



QUOTES FROM CHURCHES, YOUTH AND PARENTS

- *“The motivational speaker at a day’s retreat held by Hoop to Hope at Tyndale Seminary had a great impact on me. The speaker made me seriously think about my future and the choices I make. I will change my attitude and behaviour in school. I want to perform better in school.”* **M., Hoop to Hope Program, Lisle Memorial Baptist Church.**
- *“This project is the best thing that ever happened in our community for years. We hope that it continues and have the same or even better impact on the young men in particular.”* **Parent, Options for Youth Project, Downsview SDA Church.**
- *“I am so impressed that my son is now able to positively deal with anger. He is using SNAP principles to stay calm when he is upset by his brother.”* **Parent, PEACE Program, Philadelphia SDA Church.**
- *“I look forward to participating in the program every Sunday. This week I am particularly excited because I want to report my successful accomplishment of my goal for the week.”* **Boy Participant, PEACE Program, Philadelphia SDA Church.**
- *“Hoop 2 Hope has been a great program for my two boys. They look forward every Saturday evening to attend that program. This program has empowered these youths physically, emotionally and spiritually.”* **Parent, Hoop to Hope Program, Lisle Memorial Baptist Church.**
- *“The program is good – not that we are doing anything bad, we get to play basketball and have discussions after. It keeps us out of trouble.”* **T W, Hoop to Hope Program, Lisle Memorial Baptist Church.**
- *“I gained lots of knowledge and hands on experience that I don’t think I would have gotten just working and making a living. I now have a better understanding of my rights, responsibilities and duties as an employee that will stay with me for the rest of my life. The support, advice and the workshops that I participated in were very informative and helpful to me. It’s been a really great opportunity for me.”* **Participant who lives with her mother, younger sister and 7 year old daughter in a public housing complex, Making Work Work For You Project, St Francis NESBF, Archdiocese of Toronto.**
- *“School was not really my thing and really, it’s not for everybody. At this place of work, I have learned that I’m naturally a salesman. I can sell anything to anybody.”* **Making Work Work For You Project, St Francis NESBF, Archdiocese of Toronto.**
- *“Besides getting a chance to learn how to do hair, they taught me how to sell clothing, perfume and cosmetics. I like it a lot.”* **Making Work Work For You Project, St Francis NESBF, Archdiocese of Toronto.**
- *“I liked the program because it gave me the opportunity to do something that I wanted to do. I thought I wanted to be a dietary aide but now I don’t think that’s what I want to do. I’m going to start a college program in the summer time that teaches you to become a sound technician.”* **Making Work Work For You Project, St Francis NESBF, Archdiocese of Toronto.**



Rock and River Congregation, King Bay Kids Project

- *“We have experienced more hands on help from 33 Division Police Services, Basketball Beginning Organization, Toronto Public Library, para-professionals and volunteers in the last 3 months.”*
- *“The parents, youth and children continued to communicate in a more responsible and respectful manner. The incidence of abuse, intimidation and altercations has decreased considerably. This is a direct result of the training in our parents support, homework program, work program and the Toronto Police Services Contribution. There is better communication among neighbours – in the past these families were always fighting and abusing each other verbally and physically. In the past, the Police were called in to investigate many complaints in this community but such calls have now gone down.”*

Pilgrim Church of the First Born

- *“The program has enhanced student’s communication skills, conflict resolution skills (including anger management skills), decision making skills, employability and self confidence. At the start of the program, these skills and behaviours were for some students very minimal and for others not evident at all. Many of them were reluctant to participate in group discussions because they were unsure of themselves and were afraid of being “wrong” or “not knowing”. Many of the students did not make eye contact and did not project their voices. Many of them doubted their abilities and thought of themselves as “not smart”. As the program progresses, we are witnessing students becoming more outspoken and also making more eye contact when speaking.”*
- *“The most notable impact of the program thus far is the renewed interest and enthusiasm for learning that is being displayed by our students – they are anxious and excited each week to attend the program. They are also eager to participate as soon as they arrive.”*
- *“Students are now more enthusiastic about discussing the causes of violence and suggesting solutions”*
- *“Students and parents have developed a renewed sense of pride in their community. Students are now visiting the community library more regularly and have acquired membership. Also, through our encouragement, one of our students is presently seeking employment at the library – we are helping her to put together a good resume.”*

Progress Church of God, Defy Your Label Project

- *“Defy Your Label participants continue to be involved in workshops and trip that support the application of skills learned through the program. The participants are challenged not only within the program but are expected to apply skills learnt outside the program. Whether they are having problems with teachers and / or peers at school, the girls continue to grow and learn various ways of managing their difficult situations.”*



St Francis NESBF

- *“In sharing stories with TCHC and other delivery agencies, the church, the project and the youth involved got a chance to participate in the creation of a model that will be used in many marginalized communities. The youth became part of the decision making body looking into creating strategies for youth development. Traditionally, such participation was reserved for “experts” and specialists. Their participation in the project has given them a voice and has shown them that they can have a say in the programs that are created to help youth.”*

Toronto New Covenant Cathedral

- *“As an organization, our responsiveness to the community has increased because the programs are taking youth off the streets and into meaningful activity.”*
- *“Adult volunteers on the program have commented that they wish they had had a similar opportunity when they were teens to engage in this type of program.”*