student shared when asked about his improving attendance **“this project (ramp) is real and it is improving the life of someone else”**

THANK YOU!

- ▶ These projects would not have been possible without the support of the Town of Minto!
- ▶ From offering ideas for projects for these youth to work on, to providing positive encouragement and feedback, and lastly for assisting us in receiving the appropriate permits for the ramp..... none of these projects would have happened
- ▶ Thank you for your support! Please connect with us if you have ideas for any future projects



Questions

Comments

Suggestions