



450 AT-RISK YOUTH TO BENEFIT FROM \$698,600 ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION GROW GRANT

Toronto, ON (November 15, 2016) – On Thursday November 10, 2016, The Peer Project Youth Assisting Youth welcomed members of the public to its ceremony to mark its newly awarded a \$698,600 Grow grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation. The grant will support the expansion of the proven, evidence-based one-to-one youth mentoring program with the goal of matching 450 at-risk youth with a youth mentor over the next three years.

“Congratulations to The Peer Project on receiving \$698,600 Grow grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation,” said Steven Del Duca, MPP for Vaughan. “Helping at-risk youth in our community through peer-mentorship programs is a positive step in providing kids the opportunity to meet their full potential both academically and socially.”

Savi Singh, the Chair of the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s Simcoe-York Grant Review Team, was on hand to congratulate The Peer Project and hear more about how their increased capacity will help youth meet their full potential through with their peer-mentoring service that has a 98% success rate for keeping kids in school and out of the criminal justice system.

The grant was awarded during one of a year-long series of special events, partnerships, and activities that will take place to celebrate The Peer Project's 40th Anniversary.

The impact of this \$698,600 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant cannot be underestimated," said Sally Spencer, CEO of The Peer Project. "For four decades The Peer Project has helped more than 30,000 kids across Toronto and York Region. This grant will allow us to match over 450 youth ages six to 15 with fully trained and dedicated volunteer youth mentors, and have a powerful ripple effect on our community.”

An agency of the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is one of Canada’s largest granting foundations. With a budget of over \$136 million, OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities. www.otf.ca

About The Peer Project | Youth Assisting Youth (YAY) thepeerproject.com

The Peer Project | Youth Assisting Youth is a non-profit charitable organization that matches at-risk and newcomer children ages 6-15 with fully trained and dedicated Volunteer Youth Mentors ages 16-29. Operating since 1976, The Peer Project has helped over 30,000 newcomer and at-risk kids. There are over 600 youth supported by the organization, and over 400 more kids on a wait list. The organization operates with a 98% success rate for keeping kids in school and out of the criminal justice system.

Photos: *No Photo Credit Required*

<http://bit.ly/2fTgTul>

<http://bit.ly/2eyXH7k>

Left to Right: Savi Singh, Ontario Trillium Foundation's Simcoe-York Grant Review Team Chair; and Sally Spencer, Peer Project CEO

<http://bit.ly/2g8EZO8>

Left to Right: John van Rhee, Peer Project Director, Programs and Client Services; Savi Singh, Ontario Trillium Foundation's Simcoe-York Grant Review Team Chair; Sally Spencer, Peer Project CEO; and Adam Hewey, Peer Project Outreach Coordinator.

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