



News from "The Bridge" Summer Newsletter

July 16, 2011

FYI - The Bridge
1669 Eglinton Ave. West.
(Dufferin and Eglinton)
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www.foryouth.ca

SETTLEMENT STAFF

Alex di Noia—Youth Settlement Worker (Spanish)

Benjamin Bongolan—Youth Settlement Worker (Tagalog)

Looann Regis—Administrative Assistant

Lynn Liao—Manager of Settlement Services

Penny Deeth—Youth Settlement Worker

Suenel Horne—Administrative Assistant



FYI Soccer by Akeem "Casper" Ellis

I have participated in a few programs since July 2010. To be really honest, I only took the soccer program seriously. Last summer we formed a team and we played against other teams and finally came out third. We learnt many lifelong lessons that will stay with us for a lifetime as a team; well that's how I feel. I believe that whatever skills are learnt in a group are most important in life, because whatever you do in life is based around people around you. Because of these experiences, I made a conscientious decision to join again in 2011. I partici-

pated in the indoor winter league where my team reached the finals. I am now back playing for the summer team in the outdoor league. In the two years spent in this pro-

We learnt many lifelong lessons that will stay with us for a lifetime as a team
- Akeem Ellis, FYI Soccer team

gram I have met a lot of new faces and I have built connections that would be useful in the near future.

Casper has been an FYI participant since July 2010. He came to Canada from St. Vincent & The Grenadines via the

United Kingdom and Trinidad & Tobago in 2009. The FYI Soccer Program runs year round in the form of indoor and outdoor leagues and is in partnership with agencies all over the City of Toronto.



Cooking Program – by Ankhbayar Batbayar

The cooking program is good for me because we are taught lots of stuff. For example, we learn stuff about other countries' cultures connected with the food. When you are cooking, you can learn the country's traditional food. When I cook other countries' food with other friends here, I feel like all the countries are different from each other. This spring, we cooked a lot.

We have made Caribbean, Filipino, African, Mongolian, and Korean food! I find that the ingredients may be different but some of the food tastes the same even though they look different. The cooking program is a good chance for knowing healthy food options and hanging out with friends.

Ankhbayar is a regular participant at The Bridge.

He has been coming to the Bridge since Fall 2010. He came from Mongolia in 2009.

Our cooking program will be running this summer on July 19, 26 and August 23, 2011.



PARENTS AND GUARDIANS!
If you would like to know more about our programs and services or have questions about your child's involvement at The Bridge, please call us at **416-785-9900** or by email at: the_bridge@foryouth.ca

Our next newsletter will be coming out in Fall 2011.

Youth Empowerment Program by Kenny Loor



I joined FYI in January 2011. FYI had an after-school leadership program at my school, Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School.

I also joined the FYI soccer league. In the leadership program, I learned about anti-racism, which is

discrimination based on someone's skin colour or ethnicity. In the Scavenger Hunt, we took pictures using disposable cameras and got to be creative. For example, we created a human elephant picture and a human pyramid. I liked going to this program because I met new friends and learnt about anti-racism.

Kenny has been coming to The Bridge since January 2011. He came to Canada from Ecuador one year ago. We will be running the "Youth Empowerment Program", a four-week youth leadership program, in Toronto schools again this Fall 2011.

This program was run in Archbishop Romero and Weston Collegiate Institute this year.

Youth Council by Masey Horne



I've been a part of Youth Council since April 2011. In Youth Council, we talk about topics that matters to the youth

like healthy relationships and teen dating violence. We also had a guest speaker from Planned Parenthood Toronto in June to talk about sexual health. We also gave him

questions to answer, such as "How do I use a condom?" and "What's HIV/AIDS and how do you get it?". A few Youth Council members did skits in order to share our knowledge with some other youth in our center. Some of the other youth made informative posters dealing with what they learnt. In my own opinion, Youth Council means learning about things I never knew about, getting to meet other people and hearing what they think, and most of all getting my high school community

hours. Nevertheless, I love going to Youth Council every Thursday although sometimes I am busy but it's worth going to.

Masey is an active member at For Youth Initiative – The Bridge. She came to Canada from St. Vincent and The Grenadines in 2010. She will be entering Grade 10 in the Fall. Youth Council will be commencing again in September 2011.

Arts Talk at McGuigan Secondary School by FYI Staff

Arts Talk was an arts-based program run at James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic High School in collaboration with school settlement workers, Jennilee and Carolina.

Students used their creativity in drawing and painting while also participating in discussion groups about cross-cultural differences, family values, goal-setting, and challenges for newcomers to Canada.



Dance Gleeks by FYI Staff

Gleeks was a dance program at FYI – The Bridge in Spring 2011. Practices were held every Wednesday and had a total of 6 participants. Youth had costumes, creative dance routines, and were given the opportunity to perform twice; first at The Bridge in a special dinner & dance, and at FYI's Annual General Meeting at York Civic Centre on June 23, 2011.