



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2018 – 2019

### Vision & Mission:

**Our vision is that no child or youth feels alone, and those who are struggling with mental health or other challenges are connected to available support to improve their overall well-being.**

**To increase the resiliency of youth facing challenges through leadership training, empowering them to share their personal stories in order to promote mental health and well-being, empathy, and hope in assemblies and workshops.**



### 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, Jeremy Anderson:**

2018-2019 was another year of transition and growth for YouthSpeak. Each year we continue to see the demand for our organization and our speakers. This year allowed us the opportunity to add new programs and expand on the diversity of our speakers. We had our annual BAM Yoga fundraiser, our corporate partner Coldwell Banker The Real Estate Centre brokerage organized another Hoops Charity Basketball Tournament, and Sabrina Di Battista planned her 2<sup>nd</sup> concert fundraiser for YouthSpeak; all three events were a big success for both YouthSpeak and all that attended.

The outcomes of our strategic planning workshop continue to be a primary focus for building our future including a more sustainable funding model and recruitment of Board members, outlining specific skills requirements as needed, allowing us to meet strategic targets and goals. We are positioned for a greater success during the 2019-2020. We want to thank Una Wright for her endless commitment, vision and passion that is inspiring to all.

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

As the saying goes, “It takes a village to raise a child.” The same can be said when it comes to supporting the good work of charities – it takes a community to really make a difference. This year, YouthSpeak experienced an increase in support from large and small businesses and individuals who stepped forward by donating, fundraising and/or providing volunteers for events or pro bono experts in their respective fields. One of these is Deloitte Canada when they really took us under their wing with a total donation of \$15,000 and, through their annual Deloitte National Leadership conference and their CAP initiative, chose YouthSpeak as the charity for which they would provide in-kind expertise on a major project to address a need.

We were also fortunate to receive \$10,000 from the Toronto Enterprise Fund to develop and deliver primary grades assembly as the need to support students at younger ages becomes more prevalent. As well, two Summer Jobs positions to support our Youth Facilitator positions.

We were also grateful to have a number of student placements from Ryerson University and Seneca College. Students are a wonderful addition to our team and provide support in many areas of day-to-day operations within our organization to support us in the development and delivery of our engaging presentations. YouthSpeak continues to invest in the development of our speakers’ skills, quality and engaging content and being responsive to a broader range of needs to support schools in their Wellness initiatives for students.

## **A Message from our youth team written by Lolita Richards, Youth Facilitator:**

A Message from our youth team Written by Lolita Richards, Youth Facilitator:

On behalf of the YouthSpeak team, I would like to sincerely thank all the donors, partners and those who supported us throughout the year. We welcomed a host of new Youth Facilitators and speakers that work together to provide meaningful workshops, covering a wider range of experiences and allowing for deeper connections with students. The team was able to further enhance the Primary grade Program and we are working to expand our online presence to provide meaningful content.

The results of the new programs and strategies we have implemented has broadened the YouthSpeak platform allowing for youth to continue using their voice to empower themselves and others. Our Team is feeling energized and motivated by the work that we do. We are looking forward to another year of growth for YouthSpeak.

## Highlights

- ❖ Provided **256** assemblies, workshops, and parent and community group presentations on bullying, mental health and addiction reaching over 27,000 including several summer school assemblies with the Toronto Catholic District School Board, camps and YES (Youth Employment Services), and a community event open to the public
- ❖ Our team continues to expand with new speakers bringing a diverse range of experiences as we receive a broader range of requests
- ❖ As well as ongoing coaching and mentorship, the team engaged in the following trainings: SafeTALK; Body/Brain; Emotional Freedom Technique; Public Speaking
- ❖ Funding from the Toronto Enterprise Fund helped to develop our primary grade assemblies
- ❖ Deloitte Canada chose YouthSpeak as their charity to support at Deloitte National Leadership Conference
- ❖ Annual BAM Yoga fundraiser raised over \$3,000
- ❖ We are very grateful to Coldwell Banker The Real Estate Centre (CBTREC) who held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hoops Charity Basketball Fundraiser raising \$9,055. As well, Dean and Tania Arsenosi made an annual commitment to donate 1% of their total net sales to YouthSpeak
- ❖ Sabrina Di Battista once again, chose YouthSpeak as her charity for another very successful concert fundraiser, Cantare which raised over \$9,420



Elementary Assembly, Lake Simcoe PS, Keswick



Team Training with Nancy Forrester

## Funders and Sponsors

- ❖ Coldwell Banker TREC - \$12,055
- ❖ Deloitte Canada - \$15,000
- ❖ Sabrina Di Battista Concert - \$9,420
- ❖ Various Employment Funds - \$23,750
- ❖ Toronto Enterprise Fund - \$10,000
- ❖ Town of Newmarket - \$5,000
- ❖ Town of Aurora - \$2,500
- ❖ University of Toronto Fashion Show - \$2,500
- ❖ Various donations from local businesses:
  - TD Bank, Dufferin&Steeles, North York - \$1,000
  - O'Hara Technologies - \$1,000
  - RBC Davis & Leslie, Newmarket - \$1,000
  - Kore Performance Gym - \$1,000
  - Customer Service Professional Network - \$750
  - Cathy Lawler - \$1,700
  - Bell Canada - \$1,000
  - MNP LLP - \$1,000



Deloitte National Leadership Conference June 2019

## Board of Directors

**Lisa Carter, Board Chair (Sept – Dec 2018)**

**Jeremy Anderson, Board Chair**

**Alicia Bavelaar, Vice Chair**

**Sam Chan, Treasurer**

**Donna Pignataro, Director**

**Grace Cantarutti, Director**

**Ahmed Hafez, Director**

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**Statement of Revenue and Expenses**  
**Year Ended August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

	<b>2018</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
United Way (TEF)	<b>\$7,147</b>
Booking Fees	<b>\$88,429</b>
Partnerships	<b>\$22,292</b>
Donations/Fundraising	<b>\$82,373</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$200,241</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salaries	<b>\$58,001</b>
Program Costs (travel, materials, program delivery, training)	<b>\$96,320</b>
Administrative costs (rent, insurance, office)	<b>\$19,048</b>
Promotion & Fund-raising	<b>\$9,784</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$183,153</b>
Expenses and Net Assets, End of Year	<b>(\$2,360)</b>