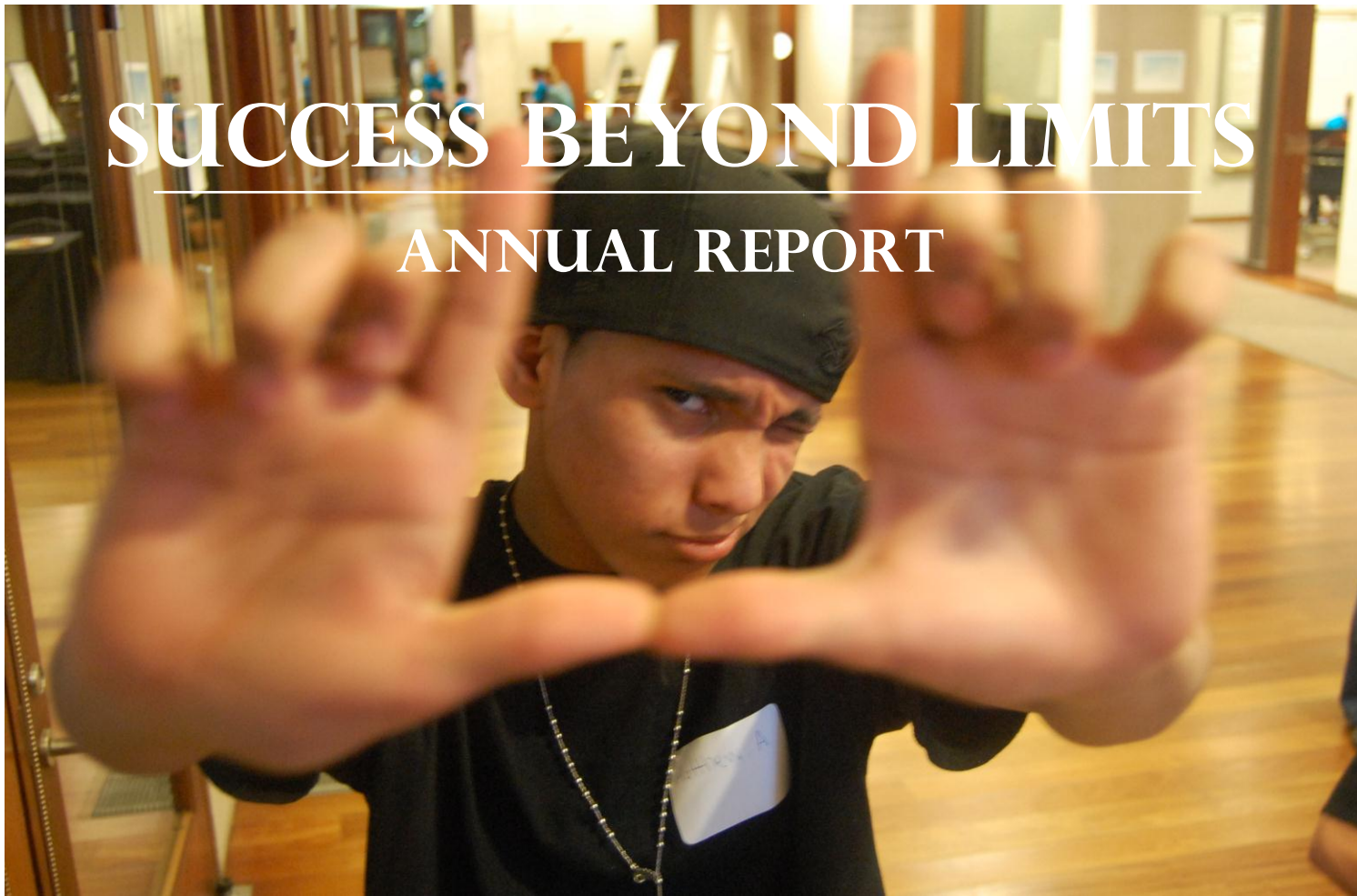


SUCCESS BEYOND LIMITS

ANNUAL REPORT



Message from SBL Board Chair

On behalf of the SBL Board of Directors, I am proud of our accomplishments over the past year. As a fairly new organization, a great deal has been put in place to develop a strong organizational foundation for the important work of SBL. Our successful summer program came about as a direct result of the commitment of a tremendous SBL staff team, highly skilled teachers and dedicated volunteers. Our transition into a beautiful new space in Westview to continue our school year based supports builds upon our strong partnership with our school/TDSB partners.

This annual report provides a snapshot of the incredible successes of the past year and, we hope, demonstrates our organization's incredible energy and passion for youth educational attainment. The work of transforming lives is always a collaborative effort – requiring community, institutions and people to come together.

Looking back, we are thankful that youth from the community gave SBL a mandate to develop a holistic, community-based approach to supporting young people's success. As an organization and Board of Directors, we recognize that this work can only be done in partnership with youth and we remain fully committed to building an organization that shares power and decision-making with young people.

As a Board, our priorities over the past year have been to ensure high quality programming for youth from the Jane/Finch community, to foster partnerships, to secure funding for SBL programming and to strengthen our organization through good governance. We intend to continue this work in the year ahead. Our Board has participated in visioning/planning sessions, attended Board training and been engaged in robust dialogue about future SBL directions. Whether we are youth, adult volunteers or staff, we have each brought valuable contributions to SBL and also learned from one another. I look forward to our exciting journey ahead.

Don Dippo
Chair, Board of Directors



Youth Voice and SBL

In April of 2010, a group of youth, community workers, professors, teachers, parents, and partners came together on a holiday Monday to respond to a call from youth in Jane and Finch to support them in their educational aspirations. Out of a day of workshops and discussions, a collective process emerged and birthed Success Beyond Limits.

There are two defining moments that I recall from this day:

- 1) Youth around the table explaining to professors program names that would appeal to youth, and those professors listening and learning.
- 2) A community worker fiddling with her cell phone, and then interjecting that one of the youth that had wanted to be there, but was at home babysitting a younger sibling, had an idea that they needed to share through text message.

Three months later, with close to 2000 volunteer hours logged, our first summer program was launched at York University with 100 new grade 9 students, 20 Westview Mentors, and 30 Westview volunteers. Standing behind the call from youth in the community was funders, partners, and educational institutions that came on board and helped to make it possible.

The pages that follow tell the story of our first year, but what we hope that you discover is that this program belongs to the youth in Jane and Finch. Our staff team tells every student entering our program that we are not going to be in these roles forever. The youth will take our positions and will shape Success Beyond Limits to meet the needs of the next generation.

That is the spirit of the Success Beyond Limits Education Program, whose name and vision came from a collective; the voice of the youth in the community brought us all to that table, and their voice remains our guiding force.

In partnership, in collaboration, and in unity,

Christopher Penrose
Executive Director



OUR TEAM

MENTORS

Bottom row, left to right: Sofia Mohamed, Kadisha Murray, Nancy Hunyh, Cindy Jaikissoon, Shunay Bolt, Akifa Forde, Justica Adjetej, and Matthew Alay.

Top row, left to right: Rosmun Prescod, Jessi-Ann Miller, Roble Mohamed, Amal Mohamed, Kevin Osei, Deshawn Williams, Tony Nguyen, Shajan Ganesharajah, Abdikarim Abdi, Sandy Ngo, Lavinia Tompkins, Nana Ado-Poku, and Ricky Osei



STAFF

From left to right: Tesfai Mengesha, Vanessa Poloniato, Chris Penrose, Kaneka Watkins, and Mohamed Ahmed



TEACHERS

From left to right: Mauricio Araya, Sam Tecele, Tesfai Mengesha, Crystal Penrose, Nigel Hunter, Saraya Elwin, Andrien Paragassingh, and Darlene Jones



Governance

On June 28th, 2010, the Success Beyond Limits Education Program (also known as Success Beyond Limits) was incorporated as a non-profit organization.

With a small inaugural Board of Directors, Success Beyond Limits (SBL) moved quickly to focus on the start of the summer program in July 2010. The inaugural Board provided executive oversight to the summer and school year program and also established a Steering Committee comprised of community stakeholders, partners and youth to facilitate inclusive dialogue and decision-making.

SBL held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June 2011 and elected a Board of Directors (11 members, including four youth). Key guiding principles of the SBL Board include: shared power and decision-making, youth input/involvement and learning from one another.



Inaugural Board of Directors:
(June 2010- May 2011)
Don Dippo – President/Chair
Jasmine Surkari – Secretary
Pat Saul

Board of Directors:
(Elected in June 2011)
Amy Hilo – Co-chair
Yvette Munro - Treasurer
Nana Teiku
Kevin Sutton
Andrew Newsome
Richard Ferriss
Rudy Lewis
Kerasha Crammer



We are now in the process of training and strengthening our board through a number of key steps:

- 1) Financial Literacy Training: 'What Do I Need to Know as a Non-Profit Board Member?': November 2011.
- 2) 'Establishing a Youth-Led Governance Culture' Workshop: January 2012
- 3) Strategic Planning: February 2012



Our Vision

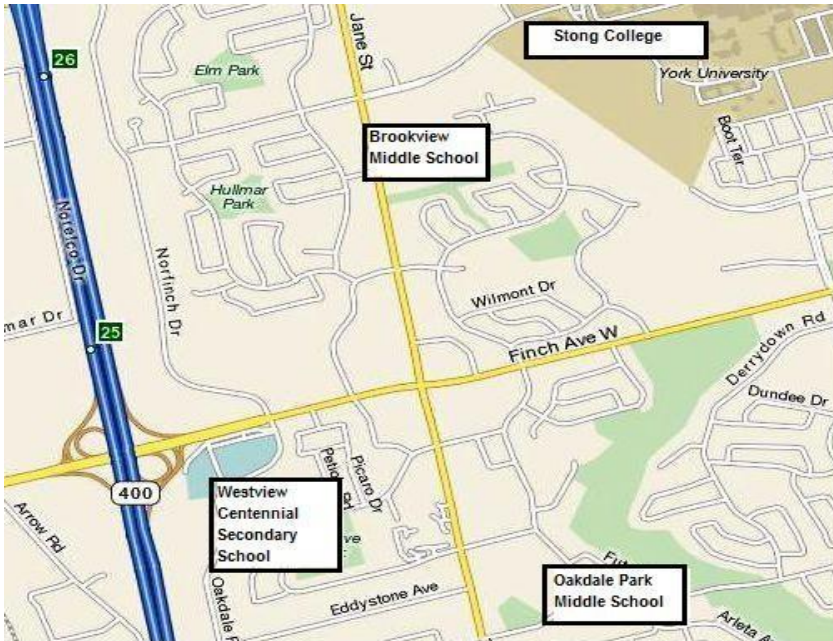
A collaborative, youth-led, community based movement that provides youth with holistic supports to complete their education and experience success in their lives.



Our Mission

To improve educational outcomes, expand possibilities, and support youth in Jane and Finch along their individual paths to success.

Our Community, Our Family of Schools:



Graduation Model

Success Beyond Limits exists to provide youth with the opportunity to progress from where ever they are to where ever they want to be. This is reflected in our programming, in which Mentees become Mentors-in-training, then become mentors, who go on to play a variety of roles within our organizations (as tutors, co-op students and board members), eventually making contributions to the broader community.

Our Values

Youth-led: Everything we do aspires to and is designed for establishing youth ownership of SBL by engaging and responding to the voices of youth. Youth are involved in our governance, as well as planning, adjusting, and delivering programming.

Collaborative: The common ground of success in education for our youth is where we meet with individuals, organizations, agencies, institutions and movements.

Community Based: Our focus, mandate and staffing are community-based, community-focused, and community-empowered.

Flexibility: All of our programming stays flexible in order to respond to the voice of the youth and their changing needs.

Our Program Model

Our focus is to reduce the impact of external factors that negatively affect the educational success of youth in Jane-Finch. We operate a 6-week summer program that offers credits, mentorship, youth employment, enrichment, nutrition, engagement, graduation, and relationship building.

We continue our support through our presence within Westview Centennial Secondary School, where we operate a youth space.

Through this space, our staff support youth during the school day, run an after-school program, and connect youth to an array of diverse opportunities.

The School Day at Westview

Premise

The SBL staff team is present during the school day at Westview Centennial Secondary School in the SBL Youth Space, within the Westview Student Centre, to provide students with a space that belongs to them and offers supports tailored to meet their needs.

Student Support

The years that the SBL staff team have taken to build strong relationships with youth in the community allows them to be a trusted resource to students. The SBL staff team is available to address student needs, work in partnership with school staff to support students, to aid in the resolution of issues that students are facing, and to connect them with valuable resources.

Students on Spare

Students who have a free period on their timetable are able to make use of the lounge area, computers, workspace, and staff support in the SBL Youth Space within the Westview Student Centre.

Students in Need

Students can always turn to SBL staff that are available to support them and/or connect them to the appropriate channels to resolve any challenges, problems or concerns during the school day. While we are present during the school day, our availability and reach go beyond the school as a space, and the school day.

Co-op and Placement

Grade 11 and 12 students are able to gain valuable insight into community work through completing placements with Success Beyond Limits. Additionally, every year we take former SBL and Westview students on as placement students for their post-secondary programs (including George Brown, Humber, and Seneca).

Collaboration with Teachers

SBL staff, Mentors and tutors provide additional support to students through connecting with teachers to assist in resolving issues related to grades, missed assignments, lateness, absences, and difficulties in the classroom.



After School Program

Tutoring: SBL Mentors, York University student volunteers, SBL staff, and Westview teachers are available in our after-school program to help students with homework, tests, and catching up on their classes. Tutoring takes place from Monday to Thursday, 3:30-5:30 at Westview.

Recreation: Students can participate in a wide-array of activities, including swimming, competitive sports, and martial arts.

Music: Through a variety of partnerships, which include Drum Artz, JustBGraphic, and Baddest Beats, SBL offers programming to students some of which include: samba drumming, dance, and music production.

Workshops: Youth-led workshops include photography, financial literacy, goal setting, healthy (and tasty) nutrition, spoken word poetry, positive relationships, and more.

Employment: Mentors are able to earn honorariums as they support students throughout the school year and bring leadership to the school environment. We also support students in resume writing, job interview preparation, building experience through volunteering, and providing reference letters.

Nutrition: Students are offered a healthy snack, which includes meal-preparation so that they learn how to make healthy, inexpensive meals.

Transportation: During the winter months when the sun sets earlier, students are provided with a school bus with stops from Jane and Sheppard to Jane and Steeles. This is to ensure a safe departure and arrival home.

Mentorship: As the core of the after-school program, this is the element that allows students to connect to Mentors (often older and more experienced), tutors and SBL staff, which fosters a space for lasting mentorship bonds and opportunity to share experiences and learnings.



163 were registered for our after school program, average attendance of 45 students a day.

Summer Program @ York U



Mentorship Relationships

Youth in our program enter grade 9 after 6-weeks with 20 Westview Mentors, 30 Westview student volunteers, 8 community connected TDSB teachers, the SBL staff team, and 99 other new grade 9's. These relationships smooth the transition into grade 9.



Nutrition

A healthy breakfast snack and a nutritious lunch are a part of each day for students. This supports their alertness and increases engagement in learning.



Enrichment

Students enjoy afternoon activities within York U facilities, which include swimming, dance, art, drama, sports and gaming. Many of the activities are led by Mentors and youth from the community.



Class Size

Students enjoy a ratio of 1 teacher for 15 students. The in-class support is boosted by the presence of 3 Mentors in each class, which means 1 support for every 3-4 students. Mentors roles are to support differentiated learning.



Workshops/Events

Young professionals come in for our 'Career Day', Mentors run an annual 'Play Day', and we hold a full 'Track Meet'. We also offer youth-led workshops on topics, which include "What's High School Really Like?" and "Financial Literacy".



Outings

On Fridays, the SBL summer program visits remarkable destinations across Toronto. These field trips offer new experiences, build memories, strengthen bonds between students, and reward a week of dedicated learning.



Preparation

In September, SBL students often remark, 'I remember that from the summer'. The summer credit prepares them for the social and academic realities of grade 9. They are also prepared for new levels of responsibility.



Transportation

Buses bring students, Mentors, and volunteers to and from York University from three locations within the community (Brookview M.S., Oakdale Park M.S. and Firgrove P.S.) removing the barrier of accessibility for every student.



Credit

Students earn their first secondary school credit through the General Learning Strategies course, covering numeracy, literacy and life skills using content that is relevant to their lived experience, learning style, and personal interests.

EXPOSE

Program Stream

- Experiences
- Relationships
- Skills
- Expanding Horizons

The city of Toronto abounds with conferences, events, networking opportunities, and remarkable talent.

SBL staff tap into these resources and develop partnerships and collaborations aimed at giving youth the opportunity to connect their goals, curiosities, and interests to real people and real experiences.

Vision: The **EXPOSE** Program Stream is about connecting youth to opportunities and experiences that will foster new skills, new relationships and expanded horizons.

It is this **EXPOSURE** that is fundamental to the process of discovering a talent, developing a passion, and turning a dream into reality.

The **EXPOSE** program stream holds to a philosophy of supporting youth in their unique paths to success.

Some of the activities of the **EXPOSE** Program Stream were:

- SoulPepper Theatre's "A Raisin in the Sun"
- McKinsey Youth Leadership Conference Forum
- Focus on Youth Leadership Retreat
- "Louder than A Bomb", "The Interrupters" with Steve James, and TIFF '11 screenings and discussions at the TIFF Bell Lightbox,
- TEDxTO @ The Remix Project
- Manifesto Festival 2010-2011
- Jays Care Foundation Community Club House
- SBL Mentor completes greatly successful co-op placement at Norton Rose OR



EXPOSE: Photography

Westview Photovoice: “The Life You Choose VS The Life That Chooses You”

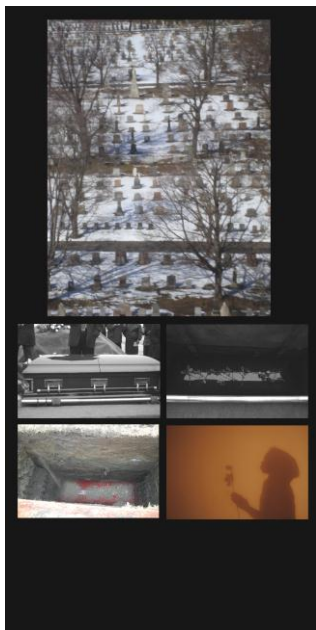
10 youth in the SBL program took part in a photovoice project in partnership with the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth (OPACY) and the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU). The project was developed through a youth-led, train-the-trainer, participatory action research model that gave youth the power to use a camera to speak about their school and community, and to develop photography and media literacy skills that they could teach other youth.

Their work was launched at Queen’s Park and in the AGYU Gallery, and the series of 8 themed posters they created were posted across Toronto.

Trillium Photovoice Project

Through the success of “The Life You Choose VS The Life That Chooses You”, SBL received a grant from the Trillium Foundation to purchase photography and film equipment that will allow SBL youth to use the skills and training that they received to lead other youth in completing new projects, and to build the capacity of others through a train-the-trainer model.

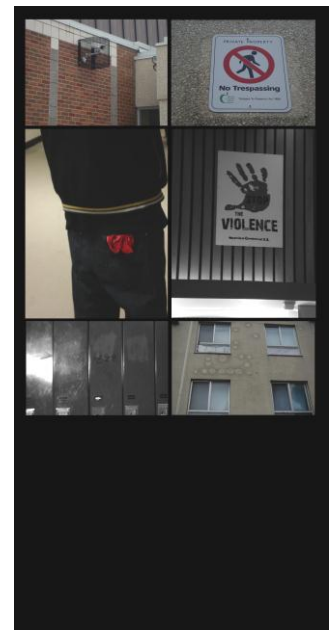
The results so far have been the launch of a photography and film workshop run in the SBL after school program by Youth Mentors, and securing funding for two more Photovoice projects.



“Second Hand Life” – Toronto Public Health

Through a youth-led process, SBL Mentors were successful in securing a grant from Toronto Public Health to complete a photography and film project that will explore smoking, mental health and sexual health through the theme of “Second Hand Life”.

The project is to be completed in spring of 2012.



Chronicles of the Outspoken – AGYU

In partnership with the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU) and No Manz Land, SBL youth will be developing a multi-disciplinary art project that will explore hidden stories and inter-generational connections.

The project will be completed in



agYU

TORONTO
Public Health

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

Office of the Provincial Advocate for
Children
and Youth

March Break “Employment Readiness and Career Exploration” Program

Even with the wide-range of needs present in the lives of young people, one of the most common requests for assistance from youth is the need for employment.

In response to this reality, SBL launched the “Employment Readiness and Career Exploration Program” during the March Break of 2011. With support from **Westview Centennial**, the program hosted 28 students for a week in the youth space of **Black Creek Community Health Centre** at Yorkgate Mall.

Throughout the week, students took part in youth-led and youth-friendly workshops that included ‘Financial Literacy: What Does it Cost to be Independent?’ Goal Setting, First Aid, Resume and Interview Skills, “Planning for Your Education”, and Employment Strategies.

A key partner was the **Financial Literacy Program (FLiP)**, which is a youth-led organization designed to educate and spread awareness in the community around financial literacy.

The workshops gave students the opportunity to develop skills to prepare themselves to be successful with potential employers and explore career paths, while having fun in the process.

The week ended with a career tour that visited independent bookstore **A Different Booklist** (which afforded students the opportunity to pick a book of their choice), followed by lunch in the boardroom of **Norton Rose OR** with junior lawyers, a tour of the **RBC** trading floor, and a student film screening at the **TIFF Bell Lightbox**.



Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
FLiP Workshop: “How to Manage Money When You Get Your First job”	FLiP Workshop: “The Cost of Being Independent”	FIRST AID and CPR	Workshop: Resume Writing	Another Book List tour and book selections
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	Lunch at Norton Rose OR
FLiP Workshop: “Funding Your Education: OSAP, Bursaries, Scholarships”	Workshop : Goal Setting	FIRST AID and CPR	Workshop: Job Interview	RBC Trading Floor and TIFF Bell Lightbox





Toronto District School Board (TDSB)

Partnership: We have a formal partnership agreement with the TDSB that guides our relationship with the school board. Arising out of this partnership are a number of important relationships throughout the TDSB.



Westview Centennial Secondary School: Our youth space is located within the Westview Centennial Student Centre. Our summer program is focused on grade 9 students that will be entering Westview, and we are present throughout the school day offering year-round support open to all students at Westview. We work in collaboration with school staff, participate in school-wide events and initiatives, and sit on the Westview Community Council. Our after-school program also operates free of permit fees at Westview. Westview is a vital and valued partner in the work of SBL.

“The Administration of Westview greatly appreciates SBL’s efforts to support students and staff.”

– Patrick Knight, Principal, Westview Centennial Secondary School

Focus on Youth (FOY): This initiative makes it possible for us to hire many of our Youth Mentors that are all senior Westview students. The presence of the Mentors in our summer program is a fundamental pillar made possible by FOY.

Continuing Education: It is the Continuing Education department of the TDSB that administers the General Learning Strategies (GLS) credit that students are able to earn in our summer program. They also employ the 7 TDSB teachers and the TDSB site lead that deliver the academic portion of our summer program.

TDSB Equity: SBL is able to offer youth a great range of opportunities, resources and supports through the work and mandate of TDSB’s Inclusive Schools, Student, Parent and Community Department.

Teacher Growth: In a study conducted by York University MA students in social work, it was found that teachers that work with Success Beyond Limits:

- ✓ Value the relationships built, and they are continuously motivated by the transformation that occurs with their students and themselves.
- ✓ Are able to gain a better understanding of what the students go through.
- ✓ Gain feelings of having unique connections with the students.
- ✓ Have unique experiences that continue to inform their future teaching practices.

Future Vision: With support of the Westview principal, we are working towards expanding the role of SBL in Westview to have a greater emphasis during the school day, building even stronger links between Westview students, staff, and parents.

The relationship between SBL and York University is integral to the success of our program. Stong College at York University is where our summer program takes place, which giving us access to a wide-range of York-based programmes, faculties and organizations to connect. Most importantly, being located at York in the summer gives youth from the community exposure to a post-secondary institution, which in turn promotes and encourages their aspirations towards participating in higher education.

Some of our York University connections are:

- Art Gallery of York University
- Community Legal Aid Services Programme (Osgoode Hall Law School)
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Health – School of Kinesiology
- Music Department
- Nat Taylor Cinema
- Play: CES Lab
- Stong College
- School and Community Engaged Education
- Tait Mackenzie
- Track and Field Centre
- The Price Family Theatre
- York U Faculty Association Foundation
- York U Faculty Association Community Projects
- York U TD Community Engagement Centre (CEC)
- York Youth Connection (YYC)



20 Things We've Learned

This Year

#1 Our priority is relationships, that come over time and are built on trust, which is established by consistency.

#2 The success of our students takes the collaborative effort of parents, teachers, youth mentors, and the community.

#3 Programs, resources and supports can only have so much impact without nutritious food in the equation.

#4 Never underestimate how important an empowering employment experience can be for young people.

#5 The path to success looks different for everyone, and so should a plan for success.

#6 Leadership comes from the courage to step out on faith, showing others that they too can step out.

#7 The needs of youth change, and you have to stay flexible. Always be willing to change as needs change.

#8 You see what people are capable of when you give them the chance to do something they didn't think they could do, and they do it.

#9 One-to-one connections with students, teachers and stakeholders is how our message is conveyed.

#10 All students have the ability to succeed given the right support and motivation.

#11 Working with funders is not about finances; it's about building relationships.

#12 Focused time for tutoring, balanced with activities gives youth the opportunity to do both instead of having to choose.

#13 Telling our story is a must. If we don't, who will?

#14 Technology is more important than ever. Understand who is using what and why, and find new ways to connect.

#15 Partnership and collaboration is a process that is never finished.

Not something you do, something you live.

#16 An open, bright space makes students feel more welcome, creating a place that is theirs.

#17 Data and evaluation, when built into programming, helps make our work more efficient and effective.

#18 Change is always good, even if things are running well in previous years.

#19 A solid team is a solid foundation.

#20 A youth led organization empowers youth through youth participation in all areas of the organization.



Success Stories

Shyanne Witter

Post-Secondary Success: Against the Odds



When Shyanne joined our program as a mentor in 2008, there were teachers that told us we were 'making a mistake' by hiring her. They were referring to issues around her attendance, poor grades, negative associations, and an alleged 'bad attitude'.

That summer she was highly respected by the students, vital in conflict mediation, and extremely reliable. Shyanne stayed on with us right into the summer of 2010. Over that time she was voted by her peers as a Mentor Among Mentors for three consecutive years, the ultimate compliment.

As a Mentor, her sense of purpose in helping youth and the personal success she experienced led to the field of social work. She is now in her second year at Humber College with a full scholarship that came with support from a mentor who has already achieved her next goal of a Masters degree in social work. Those who doubted her now celebrate her success, and she is spoken of by youth she has mentored as a role model. In March of 2011, she was mentioned in the Toronto Star as someone to watch in Jane and Finch.

Shyanne is now working in the SBL Youth Space at Westview Centennial doing her social work placement. This success story, though amazing, is by no means finished.

Nana Tiekou

From Mentorship to Governance



In 2008, Nana transferred to Westview Centennial to start grade 11 as a Wildcat, playing for the school's soccer team. His aspiration was to be a professional soccer player.

As the season progressed, he began to lose his interest in playing soccer and was left wondering what the future had in store for him. During this time, Nana had come across the SBL program and was looking for employment. He applied and was successful in becoming a Mentor. It was in his role as a Mentor that Nana came to the realization that working with youth was his passion. He was motivated by seeing that his outgoing and positive personality allowed him to build lasting relationships with other youth.

Going into his final year of secondary school, Nana was focused on accomplishing his goal of attending college to pursue an education in social work. After graduating from Westview, he was accepted into the social work program at George Brown.

During his second year of study, his journey came full circle when he landed as a placement student with SBL. In his new role, Nana continued to mentor youth, conducted workshops, met with teachers to advocate for students, and started his own program.

In a short time, Nana flourished as a youth leader and is now a member of the SBL Board where he plays an important role in bringing forward a youth voice to the decision making process, while building his own capacity. As a graduate of George Brown, he will begin his pursuit of a degree in sociology at York University.

Success Stories

Mariah & Precilla

Building a Career from a Passion



Mariah came into SBL as a mentee, fresh out of grade 8, nervous and excited about entering secondary school. That summer, she built bonds and connections to other students, mentors, and SBL staff.

Over the course of the following two school years, Mariah moved from grade 9 attending tutoring sessions where she was being mentored and was participating in enrichment activities, to volunteering and supporting other students.

Outside of SBL, Mariah and her friend Priscilla took advantage of the remarkable dance program at Westview to make the most of their passion for dance. While SBL offered dance once a week, this was not enough for this duo, as they were taking their craft seriously and were practicing daily. Through performances at Westview, in the community, and throughout the city, it became clear that they had a gift – one that they could share.

This past summer, Mariah and Priscilla were hired by the SBL summer program as dance instructors. They instructed over 100 students for 6 weeks, choreographing routines and getting even the most reluctant youth off the wall in their sessions.

SBL will continue to stand behind Mariah and Priscilla in their vision of building a career in dance, and their goal of starting a small business that will lead into opening a dance school.

Tyrone Manners

Making a Second Chance Count



The beginning of secondary school did not go as planned for Tyrone. A combination of factors, including situations outside of school that would be difficult for anyone to endure, got the best of him.

Absences and lates piled up, grades declined, and credits slipped through his fingers.

With most of the close friends that he came into grade 9 with at different schools or not in school at all, motivation to graduate was fading.

When Tyrone was hired as a Mentor for SBL, there were many that questioned whether he was a role model. In that first summer, and in the summers that followed, he thrived in a leadership role. His ability to understand where youth

facing difficulties were coming from, his way of presenting options in a way that is not telling you what to do, and the respect he had built with youth in the community made him a fundamental part of the success of SBL. As much as Tyrone was helping others, things got worse before they got better. After a few substantial set-backs, his desire to succeed only grew stronger.

In the past year, he has completed a coop placement with SBL, participated in the completion of 3 short films (one fiction and two documentaries), presented at conferences and forums (as far away as Welland, Ontario), and represented SBL to external stakeholders.

He is now running a weekly film and photography workshop, he works in SBL as a Senior Mentor, he is a part of The Remix Project, and he is on track to complete secondary school with a goal post-secondary education so that he can continue to work with youth.

What We Have Achieved

Summer 2010

- 101 students were enrolled in the summer and 94 got the credit.
- Students were prepared for secondary school as a result of our program giving them the following:
 - Exposure to the grade 9 curriculum.
 - Academically and socially prepared through life skills component.
 - Awareness of resources such as Senior Mentors and SBL staff.
 - Feeling a sense of connectedness and confidence.
- Of students surveyed in 2009-10, 100% indicated an improvement in grades, motivation and/or attendance through the program.
- 14 Mentors received a co-op credit. 20 students volunteered.
- As reflected in surveys, 100% of our mentors have discovered new levels of purpose, responsibility, and focus.
- There were 5 SBL Staff and 8 TDSB teachers.
- Secured the York University Faculty Association as trustee, while SBL engages in the process of achieving charitable status.
- Secured a partnership agreement with the Toronto District School Board.



School year 2010-2011

- 163 students were registered in the 2010 school year program, with many more dropping-in, seeking one-on-one supports, and/or attending one-time events.
- 16 of 20 mentors from the summer program continued employment as a mentor during the school year (the other 4 mentors graduated and moved on to post-secondary education.)
- 4 volunteers (Mentors-in-Training) were able to take on Mentor roles.
- 60 Westview students volunteered during the school year totaling over 9,000 hours.
- Launched the March Break “Employment Readiness and Career Exploration Program” in partnership with Westview Centennial, which included 28 Westview students.
- Engagement of York University students as tutors at Westview Centennial through our partnership with the Community Legal Aid and Services Programme (CLASP) at York University: 10 tutors completing 320 hours combined.
- In partnership with Ontario’s Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth and the Art Gallery of York University, we celebrated the launch of “The Life You Choose vs. The Life That Chooses You” Photovoice project, which included a full gallery showing and art installation, and a street poster campaign.

What We Have Achieved

School year 2010-2011

- 5 SBL students took part in the March Break Movie Making Madness Bootcamp offered by the Toronto International Film Festival and completed a short film.
- 4 SBL students took part in the TDSB Focus on Youth Leadership Retreat.
- 2 former Mentors worked with SBL as placement students totaling over 900 placement hours.
- Operated as core members of the Inner City Advisory Committee, Education Attainment West, and the United Way Community of Practice on Youth Educational Attainment in 2010-11.
- 7 SBL students took part on a panel discussing dropout rates at "The Pulse of Education" hosted by Education Attainment West.
- SBL Staff and a Mentor presented the SBL Model in Welland, Ontario at a forum on education.



Summer 2011

- 94 new grade 9 students registered in summer program, with 80 earning their first secondary school credit, a success rate of 85%.
- An additional 12 students joined the program late and were ineligible for the credit, with all 12 expressing in a survey that they felt more prepared for secondary school as a result of SBL.
- Of 106 students, 32% were transfer students, and 50% were referred to us due to social/personal/academic concerns from their schools, parents and/or community partners.
- 25 Mentors were employed full-time (20 in the classroom environment and 5 in a documentary film training program).
- Partnership with SkyWorks Films supporting 5 Mentors in the completion of two community focused documentaries.
- Of the 25 Mentors: 15 were former Mentees and 10 Mentors were former volunteers.
- 30 Volunteers (Mentors-in-Training) contributed 1260 hours to the summer program.

What We Have Achieved

Summer 2011

- 14 Volunteers (Mentors-in-Training) were former Mentees, with 100% expressing goal of becoming an SBL Mentor.
- Since 2010 we have worked with 11 TDSB teachers and 9 of that 11 had previously taught in the Jane-Finch community.
- Of 11 teachers, 5 are from the Jane-Finch community.
- 6 of 7 SBL teachers were returning staff, with one new hire from Westview Centennial Secondary School.
- In a research study done by Social Work Graduate students, 100% of SBL teachers surveyed indicated that teaching in the SBL Summer Program was transformational in their teaching practice, brought them closer to youth in the community, and encouraged innovation in their classroom.
- 2 former SBL/Westview students worked as dance instructors and paid facilitators in the program, delivering programming to youth participants.
- Completed our first annual general meeting, adding four youth members to our board of directors.



Summary from 2010-present

- Over the course of two summers, 195 new grade 9 students have gone through the Success Beyond Limits summer program; 174 credits have been granted, giving an 89% success rate of students eligible for the credit.
- Achieved a classroom ratio of 1 teacher to 15 students.
- Additional one to one student support as each classroom has 3-4 mentors, bringing the level of support to a 1 to 3 ratio.
- 45 Mentors have been employed and trained during the summer and school year since 2010.
- All 4 of our graduating Mentors in 2010 went on to post-secondary education.
- Brought 7 external programs/organizations to Westview to provide valuable programming to Westview students.
- Worked in partnership with the staff at Brookview Middle School and Oakdale Park Middle School to offer students youth-led workshops and to conduct outreach for our summer program.

Glossary

Westview Centennial Secondary School

High school Located in the Jane-Finch community directly behind Humber River Hospital.

Mentor

Senior level students (Grade 11-12) from Westview Centennial School, who support, guide and tutor mentees and volunteers.

Mentee

Students who are going into grade 9 and have enrolled in our summer program. Also included are grade 9 students at Westview who enroll in our school year program.

Mentors-in-Training

These are volunteers are grade 10-12 Westview students learning to become Mentors.

Transfer Students

The student has not met the curriculum expectations of the current grade and has not achieved a Level 1 in Language/French (extended or immersion), or mathematics or has not achieved a Level 1 in at least two thirds of remaining subjects.



Funders and Donors



United Way



Success Beyond Limits would like to thank Tim and Frances Price for their generous donation, and for their enduring support through the United Way.

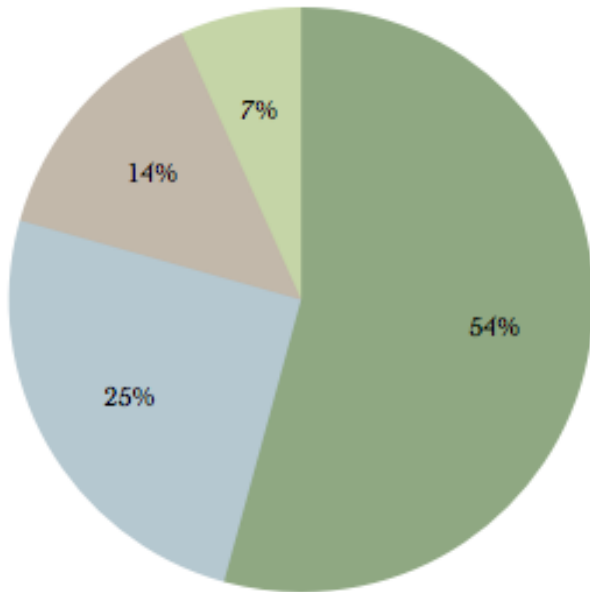
Partners and Collaborations



- Baddest Beats ■ Oakdale Park Middle School ■ Brookview Middle School ■ Da Spot
- Driftwood Community Festival ■ Inner City Advisory Community ■ United Way
- Community Practice of Practice on Youth Educational Attainment

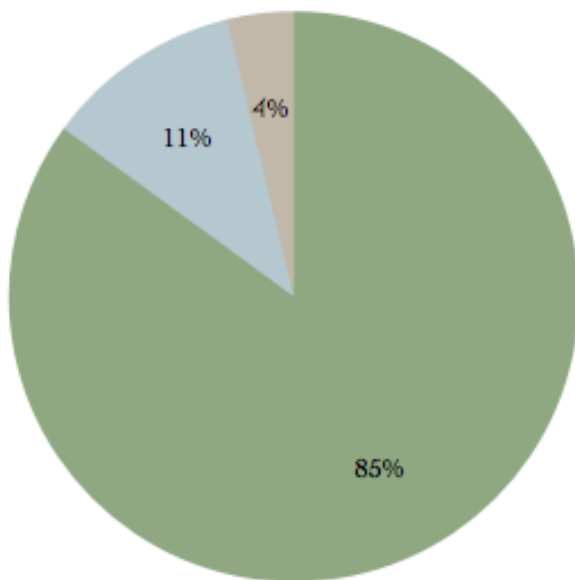
Income and Expenses

SBL Income – June 2010-May 2011



- In-Kind Contributions (e.g. space, permits, teachers) - 54%
- Foundations and Organizations - 25%
- United Way and Corporate - 14%
- Government - 7%

SBL Expenses – June 2010-May 2011



- Program Expenses - 85%
- Administration - 11%
- Fundraising/Communications - 4%

Audited financial statement will be made available upon request.



Success Beyond Limits



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The making of this annual report involved staff, mentors, board members, youth participants, teachers, and supporters. Thank you, everyone, for your efforts in this important step along the journey of telling our story.