



CYAN

Community Youth in Action Network

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- Northridge Senior's Centre
- Summer Art Camps- Oakville Galleries
- Camp ArtHouse
- Midnight Madness

*Sign up
Online!*

www.thecyan.org

Who we are!

CYAN is a network of committed youth and adults that wish to partner with numerous organizations in Oakville committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for students. Our mission is to promote more youth engagement in Oakville, while acting as a central hub for the youth to seek out volunteer opportunities. Our goal is to reach out to many high schools, youth groups, student councils, etc to promote CYAN in hopes that students find volunteer opportunities through our website and facebook page.

Want to get connected with CYAN?

The Community Youth in Action Network steering committee is comprised of students from grade 9 to 12, whose aim is to bring forth ideas and set the direction for the organization. Being on the committee allows for the students to work as a team, be creative, and most importantly represent the voice of the youth we aim to help. The youth steering committee members are responsible for meeting bi-monthly, deciding on the projects to undertake, assisting at fundraising events, and promoting the name of CYAN. The CYAN steering committee is always looking for new members to join. If you are interested and would like to apply, please visit our website www.thecyan.org . Under Resources, you will find our **Steering Committee Application Form**. Fill it out and submit online!

Get your volunteer hours!

If you are between the ages of 13 and 25 and want to:

- Meet new people
- Explore new opportunities in your community
- Become a leader
- Build your resume
- Better qualify for scholarships and awards

Mission Statement:

To strengthen, expand and promote the impact of youth civic engagement.



CYAN is a registered not-for-profit organization that helps students earn their volunteer hours.



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Event Highlight



JOIN US!

RECycle

Donate your used bikes & tricycles to Kids 'N Motion!

Please email or call Jim Turriff before event at jturriff@bbbshalton.ca or (905)339-2355 ext.224



BUYCycle

Buy a used bike or tricycle for yourself!

All proceeds will support the parts and tools required to fix up all donated bikes to be re-cycled into the hands of needy children and youth in Walton!

JUNE 5, 2011
11am - 3pm

Together with
YMCA Healthy Kids Day
410 Rebecca Street
Oakville

Visit
www.thecyan.org



www.facebook.com/cyan.org

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Event Highlight Cont'd ~Kids N' Motion



Presenting its 3rd annual RECycle and/or BUYSycle event!

Kids 'N Motion is an initiative originally started to encourage the recycling of bikes within our community. Instead of tossing out unwanted bikes we decided to fix them up and place the bikes into the hands of families in need. Whether for recreational use or a means of getting to work, the need for bikes is there. Kids 'N Motion is a way to respond to this need and our 3rd annual event was a huge success!

The community came through more than we had hoped for with bike donations! We started the day with approximately 85 bikes and received another 30-40 in donations during the day! We could not believe the amount of people dropping off their bikes to help out our cause!



All the proceeds raised from the day are going to support the parts and tools required to continue fixing up bikes to be recycled in Halton!

CYAN would like to thank Recycle Cycle and Simon Harmgardt for donating the bulk of the bikes we had to start off our event! Another thank you goes to Bogdan and to Alan from Recycle Cycle for providing knowledge with repairing bikes. Bogdan and Alan stayed for the entire day fixing and sizing the bikes! A special thanks to Mark Vegso- Oakville Community Officer for all of his help to put this event together!

A huge thank you for the other volunteers and organizations who helped to make Kids 'N Motion possible: YMCA of Oakville, Safetynet Children and Youth Charities, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton, United Way of Oakville, Oakville Galleries, and Massive Tank Studios! **THANK YOU!**

Volunteer Awards- Recognizing CYAN Youth Achievements!



**Congratulations Keelee
Buhlau on winning the Spirit
Award, presented by the Town
of Oakville!**



**Congratulations Tiffany
Matheson for being awarded
with a Rotary Scholarship!**



**Congratulations Melanie Bell
for also winning a Rotary
Scholarship!**

Volunteer Awards- Recognizing CYAN Youth Achievements!



**Congratulations Carina
Iskander on winning the
Cheers to Volunteers Award!**



**Congratulations Nivetha Govin
on winning the \$500 Facebook
Challenge!**



**Congratulations Rebecca
Kurtz on winning The Joanne
and Guy McLean Award!**

THANK YOU...

Massive Tank Studios

www.massivetankstudios.com



THANK YOU...

Cora's Restaurant

-Cora's has continued to support and sponsor our intergenerational program at Northridge Long Term Care Centre and our Life Skills and Service Learning Workshops with delicious fruit tray!

Dynasi Restaurant:

-Thank you Dynasi for your continued support of the Youth Steering Committee meetings!

OP-CC Oakville Parent-Child Centre:

-Thank you OP-CC for continuing to share your wonderful facility so that we may have a place for our monthly Steering Committee meetings!

MASSIVE TANK AT APRIL 16TH DAY OF CARING



PICKS OF THE EDITION!

Compliments of Keelee Buhlau

MUSIC:

"Oh Darling" by Plug in Stereo ft. Cady Groves
"Half of Something Else" by The Airbone Toxic Event
"Sad Song" by The Cars

BOOK:

The First Stone by Don Aker

MOVIE/FILM:

Middle of Nowhere (2008) Directed by John Stockwell

WEBSITE:

www.deviantart.com

FAVOURITE HANGOUT SPOT:

Starbucks

RECIPE:

Marlene's Caramel Chocolate Covered Crackers

Ingredients:

32 plain soda crackers

½ cup butter

½ cup margarine

¾ cup brown sugar

1 cup chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 400°F. Place butter, margarine and brown sugar in pot and bring to boil for 5 minutes. Place crackers on tin foil on a cookie sheet. Pour caramel mixture on top of crackers. Place in oven for 3 minutes. Remove from oven and pour chocolate chips over crackers, let cool. Break apart (resembles peanut brittle with chocolate on top).

THINGS TO DO FOR THE COMMUNITY:

Re-organize your closet and donate good quality clothes you don't wear.
Check out Safetynet Children and Youth Charities!

WORDS TO LIVE BY:

The more you live, the less you die. –Unidentified

THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES:

If you were able to ask The Leaning Tower of Pisa 3 questions, what would they be?



Service Learning and Life Skills Development Workshops



On top of various volunteer opportunities, CYAN offers monthly workshops for the youth. The purpose of our **service learning** workshops is to fill the lack of knowledge the youth have about their community, and to familiarize them with the service organizations available to them. When the youth are more equipped with information pertaining to the community service projects available, they are better positioned to make decisions which they feel would best serve and benefit their community.

April 30th-“My Oakville”

In collaboration with the YMCA Oakville and United Way, CYAN held a strategic planning session to discuss Oakville through the lens of Oakville's youth.

Fourteen youth from CYAN participated in this event. Participants represent public, Catholic and private schools from across Oakville. In response to the United Way/YMCA questions, the youth expressed their vision for Oakville through art displays (painting/collage) and writing.



Question 1- What does Oakville look like to you?

Key words:

- Clean, Diverse, Privileged, Caring, Safe, Protected, Good policing
- Sheltered, a “bubble,” (Being sheltered can be an advantage when it comes to safety but a disadvantage when you have to step out into the real world).
- Lack of awareness about volunteer opportunities.
- Industrial growth means losing green space.
- Oakville is seen as “posh” and prosperous but not everyone is rich.
- Technology is important.
- Youth are impressionable and are influenced by what they see in the media.
- Lack of transit
- Lack of art opportunities that appeal to youth. Existing art galleries/museums appeal more to adults.
- Oakville has a good recycling program.
- Overpopulated, yet new residential communities are still being built.



Youth Insights:

- Youth are *in* the community in ways adults are not. For example, adults are in their cars. Because youth move around the town of Oakville on foot or on transit, they are able to see

what's going on and changes that need to be made.

-Some students feel that the older generation brush off the importance of environmental issues and taking action. A lot of high schools are taking on initiatives to improve the environment and wonder why the wider community is not as concerned about these issues. What needs to happen is that the 'spirit' within these schools needs to spread to the community as a whole, to get everybody involved and on the right path. As of right now youth feel a tremendous sense of responsibility for making this change.



-Youth feel pressure in general in their day-to-day life but feel it is undermined by adults. There is stress when it comes to applying to college/university, affording post-secondary education, getting a job and it can all be overwhelming.

-Youth don't want to be assumed as the trouble-makers. They are tired of being talked down to and appreciate having honest discussions.

Question 2- What would you like to see change in Oakville?



- Better shopping in North Oakville
- Improve the transit system by including more stops and more buses.
- Longer hours at existing recreation centers and lower fees.
- Schools should offer more after school activities or allow the use of the library to continue after school.
- Youth would like more focus on the arts as there is not a lot available in terms of music and art programs, even in the

schools it is limited. However, if they are available more needs to be done so they are made aware.

-Youth don't always feel like they are being heard at schools. It is the same students who receive the attention and opportunities from teachers. Teachers need to reach out to students beyond the usual suspects who have good marks and who are already motivated.

Ways to reach youth:

- YouTube and Facebook
- P.A. announcements in schools
- Post notices in the cafeteria
- Post information about community events on the school website (some debate about whether this would saturate the website and make students even less likely to pay attention)
- Video announcements/commercials (to play on the school website)
- Posters for people who do not have access to the internet.
- Classroom announcements.
- Students need to promote ideas to other students.



Motivating Factors for Getting Involved:

- It would be good to offer youth programs right after school and right in the schools. Having the activities take place at school is desirable because it allows students to hang out with friends and easily accessible.
- Offering volunteer hours for participation is an incentive.
- It would be good to offer youth programs from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturdays because it would give youth something to wake up for.
- Could have a youth movie night in the community where it costs less than going to the theatres.
- Volunteer activities need to be linked to career plans. There has to be a learning opportunity involved where the youth can play a meaningful role in a group. Handing out flyers or showing people where to park is not teaching important skill sets.
- Community organizations need to use every medium possible in order to reach youth. Youth are not likely going to seek this information out externally, so it needs to be made available in places they already go (physically, online).

June 25th-“**Engaging a Creative Community**” *Lights, Camera, Action... Shannon Kitchings!*

Shannon is an award-winning actor and published writer for the stage. She is an alumna of Burlington Student Theatre and currently sings in the acappella Celtic group Nero's Fiddle. Shannon held a 2 hour interactive workshop on creative expression, communication and personal development. Shannon focused on how art can be implemented into volunteer work to make it more fun! Don Pangman from ArtHouse also spoke on the programs offered and how youth can get involved!



Our **life skills development** workshops expose the youth to resume writing, interviewing, the art of networking, conflict resolution, public speaking, project management or any other skill set that would benefit their process of community engagement and volunteerism. By providing life skills sessions for the youth we can better prepare them for their entrance into an organization, community project and ultimately employment.

May 30th-“**Dollar\$ and \$ense**”



CYAN invited Rob Parro and Hazel Fluke to present on financial planning. As many youth are heading off to post-secondary education and the workforce finances can seem overwhelming. Rob shared some tips on smart money saving that are easy to implement. Tiffany Matheson, a current college student soon heading off to university also talked about her successful experience attaining scholarship funding and seeking financial help through the assistance of a professional planner. It was a great session teaching youth how to save money and

become financially responsible!

WHAT'S COMING UP!

Upcoming Workshop Ideas

The CYAN youth steering committee put their heads together and came up with a lot of great new ideas for our upcoming workshops. We are very excited for the next couple of months to put these ideas into place.

1. In the fall we will be holding a 'Surviving High School 101' workshop. This session will touch on subjects such as anti-bullying, self-esteem, peer pressure, etc. The students wanted to discuss issues that relate to their life now as teenagers. We are bringing in high school graduates to hold group discussions and try and problem solve the issues affecting our teens.
2. Another idea taking place in November is our 'Homecoming' workshop. CYAN is bringing in university graduates and current university students to speak on their experiences at university. They will be covering areas such as applications, residence life, academic courses, athletics, and employment while at school, scholarships, off-campus housing and more key areas that affected their time away from home. After the presentations we will be holding a Q&A portion. We are really excited for this workshop as many of our youth will be preparing for university applications at that time.

Midnight Madness

On Friday, July 15th Downtown Oakville is having its annual Midnight Madness street festival. Look out for CYAN's table and stop by for your chance to walk away with treats and prizes!



\$500 Facebook Challenge

Our Facebook Challenge winner Nivetha Govin sat down with United Way, Food For Thought and CYAN to discuss how best to spend the money. Some great ideas were passed around but Nivetha wanted to make sure that at least some of the money was directly given to Abbey Park.

The idea decided was to provide breakfast for the week at Abbey Park's neighbouring elementary schools that do not have a breakfast program set up, in hopes that it will eventually be implemented. The rest of the money will go towards buying more meal cards for students at Abbey Park. This effort is going to be done in the fall, roughly the third week of September.

We are all very excited to get this going and will continue planning during the summer months!