

Positive Youth Action!

Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre Program Information Guide 2011-2012

Picture of B.O.B (Boys of Bosco) ball hockey team participating in a city wide tournament organized by the YLC. Our league focuses on fostering friendships and developing leadership skills and respect. Over 150 teenagers are involved!



Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre

PREVENTION. INTERVENTION. LEADERSHIP.

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Your home away from home.

Greetings from the Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre! 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 in 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 our hopes have become reality. The challenge for 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 in failure there is a learning experience for a greater success.

On behalf of the young people, we thank you for your continued support and belief in our youth community. We appreciate your kindness and value our collaboration. The YLC is celebrating 15 years and have renewed its efforts in "journeying with youth" so that we can find effective ways to address the needs and wants of today's youth culture. Thank you for believing in the YLC's positive impact and contribution to the east-end community.

In friendship, *Theo Vecera*, Program Coordinator

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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 also offer specific programming for adults (sports and workshops and guidance).

We seek to create opportunities for positive thinking and change and promote opportunities to explore the leadership abilities and qualities of today's young person. 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 Salesian (Catholic) preventive system as our leadership approach. If you are young at heart, then you're welcomed at the YLC ☺ Our summer camps welcome over 500 children every year in a safe, nurturing and memorable camp experience.

All our programs and activities are supported by volunteers, field-placement students ("stagiers"), contracted staff and are coordinated by Theo Vecera (full time) with the assistance of Anna Tafuto (part time). 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 future to help develop the necessary skills for young people today to become empowered individuals in our community and beyond.



Did you know?

- The YLC receives minimal funding from the City of Montreal and local Government departments. The majority of the funds is private donations and/or fundraised. Imagine what the YLC can offer to the community if the funds were proportioned properly.
- The YLC has only one paid staff and 1 part time staff. The rest of our YLC team are comprised of volunteers, field placement students and 6 to 8 contracted leaders (example: 500\$ for 20 sessions to run our Friday night teen ball hockey program). Contracted money is all fundraised by young people. The money raised to pay our contacted leaders (usually six per year) is through our Fashion Variety Festival and camp walk-a-thons. Many of our volunteers and team were once teenagers and campers!
- The five YLC major components of staying connected to youth are: Leadership growth, Personal journeying, Fostering friendships, Community accountability and Creative expression.
- The YLC facilities are rent free. The Salesians of Don Bosco Canada (Catholic Order) own the building. We are welcome to use the facilities in condition that our services are aimed primarily for youth and helping them become good and honest citizens through the leadership approach of Don Bosco's universally recognized preventive education system. The majority of our equipment and material has either been fundraised or donated.
- 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 giving of oneself for the betterment of youth and the community (also applies to the YLC team).

The future is now!

- The YLC has always been considered the east-end best kept secret. With minimal funding, it has been able to achieve great successes because of the belief and support of its volunteers. Many of the YLC's volunteers/team has been youth participants in the various projects at the center since its inception.
- The YLC is not driven by money but by a determination of what is fair and good so that all youth are being taken care of equally in the east end region. We strive to create a sense of responsibility and accountability among the young people we welcome...so that their actions can have a positive reaction with hard work and determination. ***"Positive presence and genuine care so the kids don't get in trouble"***.
- The YLC is hoping that with increased funding from City and Government levels and from the private sector that we can implement more programming that supports and natures and challenges young people to live their life with passion and conviction.



YLC programs and services 2011-2012



Prevention, Intervention and Leadership programming.

Youth

- Tutoring program (all ages). 15\$/hour with a college or university student. Done at the YLC.
- Funky Dance Academy (ages 3 to High School).
- Summer camp programs (ages 3 to High School).

Grade 6 and Teenagers

- ✓ Ball Hockey Leadership program, summer ball hockey camp and tournaments.
- ✓ After school activities.
- ✓ Funky Dance Academy and teen salsa.
- ✓ Tutoring program (same set up).
- ✓ Fashion Festival.
- ✓ Musicpalooza (creation of a CD and other music related projects).
- ✓ YLC Council and Leadership group.
- ✓ Friday night social club and JP2 club and Girls Club.
- ✓ Special events, retreats and outings.
- ✓ Here to help and listen (guidance).
- ✓ Da Costa project (Physically disabled social and recreation program).
- ✓ Community outreach projects.
- ✓ Recreation and social equipment and environment (video games, internet, ping pong, etc...).
- ✓ Summer camp and "Animator in Training" service and Teen Spirit leadership summer activities.

Adults and families.

- ❖ Various sports and leagues (soccer, hockey, yoga, Zumba, Salsa).
- ❖ Da Costa project (Physically disabled social and recreation program).
- ❖ Moms and Tots.
- ❖ Workshops and events and alumni.

Note: For complete and updated news on all our programs, please visit dbylc.com.

LIVE.LOVE.LAUGH.LEAD.LEARN.