



News from The Bridge

FYI's Napkin Squad

Written by: Abisola Olumide-Ige

The youth at FYI volunteered to take part in the distribution of napkins. The napkins were designed to raise awareness for World Food Day in restaurants and shops like McDonalds, KFC and other organisations. World Food Day was mainly created to help stop the damaging effects of hunger and poverty in AFRICA!!! World Food Day is also to make sure innocent and less fortunate people are fed properly.

The majority of the youth in FYI volunteered to represent the Napkin squad, some youth's chose not to participate. Nevertheless, each and every youth in the Napkin squad took the courage to speak their own thoughts towards how we could communicate the information to others. Those who were

lacking in their communication skills asked for assistance from FYI staff who were willing to give them the support we needed! With passion burning in our



hearts, we all went out in the cold and rainy weather looking forward to spreading the information and napkins.

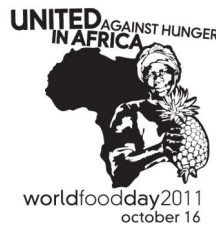
One of our supervisors suggested we split into two groups; "Guys vs. Ladies" - to make it fun and competitive. We were asked to seek donations. At the end of the day, we had fun and these are moments that we will never forget! Many of us got soaked by the rain but none of us complained. For the record, the guys lost to the girls, the la-

dies raised 20 dollars altogether, hence they won!

There is a quote from Charlie Sheen that reads "The purpose of life is not to be happy - but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all." We, as a volunteers for the napkin squad, hope that we have proven ourselves to be useful and productive all through. It has been a great pleasure!



Abs has been an FYI participant since October 2011. He arrived from the United Kingdom via Nigeria in January 2010. He is currently a Grade 11 student at George Harvey C.I.



Cooking at The Bridge

Written by: Dario Greenidge

I participated in the cooking program at FYI. I enjoyed learning how to cook dishes from other countries. It was fun helping my friends prepare the food. Working as a team was good because it helped us communicate better and get to know each other. While we were preparing the food we got to learn about the national dishes in other countries. At first I thought I would not like any new food, but after trying it

"I have learned not to judge food before I try it and I look forward to this program every Friday!"

I was surprised. Learning to cook with the cooking program gave me knowledge I can use in everyday life.

If you participate in the cooking program you have to wash two dishes to show that you aren't just there to eat, and that you are willing to work as a group. Everyone in the lounge stops what they're doing to participate so there are no distractions. Everyone is focused to get the job done and be responsible for

their tasks. Although I was learning how to cook in this program, I enjoyed teaching others some skills that I already had. The food we cook benefits us because it's healthier than fast food that we would usually get on Fridays after school. I have learned not to judge food before I try it and I look forward to this program every Friday!



Dario is currently a Grade 12 student at Vaughan Road Academy. He arrived to Canada from Barbados 4 years ago. He has been a participant at FYI since October 2011.

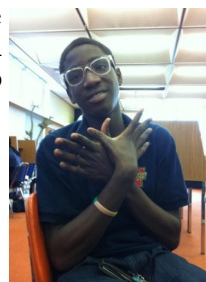


Newcomer Soccer League

Written by: Pius Adu Adarkwa

I first joined the soccer program at For Youth Initiative in May of 2011. The program was a lot of fun, and I got to visit lots of new places and meet people from other neighbourhoods around Toronto. I made new friends and learned new skills, like how to dribble the ball and how to do tricks, and now I play just like Michael Essien! I got to compete in a league for the first time in

Canada! We got to go on field trips to places like Centre Island and Ontario Place, which helped us learn more about the city we live in. FYI is fun and I always get help with my homework here.



Pius has been a participant at FYI since May 2011. He is a Grade 9 student at Vaughan Road Academy. Pius is from Kumasi (Kotei) in the Ashanti Region of Ghana and he came to Canada in October 2010.

Youth Ambassadors

Written by: Arsema Russom

My name is Arsema and I am part of the FYI program. I came to FYI for volunteering with For Youth Ambassadors in September 2011, but I found it very interesting at FYI, that's why I'm coming here every day.

In the Youth Ambassadors Program, we try to help the community by making skits that we will share later on YouTube. We have two different groups. One group is about Anti-Racism and the other group talks about Healthy Sexuality. I am part of the Anti-Racism group. In this group, we talk about how to avoid being racist. For example, if a black student comes to eat with white students at lunch time at school and they say "You are not going to eat with us", that person is going to feel left out and feels like they don't belong. In our group, we are talking about how everyone is the same no matter where they're from, what colour they are, and what gender they are (boy or girl). The other group talks about Sexuality Transmitted Infections and how to prevent them. I am looking forward to making a lot of friends in Youth Ambassadors from different cultures (which I am doing), and joining more activities at FYI.



Arsema came to Toronto from Eritrea in 2009. She is currently a Grade 10 student at George Harvey Collegiate Institute.

Power Study runs from 3:30pm to 5:00pm every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We have tutors available for various subjects including math, sciences, and language!



Youth doing their homework during Power Study

Ladies in Programming! (LIPZ)

LIPZ (Ladies in Programming) is one of our newest programs here at FYI – The Bridge. Originally, it began as a group of young newcomer women interested in playing soccer this past summer. As it is a relatively new program, it is continuing to develop based on the interests and needs of FYI participants. It is a multi-sport program including soccer, basketball and netball. LIPZ girls are interested in playing volleyball. We use the gym at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. On Wed. November 2, 2011, approximately 10 young

women will be attending "Love Your Body, Change The World" tour which focuses on positive self-image for young females. We provide a safe-space for discussing female issues such as relationships, gender roles, women's rights and gender-based bullying. In speaking of LIPZ, Mabinty Dumbuya, 16 years

"When we're with boys, we can't express ourselves. [In LIPZ] You can say anything. You can't be shy around girls because everyone is going through the same stage."

old, states "We can express ourselves. When we're with boys, we can't express ourselves. [In LIPZ] You can say anything. You can't be shy around girls because everyone

is going through the same stage". LIPZ runs every **Tuesday** from 5:00pm -7:00pm at FYI- The Bridge.





For Youth Initiative in Toronto

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By-youth, for-youth.



For Youth Initiative (FYI) serves youth aged 13-29 in the priority neighbourhood of Weston – Mount Dennis and surrounding neighbourhoods of West-end Toronto. FYI began as a project in the former City of York to respond to the crucial and pressing issues of youth disengagement, violence, crime, poverty and alienation among at-risk youth in the area. Incorporated in 2000, FYI acquired charitable status in 2004 and became a United Way member agency in 2005.

We are proud to have reached this juncture by adhering closely to our by-youth for-youth model. Young people are central players in the decision making process at FYI and hold leadership roles within the organization on the Board of Directors, as committee members, as volunteers and as staff. FYI strives to build strong youth leaders who are engaged and empowered to assume active roles in building healthy and vibrant communities.

Please check the rest of our website for more information. We hope you get to know our organization and help us in creating a more vibrant and resilient organization with your support. If you would like more information on how to get involved please check out our website (www.foryouth.ca) or email us at getinvolved@foryouth.ca.



Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada

Basketball & Asset Building

Written by: Mark De Torres

I have been a part of the basketball program at For Youth Initiative since the summer of 2011. The basketball program is every Thursday at St. Thomas Aquinas School. The program is a lot of fun because I love playing basketball and made new friends too. It was a lot of fun when we competed with youth from the Griffin Centre Newcomer Basketball League and I look forward to playing basketball with more youth from around the city. We also have discussions on different topics like leadership and the importance of team work. FYI is a great place and I'm happy to be a part of it.

Mark has been a part of FYI since June 2011 and is an active FYI participant. He is a Grade 12 Student from St. Mary's Secondary School . Mark is from Bantangas, Philippines and came to Canada in August 2010.

The Basketball and Asset Building program is every Thursday from 5:00-8:00PM at FYI-The Bridge and St. Thomas Aquinas School.



SETTLEMENT TEAM

Alex di Noia—Youth Settlement Worker
(Spanish-speaking)
alex@foryouth.ca

Ashley Ngo—Youth Settlement Support Worker
ashley@foryouth.ca

Benjamin Bongolan —Youth Settlement Worker
(Tagalog-speaking)
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Lynn Liao— Program Manager
lynn@foryouth.ca

Penny Deeth—Youth Settlement Worker
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Suenel Horne —Administrative Assistant
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