

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 2016



(Photo: Training day with Mindshift Ninja, fall 2015)

Vision & Mission:

To become the pre-eminent youth voice in Canada that encourages positive choice related to mental health, bullying and addiction and to create a safe space for youth to reach out so that none live alone in their own silence.

Personal stories are shared in assemblies by youth employed to voice a strong message of respect, hope and tolerance and to lead workshops that help build character, self-esteem and resilience.

Core Values:

Respect – We value youth as an integral part of a healthy society where their potential is nurtured and supported and their voice is heard; when youth speak, youth listen

Resiliency – We embrace opportunities that encourage youth and strengthen resilience and self-worth

Youth engagement – We offer a continuum of high quality programs that embrace accessibility, inclusivity and diversity as a catalyst that provides meaning to the lived experience of youth

Collaboration – We work collaboratively with our community partners to build upon resources, experience and expertise in order to provide evidence-based programs that are empowering and meaningful to youth

Diversity and inclusivity – We acknowledge the unique aspects of all people and promote greater self-acceptance

A Message from our Board Chair, Andrew Boyd:

YouthSpeak continues to spread its reach to young students further throughout the GTA. We are delighted with the number of partners and groups of interest that are reaching out and eager to team with YouthSpeak for different events. Our partnership with the Toronto Marlies continues to develop as does our foray into all school boards in the GTA. Extensive monthly speaker training distinguishes our speakers, creating strength to respond to varying audiences, engage with all ages, and maintaining empathy and care.

The single biggest challenge of most not-for-profits is maintaining a healthy funding stream. Major participation and fundraising events, the Big BAM Challenge and Heart2Heart dinner-dance, were exquisitely organized and well received but fell short of expected revenues. Strong bookings have kept us operating safely this past year. Donations and new ideas are always encouraged and keep us moving forward and allow innovation.

We have had wonderful volunteers throughout the past year for a variety of events and encourage more to come forward for a rewarding experience. They contributed many hundreds of hours towards our success and our continued success can be attributed to our Executive Director, Una Wright, who trains, coordinates, motivates, and fuels all the activities and people within our organization. Much thanks, Una.

A Message from the Founder/Executive Director, Una Wright:

What a spectacular year of growth! Each year our total number of programs provided increases – this year 219 assemblies, workshops, and parent and community group presentations on bullying, mental health and addiction reaching over 30,000 students, parents and educators. As we continue to strengthen positive relationships with our valued community partners: York Region District School Board, York Catholic District School Board, York Regional Police, Public Health, Addiction Services for York Region, we launch an exciting new partnership with the Toronto Marlies. Youth speakers team up with players to provide interactive bullying assemblies for grades 1-8 throughout the GTA. In turn, students get to enjoy one of their school-day games.

It's a tough world out there for kids today – anxiety related to school performance, the increase in bullying via social media and the use of negative coping tools such as drugs, self-harm and other addictions needs to be addressed in an innovative and youth-engaging way for meaningful change.

As mental health challenges amongst our youth continue to be a significant concern for parents and educators, YouthSpeak rises to the challenge to support schools in their endeavours to bring quality programs and resources to their students. We have aligned our programs with the Provincial Mental Health Strategy, as well developed our interactive portion of the programs to include more mindfulness and self-awareness building tools.

Highlights

- ❖ Provided **219** assemblies, workshops, and parent and community group presentations on bullying, mental health and addiction reaching over 30,000
- ❖ Continue strengthening positive relationships with our valued community partners: York Region District School Board, York Catholic District School Board, York Regional Police, Public Health, Addiction Services for York Region
- ❖ Launched an exciting new partnership with the Toronto Marlies
- ❖ Two inaugural fundraisers: Heart2Heart Dinner & Dance and Big BAM Challenge
- ❖ Significant increase in the number of volunteers supporting our fundraising events

What's New...

Moved into our new office:
909 Alness Street, North York



First annual Heart2Heart Dinner & Dance Fundraiser



First annual Big BAM Challenge fundraiser



Delivered 13 assemblies in partnership
with the Toronto Marlies



Funders and Sponsors

- ❖ Ontario Trillium Foundation - final of 3-yr grant/\$90,000
- ❖ The Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group - \$20,000
- ❖ Toronto Enterprise Fund - \$30,000
- ❖ O'Hara Technologies - \$5,000
- ❖ March Mullet - \$3,000

Board of Directors

Andrew Boyd, Board Chair
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Statement of Revenue and Expenses
Year Ended August 31st, 2016

	2016
Revenue	
Ontario Trillium Foundation	\$12,500
Booking Fees	\$64,400
Partnerships	\$7,713
Donations/Fundraising	\$51,108
TOTAL	\$135,721
Expenses	
Salaries	\$64,300
Program Costs (travel, materials, program delivery, training)	\$57,990
Administrative costs (rent, insurance, office)	\$24,290
Promotion & Fund-raising	\$600
TOTAL	\$147,180
Expenses and Net Assets, End of Year	\$(11,459)