

StreetHealth

JEAN GUY: A MAN OF MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Jean Guy first came to Street Health two and a half years ago looking for help. Since then he has come such a long way. With the help of Street Health staff including Rediet Tekeste and Paula Tookey, Jean Guy has moved from substandard housing to something much more liveable. This past summer, Paula provided Jean Guy with a reference that helped him to find a job as Garden Group Assistant at the Fred Victor Centre. Jean Guy gives back to the community in many ways through his volunteer work at Street Health. Another of Jean Guy's recent accomplishments is his work as a Peer Researcher for the Street Health Report 2007.

In His Own Words:

About 2 1/2 years ago I lost control of my emotions. I was totally panicky. I couldn't sleep or sit still. I was having nightmares when I passed out. After a few days in a row that were particularly panicky, I went looking for help.

I had gone to a place called Street Health once with someone who lived on the streets and for some reason I don't know why, I went to Street Health on this late May morning. So here I go, this small town hick (that's me), I go walking into Street Health. I am an emotional wreck. I am totally freaked out. So I poured my guts out and cried a lot. You want to see a grown man cry, I can do that.

So here is this pretty woman with an afro (Rediet) and I am pouring myself out to her and she seemed to be understanding and sympathetic and then this woman came in (Paula) and I went to her office and poured myself out to her. This woman seemed sympathetic and understanding too. She talked like she knew what I was going through.

We talked for I don't know how long but I found myself feeling better. She gave me an appointment to see a councillor and I got to see her again too. So I managed to survive until my next appointment and another and another.

Now it's 2 1/2 years later and I am still going to Street Health. My nightmares aren't as frequent anymore. Someone must have liked me because I believe Street Health took me under their wing.

I played a part in putting the Street Health Report together; I make harm reduction kits and sometimes I stuff envelopes too. We went to a movie once and we went camping too. I think I have a crush on every woman that works at Street Health. I am very grateful to the people at Street Health for caring about me and for giving me opportunities to get involved in the stuff that goes on in my community.

To this day, I still get emotional support and I get opportunities that give me a sense of belonging to my community.



Jean Guy Belanger

THE STREET HEALTH REPORT 2007 - THE MOMENTUM CONTINUES

Since releasing The Street Health Report 2007 just over a year ago, a major focus of research activity at Street Health has been to partner with other organizations working on homelessness issues to develop a series of focused reports on specific issues and groups from our survey on the health status and access to health care of homeless people in Toronto.

This past spring, we partnered with Sistering, an agency that provides services to homeless women in Toronto's west end to develop a report on women's homelessness. Together we identified key findings, developed policy recommendations and did media and advocacy work aimed at influencing the Ontario government's poverty reduction strategy. In June, Street Health and Sistering organized a public forum called "Back Talk", where poor and homeless women had an opportunity to talk about their experiences of poverty. The forum was a big success and it was attended by Minister Deb Matthews who is leading the provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Street Health has also been part of a collaborative of eight community-based arts-informed research projects on

homelessness which recently mounted an exhibit of the art work and released a policy report which synthesizes key findings and shared solutions from all of the projects. The exhibit and report were launched on October 1st at Metro Hall where the exhibit remained for a week.

The Street Health Report 2007 recently received a Community-Based Research Award of Merit from the Wellesley Institute and the Centre for Urban Health Initiatives at the University of Toronto. This was the first time the award has been given to a research project that was not led by an academic researcher. We were recommended for this award by the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network, the Director of the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital and Member of Provincial Parliament and former Minister of Health, George Smitherman.

The Street Health Report 2007 and other research publications can be downloaded from our website at www.streethealth.ca.

Written by: Erika Khandor

Thank you to everyone who cares deeply about the issues facing homeless people. We are not able to continue our good work without you. A special thank you to our major donors!

Major Gifts - Organizations

Foundations:

The Ben & Hilda Katz Foundation	The Jackman Foundation
BMO Employee Charitable Foundation	The Paloma Foundation
The Caring Foundation	The Rainbow Foundation
The Charles Johnson Foundation	The RBC Foundation
The EJLB Foundation	The Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation
The Green Shield Canada Foundation	
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Churches:

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 Fairlawn Avenue United Church
 The St. Andrew's Society Charitable Foundation
 Timothy Eaton Memorial Church
 Wexford Heights United Church

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 The Wynford Group

Other Donors:

Greater Toronto Apartment Association (GTAA)
 Registered Nurses Association of Ontario

Major Gifts - Individuals

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Thank you to everyone who donates their time, products, or services to Street Health.

Basket Company	Langolino
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Mr. Don Dudar	Roy Thomson Hall
Ester Myers Yoga Studio	Starbucks
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Deborah Jeans	

... and many other generous individuals and companies!

On Tuesday October 16, 2008, Street Health held our 8th Annual Fundraiser "An Evening of Funk" at the Steam Whistle Brewing Company.

An "Evening of Funk" was a huge success raising over \$25,000! Almost 150 people took part in this special evening to support Street Health. A fantastic time was had by everyone with live musical entertainment by recording artists God Made Me Funky, delicious food including our traditional barbecue and oyster bar, a raffle, door prizes, prizes for the three funkiest outfits, and an amazing live auction with over 70 incredible items! This year's event also featured "A Day in the Life" photography exhibit created by members of the homeless community, depicting their daily life experiences on the street through photography and stories.

On behalf of all of us at Street Health, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts!



Taking funky to the limit.



God Made Me Funky, the band that got the crowd out onto the dance floor.

“AN EVENING OF FUNK” - STREET HEALTH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

SILVER SPONSOR- \$5,000

BRONZE SPONSOR- \$2,500

OUR MEDIA SUPPORTERS



OUR CELEBRITY EMCEE HOST:

Enza “Supermodel” Anderson

OUR BARBECUE, OYSTER BAR AND VENUE HOSTS



OUR IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

680 News
Airmagic Pyrotechnics and Special Effects
Art Gallery of Ontario
Akau Framing
Alterna Savings
Bend Chiropractic & Laser Therapy
Bikes on Wheels
Black Creek Pioneer Village
Body Blitz Spa
Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
Casa Loma
Chateau des Charmes
CHFI 98.1
Chris Levesque
Cineplex Theatres
CN Tower
Computation Ltd.
Curl Ambassadors

Cyclepath
Dufflet Pastries
Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre
Enbridge
Fairmont Royal York
Fiorio
Foxy Originals
George Brown College
Girl Friday
Gladstone Hotel
Go Pilates
Gypsy Fabric Art
Hannah's Kitchen
Harbourfront Centre
Keg Steakhouse & Bar
Leon's Furniture Limited
M&M Meat Shops
Mariposa Cruises

Massey Hall/Roy Thomson Hall
Mini Market
Mysteriously Yours Dinner Theatre
National Ballet of Canada
National Post
Noah's Natural Foods
Ontario Place
Oyster Boy
Parachute School of Toronto
Photo Company
Piller's Meats
Pizza Pizza
Rabba Fine Foods
RE/MAX Cross Canada Balloons
Richtree Market Restaurants Inc.
Rosie Beitel
Royal Ontario Museum
Ryk Photography

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Sivananda Yoga Centre
SOOS
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Stratford Shakespeare Festival
Theatre Passe Muraille
Toni & Guy
Toronto Argonauts Football Club
Toronto Bread Company
Toronto Maple Leaf's Club
Toronto Women's Book Store
Virgin Radio 999
Wildwood Manor Ranch
Yoga Space

CAMPING TRIP 2008 TO KILLBEAR PROVINCIAL PARK



The camping crew. From left to right, Mel, Mary Kay, Anne, Cindy, Brandi, Jean Guy, Bruce, and Sandy

In late July, a group of Street Health campers trekked up to Georgian Bay and camped at Killbear Provincial Park. Six clients, one nurse from the Regent Park Community Health Centre, and three staff from Street Health set up camp for five very weather friendly days. The camping trip is an incredible opportunity for staff and clients alike. It created an opportunity for people to break out of their every day routines, and connect with each other in a very different and meaningful way.

Staff heard from participants how they appreciated the escape from the harsh realities of the streets, how the experience changed their self concept, increased self-esteem with varied activities and challenges such as, swimming, canoeing, hiking, biking, and other recreational activities. Scrabble games and late night star gazing were favoured activities, and last but not least, toasting marshmallows over the open fire satisfied the most discriminating tastes. This was an incredibly supportive group that shared the workload of the camp without a question, creating a comfortable, accepting environment for all to enjoy.

We all need a vacation and the Killbear trip was indeed a memorable vacation for all who attended.

Written by: Mary Kay MacVicar

“My head was actually quiet and that never happens! The water, the sunsets it all helped me to relax.” - Participant

“The best “work week” ever experienced, a truly wonderful experience for all involved, looking forward to many more!” - Anne Egger RNEC, Regent Park Community Health Centre

“I was so nervous about going, and I just want to go back.” - Participant

STREET HEALTH RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE GREATER TORONTO APARTMENT ASSOCIATION (GTAA) CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



On Thursday October 9th, the Greater Toronto Apartment Association of Toronto presented a cheque for \$5,000 to Street Health.

The cheque was presented by Gloria Salomon, Chair of the Board and Paul Smith, Chairman of the Board of the GTAA Charitable Foundation. This donation will provide much needed funds for Street Health's Nursing and Outreach Programs.

Paul Smith, Chairman of the GTAA Charitable Foundation, Wangari Muriuki, Street Health's Manager, Mental Health and Identification Teams, and Gloria Salomon, Chairman of the Board.

MAKING A DONATION TO STREET HEALTH IS NOW EASIER THAN EVER!



You can make a donation to Street Health through a secure online donation system. Just go to canadahelps.org and type Street Health in "search".

OR...

It's as easy as clicking on the "Donate Now" button on our website located at streethealth.ca, scrolling down and then clicking on the CanadaHelps link.

Exciting features include a monthly giving option or making your donation in honor of or in memory of someone special. VISA and Master Card are accepted.

A charitable tax receipt will be automatically issued to you by CanadaHelps.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

SEND A DONATION TO STREET HEALTH ~ Your donation will help us expand our programs to better serve our clients.

ORGANIZE A FUNDRAISER ~ Street Health would love to help you plan a fundraising event through your club, church or office. Please call for more details.

ADVOCATE FOR THE HOMELESS ~ Express your concerns to your municipal, provincial and federal politicians...
WRITING A LETTER CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

GIVE STREET HEALTH A VOICE ~ Our staff would be happy to speak to your organization, staff or club about our programs and the needs of our clients.

DONATE SLEEPING BAGS AND WINTER WARMTH ITEMS~ Please give your used sleeping bags, winter coats, warm clothing, new socks and footwear to Street Health for our Winter Warmth and Sleeping Bag Exchange Program.

This symbol was used by American hoboes in the early part of the twentieth century. It indicated that "if you are sick, they will care for you here"

MISSION STATEMENT

Street Health works to improve the health and well being of homeless and underhoused individuals in southeast Toronto by addressing the social determinants of health through programs, services, education and advocacy.

STREET HEALTH

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STREET HEALTH'S current board members include:

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