

Positive Youth Action!

Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre Information Guide 2009-2010



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WORDS OF WELCOME

Greetings from the Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre!

On behalf of the YLC youth and volunteers, I invite you to view our Information Guide 2009-2010 to help you understand how important you are to the growth of our youth community center, and at the same time, pleasantly surprise you by showing you what we offer. As well, I would like to inform you of the rapid growth of the YLC.

Since 1997, The YLC has been addressing the needs of youth, adults and families. We rely on the generosity of volunteers and are motivated by individuals and organizations like yourself, that believe in the growth of our community.

The youth are our future. We welcome the responsibility of helping young people understand and appreciate their gifts and talents and what they can contribute to today's society.

The YLC is full of great dreams. Gradually, some of those dreams have become reality. The challenge of the YLC is to keep on envisioning the future as a goal within reach. The YLC is called to welcome new challenges, to be attentive to new opportunities and to never be afraid of failure, because even failure is a learning experience for greater success.

It is with this in mind, that we thank you for your continued support and belief in our youth project. We appreciate your kindness and value your collaboration.

Feel free to visit us anytime. The YLC is always available to share resources or to assist you in any way possible. And of course, we are always open to comments and suggestions ☺

In friendship,

Theo Vecera

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WHAT IS THE YLC?

The Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre (YLC) is a non-profit youth and community organization for all ages focusing primarily on youth and teenagers. We have since expanded to offer more services for adults and families.

The YLC opened its doors to the community in October 1997. We pride ourselves on being a community service. It's with this mind that relationships with the City of Montreal and local elementary and high schools are vital to our success in addressing the needs of youth.

In the Catholic and Salesian tradition of St. John Bosco, our mission is to form honest citizens and good Christians.

We also seek to create opportunities for positive thinking and change, as well as promote opportunities to explore the leadership abilities and qualities of young people today.

The YLC has been structured to develop all necessary aspects (social, cultural, moral, educational and recreational) of young people today.

We reach out to over 1000 youth, adults and families every year and use Don Bosco's preventive system as our leadership approach.

All our programs and activities are supported by volunteers, stagiers, contracted staff and coordinated by Theo Vecera under the direction of Fr. Richard Authier SDB.

We are all aware that the future of today's society lies in the preparation of youth today. The YLC is an investment for the present and the future to help develop the necessary skills for youth to become productive members of our community.



PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Tutoring program (all ages)
- ✓ After-school activities and sports
- ✓ Summer camps from kindergarten to high school (over 500 children registered every year and over 65 young people hired from the community)
- ✓ Moms and Tots programs
- ✓ Sports and fitness programs for youth and adults
- ✓ Annual “Fashion Festival” fundraiser that showcases youth talents and creativity to over 500 people in attendance
- ✓ Dance Clubs (all ages)
- ✓ Various workshops and discussions for youth and families
- ✓ Retreats (Recreational, Social, Leadership, Moral)
- ✓ Youth clubs
- ✓ Outreach events (Christmas drive, Toy drive, Senior Citizens visits, etc...)
- ✓ Recreational, moral, cultural, social, educational outings and special events
- ✓ Emotional support and resources for personal situations
- ✓ Expression, music and Creativity projects.



SOME YLC HIGHLIGHTS

1. Our summer camps (Smiley Bunch K-camp, Happy Dayz, Teen Spirit, Young Picasso) welcome over 400 campers and hire over 65 young people from the community every year.
2. Created in partnership with the City of Montreal, the project “Night Intervention Program” has been a success.
3. We organize a yearly Fashion/variety show “Fashion Festival”. There are over 100 youth participants and 600 spectators on average.
4. We offer a Friday afternoon Multicultural program bringing in different youth cultures from English and French high schools to participate in leadership workshops, social projects and recreational services.
5. The staff has received different awards for their community involvement and the YLC has been featured on various television segments and print media.
6. In collaboration with other groups at Maria Ausiliatrice parish, a Youth Rally/outdoor celebration with over 700 participants is organized.
7. We initiated the cutting of tree branches at Samuel-Morse Park to discourage drug abuse and to promote cleanliness for families to enjoy.
8. We organize soccer games between the police station (post 45) and youth to promote a stronger community relationship.
9. We created the “Friendship Games” (sport tournaments) with other youth centers in the community to promote friendship, harmony and understanding between youth cultures in R.D.P.
10. We developed leadership teen groups and organized leadership training weekends.
11. We raised over 60 000\$ for various organizations through our annual summer camp walk-a-thons.
12. We collaborate with the organization “Trajet Jeunesse” for youth that are required to do community hours.
13. We assist youth, adults and families with social and emotional problems.
14. The majority of our leaders have been youth and teenagers in our various programs. We call this planned implementation, “the recycling system”.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The YLC receives minimal funding from the City of Montreal and local Government departments? The majority of the funds are private donations and/or fundraised. Imagine what the YLC would be able offer to the community if the funds were proportioned properly.
- The YLC has only one paid staff and one part time staff. The rest of our team are made up of volunteers, field placement students and contracted leaders (example: 500\$ for 20 sessions to run our Friday night ball hockey program).
- The money raised to pay our contacted leaders (usually six per year) is through our Fashion Festivals and a portion of our camp walk-a-thons.
- The YLC reaches out to over 1000 young people and adults every year through our various programs and services.
- The YLC facilities are rent free. The Salesians of Don Bosco Canada owns the building. We are welcomed to use the facilities on condition that our services are aimed primarily for youth and helping them become good and honest citizens through Don Bosco's educational approach, the "preventative system".
- Don Bosco's preventative system is a universally recognized approach in helping to form strong and effective leaders and programs. It is used as a basis in many schools, universities and youth organizations all over the world.
- Our summer camp staff works over forty hours a week but are only paid thirty hours. We call this the "Generosity clause" and it's meant to keep the parent registrations lower for families and to help educate our camp staff on the importance of the giving of oneself for the betterment of youth and the community. A variation is also used with our YLC leaders.
- The YLC is an investment for the present and future to help young people develop the necessary leadership skills and provide opportunities for their personal and social growth.
- The YLC is the place to be in R.D.P!



