

# Strategic Granting — Vital Youth

Vital Youth grant recipients increase access to high-quality recreation activities for youth. This grant stream supports programming that helps youth build useful skills and connect to their communities through grants of up to \$15,000.

## Vital Youth Grants in 2015-16



### 2015-16 Supporters

Ada W. Slight Fund • Griggs Family Foundation • Kevin Burke Family Foundation • Shum Vourkoutiotis Fund • Teow Family Foundation • James & Barbara Stewart • Anonymous (1)

### 2015-16 Recipients

#### Art Gallery of York University, Spotlight: Youth Artists Take Centre Stage

Offering dance and spoken word poetry workshops for youth from the Jane-Finch community with a focus on recruiting alumni to design and deliver the workshops to provide participants with professional development in arts education, curriculum planning, and workshop delivery. *This grant was made possible with support from an anonymous fund.*

#### Birchmount Bluffs Neighbourhood Centre, Take the Leap

(Leadership Through Education and Physical Activity)  
Partnering with the Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities to bring two adjacent but separate communities together so that youth from primarily racialized and low socioeconomic backgrounds can come together through active recreation and healthy living to build skills and unleash their capacity for leadership.

#### CNIB, TIES - Teens Involved in Employment and Sports

Preparing blind or partially sighted Toronto teens for employment and post-secondary school by exposing them to new experiences while providing important training opportunities for them to advocate for themselves and develop leadership skills. *This grant was made possible with support from an anonymous fund.*

#### Canadian Roots Exchange, Toronto Youth Reconciliation Initiative

Engaging four young Toronto leaders to be trained to lead programming in their own communities and act as mentors to recruit Indigenous and non-Indigenous younger youth to build bridges between them and facilitate dialogue and stronger relationships.

#### COSTI Immigrant Services, Youth Recreation Program

Engaging able-bodied and disabled youth in recreational programming focused on physical literacy and health and wellness awareness to increase self-esteem, confidence, and skills in physical movement, teamwork, leadership, and healthy living.

#### CultureLink Settlement Services, West Hill Bike Club

Increasing access to recreation, encouraging diversity, and developing leadership among primarily newcomer youth through an after-school Bike Club at West Hill Collegiate Institute that offers cycling training, support for finding affordable bicycles, excursions, and Playing for Keeps Neighbourhood Games. *This grant was made possible with support from an anonymous fund.*

#### Delta Family Resource Centre, Youth at the Summit

Engaging isolated youth from three Toronto Community Housing communities in Humber Summit in a range of interactive recreational activities and opportunities to build leadership skills and positive social networks. *This grant was made possible with support from an anonymous fund.*

#### Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre, Youth on the Move

Empowering youth with practical and transferrable skills in sport certification, videography, and other life skills and increasing access to diverse activities and opportunities to build their peer networks. *This grant was made possible with support from an anonymous fund.*

#### East Scarborough Storefront, Sports for Change

Engaging youth in community sporting activities that earn them points towards becoming Kingston-Galloway-Orton Park Sports for Change Champions in order to strengthen the connection between sports and community building.

#### Harbourfront Community Centre, Waterfront Youth Helps

Offering workshops for youth in health and safety, program and event planning, communication strategies, volunteer management, and team building so that they can develop and lead Playing for Keeps Neighbourhood Games to foster a more welcoming and inclusive neighbourhood. *This grant was made possible with support from an anonymous fund.*

#### Hospice Toronto, Young Carers

Expanding recruitment for older youth to be trained as mentors for younger participants in the program that supports youth who take care of family members with chronic illness, are dying or live with a disability, substance abuse, mental health challenges, and/or language barriers.

#### MABELLEarts, Youth at the Centre

Providing comprehensive leadership training and skills building for youth from Mabelle and West Mall neighbourhoods by engaging them in the development of arts projects that encourage diverse Mabelle residents to come together and have fun. *This grant was made possible with support from the Ada W. Slight Fund.*

#### Mentoring Junior Kids Organization (MJKO), Round II

Providing intensive leadership training and coaching certifications for youth leaders and facilitating opportunities for them to serve as mentors to other youth that participate in MJKO's Playing for Keeps Neighbourhood Games. *This grant was made possible with support from an anonymous fund.*

#### Scarborough Arts, The Animating Democracy Project, EAST 2015

Encouraging democratic dialogue by engaging youth in documenting important issues facing their communities through documentary videography and photojournalism that includes intensive active field work, story gathering through research, and interview and image collecting. *This grant was made possible with support from the Ada W. Slight Fund.*

#### Skills for Change of Metro Toronto, Step Ahead

Linking youth from low-income and different cultural backgrounds with long-term employment and recreation opportunities by empowering them with entrepreneurial, leadership, and technical dance and teaching skills to position them to develop their own fee-for-service dance instruction businesses. *This grant was made possible with support from the Ada W. Slight Fund.*

#### Success Beyond Limits, Toronto Sporting Games Tour

Youth mentors working in groups of two or three to create and deliver workshops showcasing the rules and history of eight feature Pan Am Games sports to their peers and organizing Playing for Keeps Neighbourhood Games based on each sport and in collaboration with a larger planning committee.

#### The Base - Lost Lyrics, Original Griots - Playing for Keeps

Engaging Lost Lyrics alumni in various aspects of the organization's program delivery to support peers in developing critical analysis skills, strategies for social change, and articulating self-awareness while translating and expanding their own knowledge and experience with the program into tangible skills.

#### UNITY Charity, Healthy Active Youth Leadership Program

Leading dance workshops for youth from low-income families and visible minorities in an inclusive atmosphere to promote the development of positive physical activity habits while connecting them with role models and building their capacity as leaders. *This grant was made possible with support from the Ada W. Slight Fund.*

#### West Neighbourhood House, Silk Screening Leadership Project

Engaging newcomer and immigrant youth as well as youth from immigrant families each week to learn how to silk screen and deliver silk screening workshops to peers at different community locations and events. *This grant was made possible with support from an anonymous fund.*