

YOUTH ASSISTING YOUTH
THE YOUTH MENTORING PEOPLE™

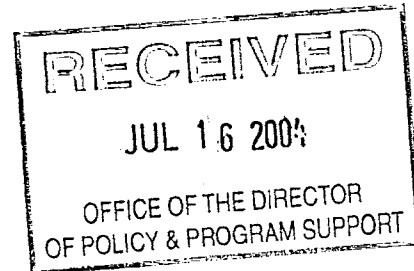
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July 13, 2004

Laurie Kennard, CA

Manager, Program Funding and Communications
Policy and Program Support Services Division
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street,
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1



Dear Ms. Kennard,

As our second year of providing services to vulnerable youth in York Region, under the contract with the Municipal Government of York Region, is well under way, I would like to bring to your attention the human impact of the services provided by Youth Assisting Youth.

That impact is not always apparent in the statistical information reported to the YR government. Quantifying change in lifestyle choices and attitudes is always difficult, often impossible. Only individual stories of children and youth in York Region, whose lives changed because of services provided by YAY and paid for by the Regional Government tell that part of the story.

One of such stories is that of Paul, already reported to you:

"Paul (not his real name) was accepted into the program in 2001 and then waited for almost 2 years to be matched. The wait was predicated by a lack of suitable volunteer in his area. At his intake (ed.- initial assessment prior to acceptance into program,) he was described by his mother as having difficulty maintaining peer relationships, was teased and bullied because of his weight and experienced a lot of stress due to his parents separation. At the time, in order to complete a college course, Paul's mother entrusted the boy to the custody of his grandmother, which in turn necessitated commuting between Richmond Hill and Aurora. The teachers initially described Paul as depressive and even talking about ending his life."

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THE WORK CONTINUES

United Way Member Agency
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In the summer of 2003, a suitable volunteer, Christa (not her real name) has been recruited. They visited weekly and sometimes even more frequently, attending the YAY events in York Region and their own activities. Over the past 10 months, Paul and Christa grew close and plan to continue their match beyond the one year mark.

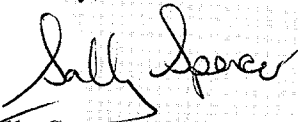
According to Paul's mother, he is now more confident, emotionally stable and gained self-esteem despite his ongoing weight problem. Paul's mother credits the mentoring match with the observed improvement. Paul's teachers comment on his better grades, more focused attention in class and overall improvement in his outlook on life.

Christa reported new insights into her self and her capabilities as a leader, helper and friend. The match may also have an impact on her future career choices, as she expressed interest in social work."

The human impact of our services is often immeasurable, but it needs not to be overlooked. That is why I request your assistance in putting on the agenda of the next meeting of the Regional Council a deputation from YAY. We will endeavour to bring to the table some of the service recipients, who would be willing to tell their stories directly. We also would like the opportunity to introduce to you some of our frontline workers in York Region.

Please advise me of any and all formal requirements of putting such a deputation on the Regional Council's agenda.

Sincerely,



Sally Spencer
Executive Director