




COMMUNITY

Try to forget about the negative, think about the positive and always “keep your head up”.? 2




WRONG PLACE & TIME

I know I am not the only one who has this fear. 3



PEACE

Participants talk about their experiences in PEACE 4



Throughout the Years



Throughout life, everybody stumbles upon obstacles. Some you may overcome, others you may not be able to. Steps through life normally revolve around family, friends, school, and much more.

I always think that I have been through so much, lest do I realize that I haven't seen anything yet. The older I get, the greater the impact my environment has on me. During my toddler years, I was very intelligent and attentive. Growing up in my aunt's remittance and grocery store gave me the opportunity to interact with a diversity of people at a very young age. By the age of four I was attending an elementary school and began to work the cash alone. Hard to believe but true.

My elementary school years have been the highlight of my life so far. I encountered various upbeat opportunities, was a straight A student and was involved in plenty of activities and groups. A sudden twist took place during my last year of elementary school. A tragic and unexpected loss of a friend took place. Till this day, I ask myself "Why do things happen the way they do?"

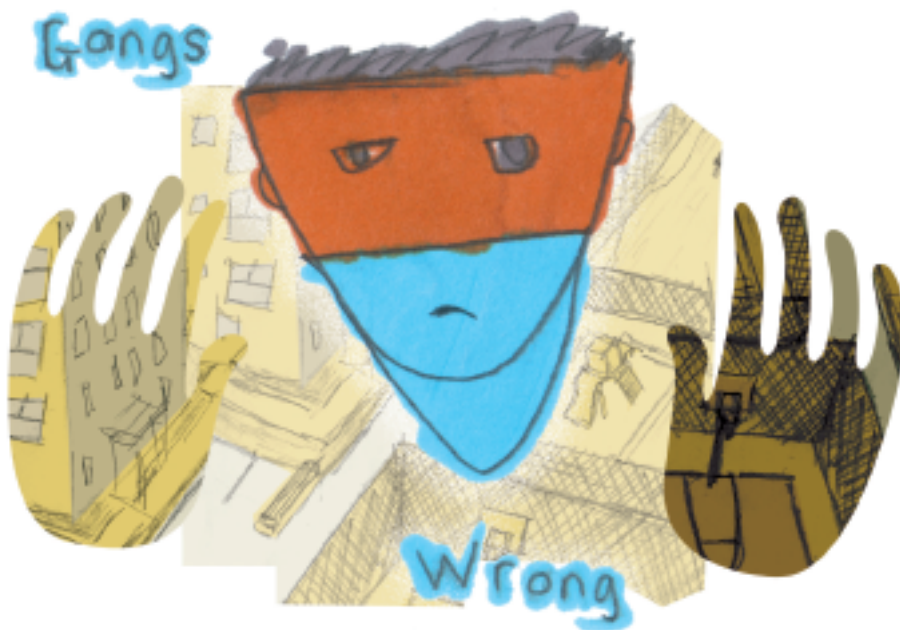
As many of you may have experienced, high school is a totally different environment in comparison to elementary. My happenings in high haven't been the most positive. Although drugs, gangs and negativity constantly circles me whether I am sitting in a classroom or sitting on a couch at home and watching T.V., I have successfully turned down innumerable offers. It may not seem like a serious circumstance but in reality it is a hard thing to evade these days. The perception is that the statistics say drug use and murder rates have increased throughout the years and will continue to do so. Actually the truth is that most statistics are down, however media coverage makes us think differently. Today, I believe that several people I hang around, and myself do not focus academically to the best of our abilities partially because of our environment and lifestyle, especially growing up in a large city such as Toronto.

No matter your environment and the impact it has on you, try your best to forget about the negative, think about the positive and always "keep your head up".

– Maritess

WHICH PATH DO
YOU TAKE?





Safer Community

I think people's morals and ethical judgement are mixed up in today's society. I am a black male and I am afraid that I will be walking down the street and get hit with a bullet for being at the wrong place at the wrong time. I know I am not the only one who has this fear. People in today's society are afraid to come out of their houses due to all the homicides that have been happening in Toronto. How do we prevent fear and [promote] safer streets? This [is] a very good question, and a very tough process to establish. First of all there are way too many guns out on the street. It is very easy for anyone to get a gun for a couple hundred and this has to stop. The government has to do something about this; they are taking enough taxes off us already, so they should be doing more programs like P.E.A.C.E. The problem is that people don't know that education is the key. Most of the people doing crime don't even graduate from high school. For some people, money is everything; little do they know that if they get a degree from a post secondary education they can get a good job and get good money LEGALLY.

– PEACE youth participant

A Different Kind of Atmosphere

When I was living in my old neighborhood my family experienced different people shooting, killing, and cursing. So my family and I had to duck down, or lie on the floor. We felt terrified and scared wondering, "is this going to stop?" So when we moved to a new neighborhood I found the atmosphere different.

– Rene

DISCUSSION

1. Do you feel your community is safe?
2. If not, what would you change?
3. Do you feel that the leaders in your community influence it in a positive way?
4. How do you feel you affect your environment? (positively/negatively)

What's Goin On?

UPCOMING EVENTS

PEACE YOUTH MEETING

**All youth 13-25 years of age welcome.*

When: Every Thursday from 5:30pm-8:30pm.

Where: The Students Commission office at 23 Isabella Street, Toronto, Ontario.
Tel: (416) 597-8297, Email: savannah@tgmag.ca

UMOVE BRING IT ON! SHOWCASE

**A youth talent showcase presented by UMOVE (United Mothers Opposing Violence Everywhere).*

When: Sunday, April 20, 2008 from 2:00pm -5:00pm.
Doors open at 1:30pm. Show starts 2:00pm sharp.

Where: Steelworkers Union Hall, 25 Cecil Street (Spadina & College.)

To become a participant in the showcase or for more information, call now!

Tel: 416-819-8628 | 416-724-7507 | 416-690-3822

SPRING PEACE FACILITATOR TRAINING

**All youth 13-25 years of age welcome.*

Facilitation Training Session

When: May 24th, from 10:30pm- 4:30pm

Where: The Students Commission office at 23 Isabella Street, Toronto, Ontario.
Tel: (416) 597-8297, Email: savannah@tgmag.ca

MEDIATION STATION

**A radio program presented in partnership with Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview.*

When: Every Sunday from 8:00pm- 9:00pm

Where: Tune in to *Voces Latinas* CHHA 1610 AM on the radio dial or to www.sanlorenzo.ca and click on the *Voces Latinas* icon or at Rogers Digital Cable Channel 951.

What do you think?



SEAN

I am one of many facilitators for the project peace, and this is my piece.

I have been apart of this program for over 6 months, and don't intend on leaving soon. I was unsure of my position at first but slowly I have found that this program is important to me, because I have more experience with these issues than I can explain, and being able to help young people learn the realities and myths around gang and gun culture. hopefully I am helping them make healthy choices and I think as adults that is probably one of the most important things we need to do so that the young one may grow strong, wise.



TENA

During the Town Youth Participation Strategies (TYPS) conference I learned to interact with different individuals from different backgrounds. I learned to better communicate with those individuals and establish new relationships. I was able to grow as a person and better connect with myself and other individuals. I feel that this was a good experience for me to learn about our nation. I also learned that even though we all live in a country as one, Canadians are different in nearly every province. Everyone had a different story that they came to talk about at the TYPS conference. It was a chance for everyone to get his or her voice heard. Different organizations got a chance to show their stuff and it was also an opportunity for everyone to get new ideas to bring back to their own programs. The TYPS conference was an opportunity of a lifetime that I was glad to experience.

Peace Partners

CTI's Breaking The Cycle Youth Gang Exit and Ambassador Leadership Project

1790 Albion Rd., Suite 101 (27 & Albion), (416) 745-1829 or 4500 Sheppard Ave. E., Unit 476 (Sheppard & McCowan / Brimley), (416) 293-1287
www.cantraining.org/BTC/btc.php

Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview

Conflict resolution services for all types of relationships, especially parent / youth and family.
95 Eddystone Avenue, 2nd floor (Jane & Finch), (416) 740-2522,
www.cmsd.org

East Metro Youth Services

The Violence Intervention Project

provides youth with realistic strategies and skills to prevent violence.

1200 Markham Road, Suite 200 (Ellesmere & Markham), (416) 438-3697, www.emys.on.ca

The Students Commission

Project PEACE is developed by youth to decrease gun and gang violence.
23 Isabella St. (Yonge & Bloor), (416) 597-8297, www.tgmag.ca

Operation Springboard

Programs that prevent crime and integrate at-risk people into the wider community.
2568 Lawrence Ave. E., (Lawrence & Midland), (416) 615-0788
www.operationspringboard.on.ca

Leave Out Violence (LOVE)

LOVE trains young people who have experienced violence to become community leaders of violence prevention.

3130 Bathurst St. Suite 212 (Bathurst & Lawrence W.) (416) 785-8411,
www.leaveoutviolence.com

Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS)

Programming for youth who are involved in different stages of the youth justice system.
65 Wellesley St. East, Suite 300 (Wellesley & Church) (416) 924-2100, www.ctys.org

Toronto District School Board

(416) 397-3000, www.tdsb.on.ca

Toronto Catholic District School Board

(416) 222-8282, www.tcdsb.org

Toronto Police Service's Community Mobilization Unit

(416) 808-7080
www.torontopolice.on.ca/communitymobilization

SAY YOUR PEACE

Say Your PEACE is here to give youth an opportunity to share ideas and discuss the things that are important to them and their community. Want to help prevent the negative effects guns and gangs are having? Join the movement.

Call: (416) 597-8297