

SAY YOUR PEACE



KEEP THE PEACE NOT THE HEAT

COMMUNITY AGENCIES, SCHOOLS, POLICE PARTNERS

APRIL 2009

PEACE IN ACTION



Fieldtrips and Activities



Youth working to reduce violence, guns and gangs in Toronto. To join the movement call (416) 597-8297 or visit 23 Isabella St. M4Y 1M7

GETTING PHYSICAL

PEACE youth plan and take part in activities that promote physical fitness and community building. **2**

YOUTH SWAGGER

Youth collaborate to create a fresh new clothing line designed to share their own personal "swagger." **3**

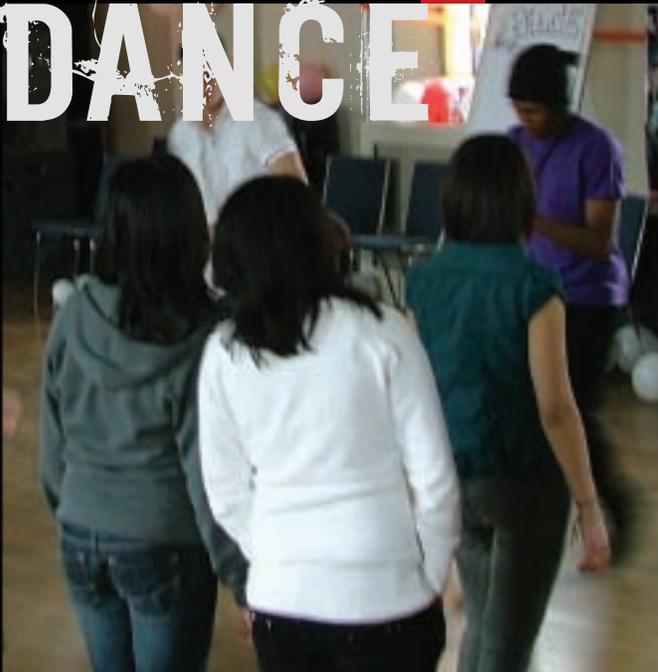
PEACE CONTRIBUTORS

Young people from across the GTA share their experiences and skills to further PEACE. **4**

A

few of the pictures that tell the story of PEACE in action.

DANCE



PEACE
IN ACTION



ROLLERSKATING



SKI



FUN

DAVE AND DAVE

TWISTED SWAGGER

TWISTED SWAGGER



Twisted Swagger grew from the collaboration of two great minds: the artist, David Kollar, and the businessman, David Forteau. The two have always had their own individual style, their own "swagger" to stand out from the rest. With his own original ideas Kollar wanted to create his own twist on high end street wear. As one of the newest designers on the Toronto block he envisioned a fresh new clothing line. The individuality of his vision was strengthened when he met Forteau, a like minded businessman with the right ethics. Since 2007 when the two "Davids" met in a Toronto dance studio they have dedicated themselves to their clothing line.

These two designers have worked hard promoting, selling and finding the right people to work with. The process of turning their unique swagger into a new clothing line has been all consuming, all the way from the sketches, to colour themes and fabrics used. And just like that, Kollar and Forteau hit the street with their own twist on fashion.



DAVE AND DAVE

TWISTED SWAGGER

DAVID KOLLAR

Since the age of 16 David has always had a huge interest in clothing. From freshening himself up, to analyzing others, David always had a sharp eye for fashion. Despite dropping out of school to "just hit up the mall," it turned out the time he spent out of school allowed him to become a natural at analyzing clothing, advising and confidently refreshing his spectators with his own unique style. As he began to seriously study fashion, it spawned in him new and original ideas. He wanted not only to wear or watch clothing, he wanted to create. To be a man of his clothing, confidence was key and David used his newly found knowledge and skills to open doors to the fashion industry. For the past two years, as one of the freshest designers on the Toronto block, David walks out of his house everyday knowing his own definition of "swag". At 21 years of age, he currently works with public customer relations, and is still able to create more clothing for himself and the hundreds of Toronto fans with a Twisted Swagger.

ethics to keep up a good business. He has always had a knack for saying the right things and getting the right hook-ups. Inspired at the age of 19 to start up his own clothing line, he and his good friend David Kollar launched Twisted Swagger officially in November 2007. Currently, Forteau is a local Toronto break dancer also known as "Breaker Dave". He dances for crews such as GENESYS (a.k.a C2GNS), R.A.W. (Rise As We) and



I.M.S (Illmanners Squad). You might catch him at Dundas Square rocking the beats. David is also now working as a promoter for Nu-Lite Entertainment and Promotions for night clubs in Toronto.

DAVID FORTEAU

Born December 6th 1987, David Forteau's a natural with his words and



PEACE CONTRIBUTORS

FYNCH

Bryan Peart, also known as Fynch, lived in the Jane & Finch area of Toronto for the majority of his childhood. He was about 10 years old when he moved to Parma Court. When he first arrived he was known to the boys in Parma, as "the guy from Finch," hence his nickname.



Community workers in Parma encouraged Fynch to get involved in the community through volunteering and eventually got him a job with Toronto Parks and Recreation. He realized quickly that the kids he was working with looked up to him a lot, and that made him want to be a positive role model for them. He has been working with the community ever since.

Fynch has become the bridge between social services and his community. "It's a very tightly-knit community," he says, "they won't trust just anyone." They trust Fynch, so he has stepped up to help out. He is happy that he is able to work in his own community and see it blossom.

Fynch describes himself as "a youth trying to get my peoples ahead." He is the President of Youth Vybes – a youth-initiative out of Parma Court in Victoria Village. They organize community events and create opportunities for the youth to become positively engaged. In the summer of 2008 they put on the 2nd Annual Bigga Blitz Block Inferno, a community talent showcase and barbecue in memory of young people the community has lost over the years.

"I don't like the way the world blocks out communities, people get boxed in. It's jail-like, segregation. A lot of red tapes need to be crossed. The system is outdated and needs to be upgraded to suit people's needs."

Fynch is currently organizing a camping trip for the members of Youth Vybes. He is also starting up a program that will train them how to build and maintain a webpage. Essentially, the goal is to help

the youth create a website that will expose and highlight local youth talent, as well as providing information on available resources in the community that they may not know about - another way of bridging the gap.

Others describe Fynch as reliable, and someone they can go to for help.

"They know if they need something and they don't have anywhere to go they can come to me and I'll do my best to try and help them out"

Fynch says that the accomplishment he is most proud of is changing his life. In the future he plans to start his own organization, run by himself and his peoples that will "avoid the red tape," and help the youth out there that are trying to get ahead. His message to other youth striving for success is – "You can do what you want to do, you just have to find you way around the obstacles." Talking to Fynch is inspiring; he's an individual very dedicated to his work and his community, and is optimistic about the future. We wish him the best of luck, and are sure we will see many more great things to come from him and his team.

By Jena Alma

MARY

Mary, a 21-year-old Ethiopian employee at The Students Commission in Toronto believes that having early independence as a kid helped her get where she is today. In the past she was only an attendee of our Project PEACE meetings, little did she know she would later help facilitate them. Eventually, her work schedule conflicted with the set Thursday meetings and she had to choose between supporting the PEACE youth group and taking a larger role with the Youth Vybes group.



Today, she delivers Project PEACE workshops and deals with most of the outreach for the Focus Three

project in Parma Court. "It's a partnership, that's what Focus Three is really all about, us supporting smaller community groups so that they can develop their skills and make a change in their community." She attends the local youth group's Youth Vybes meetings in Toronto and supports their ideas and assists them throughout the process. For example, they wanted to build a website for their community that modeled itself after Facebook where local resources could be quickly assessed. Mary is currently working on building a training program while hiring a web designer to offer training and help with any outreach needed. The same group also wanted to start a newsletter and she is assisting in the production of the publications. She is also connecting them with our graphic designer, Todd, so he can teach about how to use templates. Once that is done they will be printed and ready for distribution.

Mary always shows compassion when she's providing me with answers. That's probably one of the reasons she assists group consultations, interviews, and helps other focus groups. Mary is cautious because of the choices she made when she was younger. Today, she takes her bad decisions and pulls the positive aspects out of them. Mary overcame a very destructive lifestyle; she eventually pulled her life together and found her own path, she strongly believes that her experiences were essential to her positive development. She admits that during the time she was living at home her days had not been spent productively. Mary mentions she was very naive and unconcerned before experiencing the forced independence that comes with having your own place. Mary learned that decisions affect your life, and that lesson left her caring about making positive choices. Mary plans on applying to colleges next September for social work and is interested in working with something 'frontline' (group home, youth detention centre.) It was lucky that Mary looked deeper into herself, realized her former choices were ones that would only leave her more behind, and took action.

By Ronza Jairy

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