



Toronto Calcutta Foundation

Leadership Summer Camp Girlz Space Program

Investing in Youth

FINAL REPORT

WOMEN'S HABITAT



Charitable Registration No. 12912 2065 RR0001



United Way
Toronto & York Region

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Girlz Space Teen Leadership Camp

With the continued support of Toronto Calcutta Foundation, Women's Habitat was able to once again this year offer the Girlz Space Leadership Camp. The goal of the camp is to provide a fun, active and supportive environment for campers to enjoy while learning and developing life and leadership skills that will help prepare them for the challenges of adolescence. The feedback and response from the participants this year was overwhelmingly positive, at the end of the camp the girls filled out evaluation forms that are used to gauge how successful all the components of the camp were. This information will be used to enrich the curriculum for next year's camp.





Toronto Calcutta Foundation's Support

The support of the Toronto Calcutta Foundation has made it possible for Women's Habitat to continue to offer this unique and empowering program to the underserved community of South Etobicoke.

Your direct support has allowed girls from this community the chance to experience exciting excursions and activities that many had never had the opportunity to experience before, in a safe, healthy and informative atmosphere. While attending the camp participants are able to work on social and personal development by learning tools and skills that enable them to flourish in their individual family and scholastic lives.

Women's Habitat's partnership with the Toronto Calcutta Foundation has positively impacted the lives of at-risk youth, who without your remarkable support would not have access to programming during their long and often monotonous summer break. Without this valued partnership and your direct support this vital and essential program for young girls would not be possible. Thank-you.



Program Outcome:

This year camp ran from July 6-17 with 15 girls participating. Each participant was given a camp passport which served as a journal, each day they had to record an entry of their thoughts, feelings and behaviours for the day. As part of the curriculum “Getting to know you”, team building activities were used during camp. The main goals for all programming were to build and enhance critical thinking, communication, and decision making skills. In addition, other additional benefits of the program were identifying healthy relationships and friendships, recognizing and dealing with feelings, problem solving and conflict resolution were all key outcomes of the program. As in past years the camp concluded with a scrapbooking activity where the girls used photographs and mementos of their time at camp to create a lasting keepsake commemorating this powerful and positive experience.

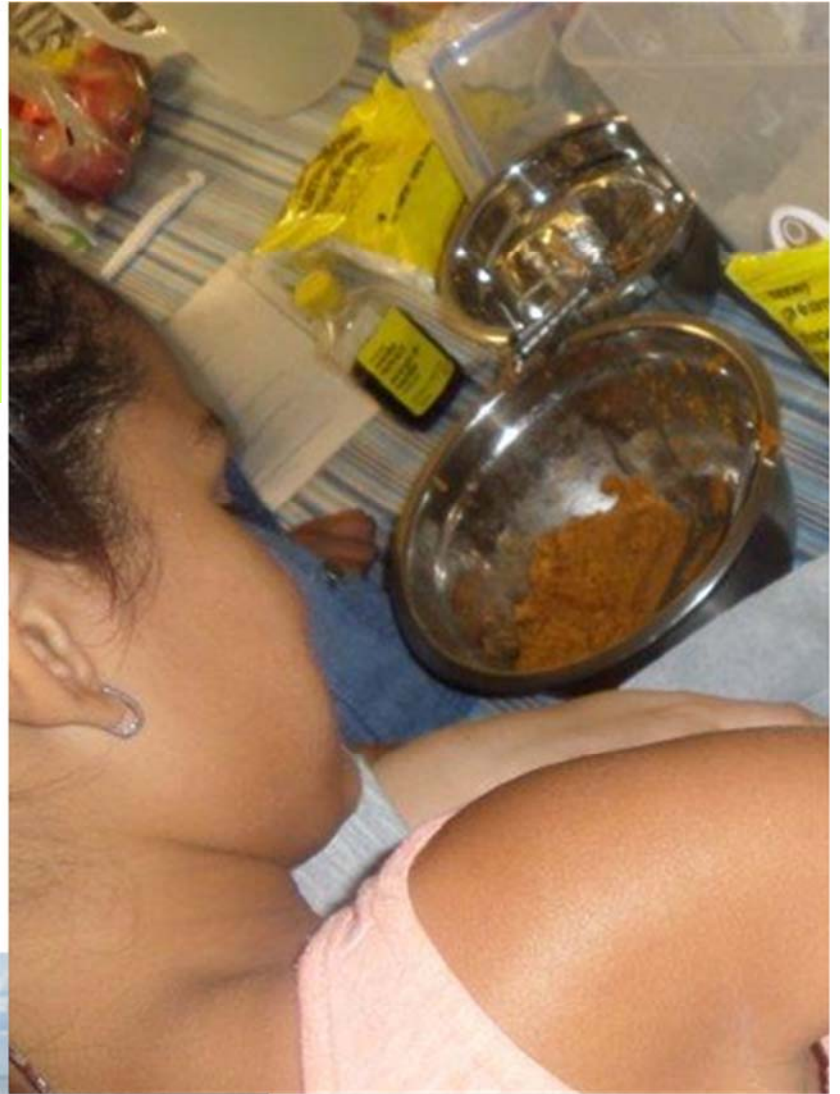




Participant Feedback:

"I learned that to be a good leader you have to cooperate and be fair"

- Participant



"I made new friends that I really like, I learned a lot and had fun doing it!"

- Participant



Participant Feedback:



*"I learned how to work with
other people and how to
be understanding"*
- Participant



*"I learned a lot by taking care
of my group and trying my
best to help them"*

~ Participant



Facilitators' Observations and Feedback:

"Prior to the start of camp we did orientation with the older girls who took on leadership roles with the younger girls. The theme for the leaders was "The map is not the terrain." The meaning behind this is that no matter how well prepared you are with tools, knowledge or research, nothing can compare to what you learn through actual practice in real life situations," shares Michelle Fraser our Young Women's Counsellor and facilitator of the camp. One of the primary goals of this camp is to give the girls an open and safe space to put into practice the skills they are developing throughout the camp.

During the camp the leaders facilitated activities and each day after program, they had a debriefing session to talk about the "terrain" that they had explored - they talked about their observations/ interactions with the group, what they noticed about themselves as leaders and what were the successes and challenges of being a leader.

The reoccurring themes that came up during these discussions were how to put aside your personal needs or balance them with the needs of the group, how to keep your energy up for the whole day and how to appropriately deal with negative behaviours. Through this process the leaders learned to identify the needs of their groups and how to apply their skills to address different situations. This approach proved to be extremely beneficial for both campers and leaders.

Parent Feedback:

"My Child's involvement with Girlz Space camp was a truly positive and empowering experience for her.

She went from a shy and quiet pre-teen to a joyful and confident young woman, who developed new interests and met new friends. The camp was the highlight of her summer.



Acknowledgments:

Your support has been instrumental in developing our Leadership Summer Camp. Because of your direct support this camp has expanded and the participants are thriving. So many success stories can be told because of your contribution.

Thank-you so much once again for your generous and dedicated support of this unique and vital program. As previously discussed, the amount of your donation to support the camp is \$4,560.00.

