



June 23, 2008

Re; Garth Riley's Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones presentation

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Community Facilitator for the Glen St. Project at Oshawa Community Health Centre. My position has been created due to the identification of the Glen St. Neighbourhood and its surrounding area, as being an "at risk" neighbourhood. The Glen St. Project's objectives are to increase the safety, permanence and well being of the children and families in this area. This is an ongoing process which has and will involve many elements including needs assessment, identifying gaps in service and the development of programs and events.

One such event recently was Garth Riley's Bully Defusing/Character Building presentation Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones presentation. An in-school presentation was presented to the grades 4 -8 at Glen St. Public School, and a companion Parent presentation was presented at GL Roberts Vocational Institute, to which all parents of all feeder schools were invited. Subsequently, Garth was able to present another in-school presentation to CF Cannon, an elementary school in the Glen St. and surrounding area. The value and benefit of multiple schools and parents in this neighbourhood being exposed to the same message presents enormous benefits to this area.

Garth's presentations have been very successful in this neighbourhood, with schools, parents and students providing excellent feedback. Garth's delivery is highly effective and entertaining and people have responded to his style. The message gives students, teachers and parents tools and strategies for dealing with difficult situations and delivers an empowering and hopeful message to students. Anything that could facilitate the delivery of more of Garth's presentations, as well as other beneficial services or events would be extremely important and valuable to this neighbourhood.

Oshawa Community Health Centre is a non-profit charitable organization and a leader in community health services and programs. Its mission is to empower residents to improve their physical, emotional and social well-being.

If I can provide any further information to you regarding the Glen St/South Oshawa Project, or any further insights regarding the value of Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones to this neighbourhood, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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