



Youth At Risk Development

Need for the YARD Program

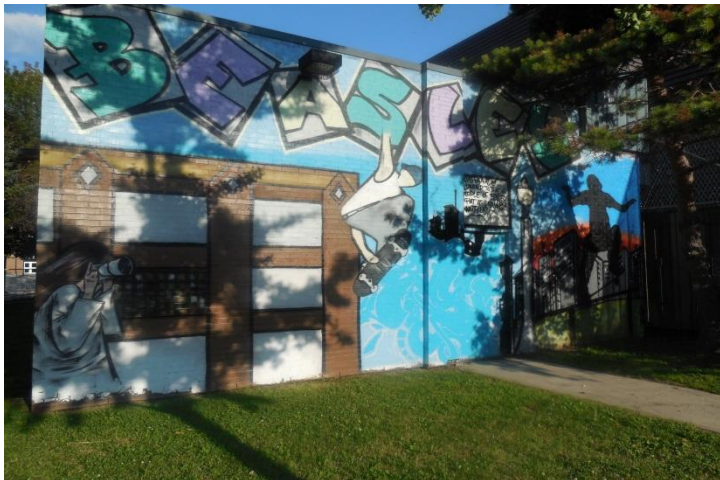
- Videos:
 - ▣ RUMG/MGM/Wonda/A1-Hunnit - Chiraq Remix/LOM/Lil Notesz DISS (MUSIC VIDEO):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhY6Ec5IINE>
 - ▣ ILLIN - STICK YOU UP (Dir By.Scyla):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5UcPB4uHDY>
 - ▣ These videos have been created as “diss” videos from one group to another (LOM vs. SGC/RUMG)
- According to the most recent Crime Severity Analysis Report 2010 from Hamilton Police Service (HPS), Hamilton is identified as 21.1 points higher in the Crime Severity Rating Scale over the Ontario average and 10 points higher than the Canadian index rating.
- Reported in HPS Overview of Violence Prone Areas in Hamilton 2011, violent criminal acts most associated with gang activity (homicide, shooting, stabbing, person with weapon, robbery and assault) have been mapped since 2006 and show consistent areas throughout Hamilton to have growing incidents of violence.
- The pattern of violent crimes committed by youth in Hamilton is heightened compared to other municipalities.

Need for the YARD Program

- The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton has done extensive research on different neighbourhoods- specifically priority neighbourhoods around the city. In March 2012 “Neighbourhood Profiles” was published.
- This document breaks down the specific demographics of high risk neighbourhoods in Hamilton and compares them to the rest of the city
- These neighbourhoods have also developed Community Planning Teams to address key issues within their neighbourhoods

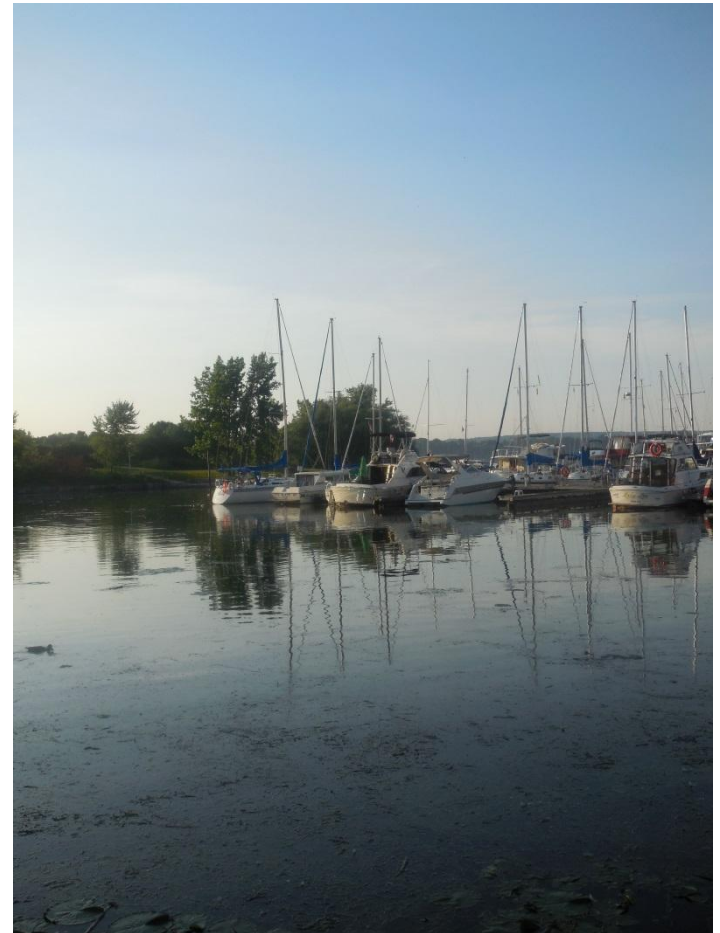
Need for the YARD Program- Beasley

- 4/10 Beasley residents identify with a visible minority group, almost 3x higher than the average for the city.
- Beasley is one of Hamilton's "arrival cities" as 14% of the area's residents are newcomer immigrants compared to just 3% for the city as a whole.
- Poverty rates in Beasley are 3x higher than the average for the city. Almost 6/10 Beasley residents live on incomes below the poverty line.
- More than 17% of Beasley students do not complete their high school diploma, almost three times the rate for the city as a whole.



Need for the YARD Program- Jamesville

- Over one third of the parent population are female lone parents
- 35% are living in poverty, compared to 18% for the city.
- Almost half (49%) of young children in Jamesville are living in poverty.
- One in three residents does not have a certificate, diploma or degree. More than double the proportion of students who don't complete high school as compared to Hamilton.



Need for the YARD Program- Keith

- 41% of families are lone parents
- More than 6 in 10 renters live in unaffordable housing
- 43% Keith residents are living in poverty
- 7/10 of those living in poverty are children



Need for the Program- Riverdale

- Close to half the neighbourhoods residents identify with a visible minority group (43%) vs. 14% for the city
- 83% of residents are renters
- 35% of the population is living in poverty
- 57% changed their address in the five years before the census- due to the high rates of immigrants settling in the neighbourhood, many of these residents change countries, not just addresses

Hamilton Spectator

- In the last year there has been a great deal of reporting surrounding violent, and often fatal, incidents. Many of these activities/ incidents are directly related to gang activities.
 - *“It was a tragic case,” she said. “An innocent man ...working in his back yard, was shot in the back and killed”*
 - *“Rowe was found shot in the head and dying when emergency crews responded to a shooting call just four and a half hours into the new year.”*
 - *“Witnesses in the east end neighbourhood where Clarke was killed last month reported seeing about a dozen young men show up at a home brandishing pipes and bats just before he was stabbed.”*

Hamilton Spectator

- *“After stabbing the car owner with a knife, the assailant fled on foot.”*
- *“Two teens at the residence were arrested in the raid, and officers seized a 12-gauge shotgun, a sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun, and \$850 worth of drugs including 8.4 grams of cocaine and one Oxycotin tablet.”*
- *“The violence killed our son. This is why we want kids to stop the violence. There should be no fighting. If they can’t get along, walk away.”*
- *“According to a close friend, the 18-year-old was attempting to finish high school before he was stabbed to death outside a downtown Tim Hortons early Sunday.”*

Video

YARD PROGRAM BREAKDOWN

"I like that staff outreach to youth in the community. YARD is a safe and positive environment. Before YARD I was lazy. Now I feel more motivated to do positive things with my life. I am applying for work and school. I have already recommended many friends and people in the community to the program." - Male, 23



YARD Hamilton Overview



- YARD Hamilton is a replication of a ‘Promising Practice” program developed in Calgary implemented by Calgary Police Service and identified as a gang reduction intervention. YARD Calgary was modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model.
- The Gang Reduction Strategy is the Gang Prevention, Intervention, and Re-Entry programs that are geared toward at risk young people between the ages of 12 and 24.

Objectives of the program

- ❑ To prevent young people from participating in gang activity or violent crime
- ❑ To have gang involved youth exit from the gang lifestyle
- ❑ Increase collaboration between community agencies and organizations for the purpose of reducing youth gang crime activities within the City of Hamilton.



Program Core Strategies

- YARD Hamilton identifies an approach that cuts across traditional agency boundaries through an 'integrated approach from a team of community agencies and organizations' (OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model, 2009) to deliver five core strategies that are the following...

"I like the uniqueness of the YARD program. There are not enough resources for at risk youth in our community. This has been an awesome experience. To see young people engaged in positive relationships with mentors and staff changes their lives."

- YARD Staff

Community Mobilization

1. Community Mobilization

- ❑ YARD Hamilton will provide leadership to the community mobilization organizations in order to create an effective gang reduction strategy for Hamilton.

"I like that YARD is so community based. I think that the collaboration that takes place assists the youth to be successful. This also ensures that the whole community takes responsibility for the youth and works together to serve them."



- YARD Staff



Community Mobilization

- YARD works with teams throughout the community to support the needs of our youth.
- YARD will also work with these teams in response to incidents in the community as they arise.
- These teams include:
 - ▣ Probation
 - ▣ Police
 - ▣ School boards- HWDSB, HWCDSB
 - ▣ Addictions and Mental Health Representatives
 - ▣ Local Social Service agencies

“These kids are at risk partly because the communities need to mobilize around them as well. It is a community problem- not a kid problem.”

- Dave Stam, Hamilton Spectator, System ‘failed’ slain Hamilton teen and his accused, experts say

Social Intervention

2. Social Intervention

- YARD Hamilton will mobilize youth serving agencies, schools, faith based groups, Hamilton Police Service, and other criminal justice organizations to reach out to young people and their families at risk or affiliated with a gang.

"Boys and Girls Club is excited to partner with the YARD Program to be able to support our youth in need. YARD staff have been exceptional in reaching out and communicating with our staff as well as youth and families. They appreciate the importance of relationship building, respect, encouragement and support which aligns with our core values. We look forward to building capacity in our youth, staff and community with the support of YARD!"

-Manager

Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton

Social Intervention

- How has YARD mobilized in Hamilton
 - ▣ Hub Meetings
 - ▣ HWDSB
 - ▣ HWCDSB
 - ▣ Rec Centres
 - ▣ Response to Critical Incidents



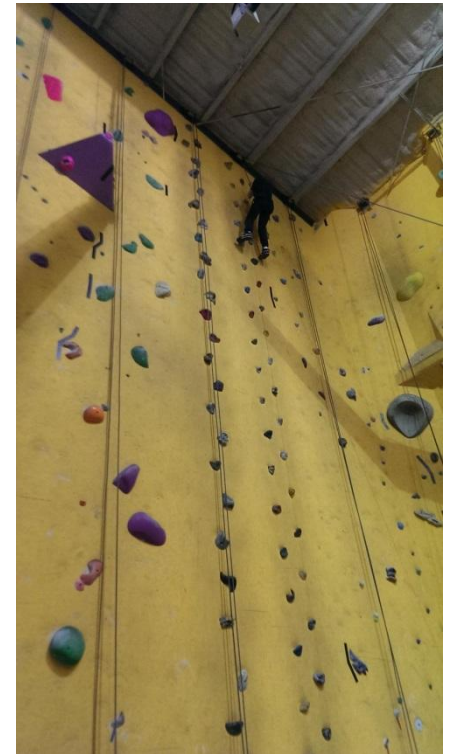
Social Intervention

- YARD is often called to respond to incidents in the community as they occur. Recent incidents include:
 - ▣ Concerns in a public park
 - ▣ Concerns with older youth recruiting younger youth
 - ▣ Accompanying youth to attending a funeral of a friend
 - ▣ Concerns around students who should not be on school property and being violent
 - ▣ High concentration of youth causing concern in a housing complex
 - ▣ A number of violent incidents in a local high school

Opportunities Provision

3. Opportunities Provision

- ❑ Prevention
 - ❑ Target low to medium risk youth who will attend a 12 week program and 12 weeks of community support with a volunteer mentor with the guidance of a youth worker.
- ❑ Intervention
 - ❑ Target high risk youth who will attend a 24 week program and 24 weeks of community support with a volunteer mentor with the guidance of a youth worker.
- ❑ Re-Entry
 - ❑ Target high risk youth following release from an institution- 24 week program and 24 weeks of community support with a volunteer mentor with the guidance of a youth worker.



Opportunities Provision

- YARD has started to program off site in the hopes of connecting youth to more services within our city.
- Staff from different agency groups have also been participating in facilitation to build capacity in their host agencies.

"I can tell he's truly understanding and listening in group because I hear words from his mouth that he has learned from the staff. He's taking the words to heart and truly believes in what is happening right now."

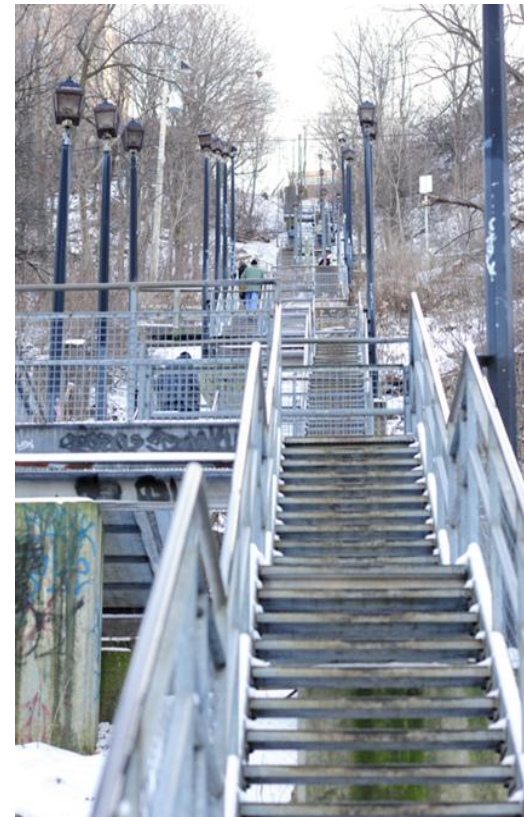
- School support worker

Programming

- Each week contains a “program” or lesson, followed by a recreation activities that ties to the lesson
- On a weekly basis, Youth Worker will provide
 - Programming- lessons and recreation
 - Case management
 - Meeting the needs of the youth on an individual basis- support with: school, housing, OW, employment, etc.
 - Gang exit support
- Programs include topics and recreation activities such as those listed on the program breakdown description

"Being in YARD has helped me to come up with proper choices that are better for me. I have settled down on smoking marijuana. I would recommend this program to my friends because it is a successful program."

Male, 13



Recreation Activities



I would recommend YARD to my friends because it will keep them out of trouble. I enjoy the recreation part of the program because it is always something good. Being in YARD keeps me out of trouble. It gives me a good environment and something to do.

- YARD Prevention Participant

Suppression

4. Suppression

- Provides informal social control through identified program activities, providing support and supervision, coaching and mentoring during productive activities while interacting with community members.
- Our Strategic Plan aims to assist in suppressing similar activities from continuing.
- Hamilton Police Services continue to suppress active gang activities and violent crimes through enforcement.



Strategic Plan- Incident Response

Critical Incident takes place in the community
(i.e. death, violence, gang related incidents, etc.)

Call made to agency to respond;
Agency takes the initiative to respond

Initial meeting to take place to discuss the incident.
Suggestions made for those who should be involved in the strategic plan.

Strategic plan developed for those who are involved.
Plan should list actions for the next 30 days.

JHS will take the lead in checking in as the plan rolls out. In 30 days it will be determined if the steps taken have been helpful and how support should continue.

Organizational Change and Development

5. Organizational Change and Development

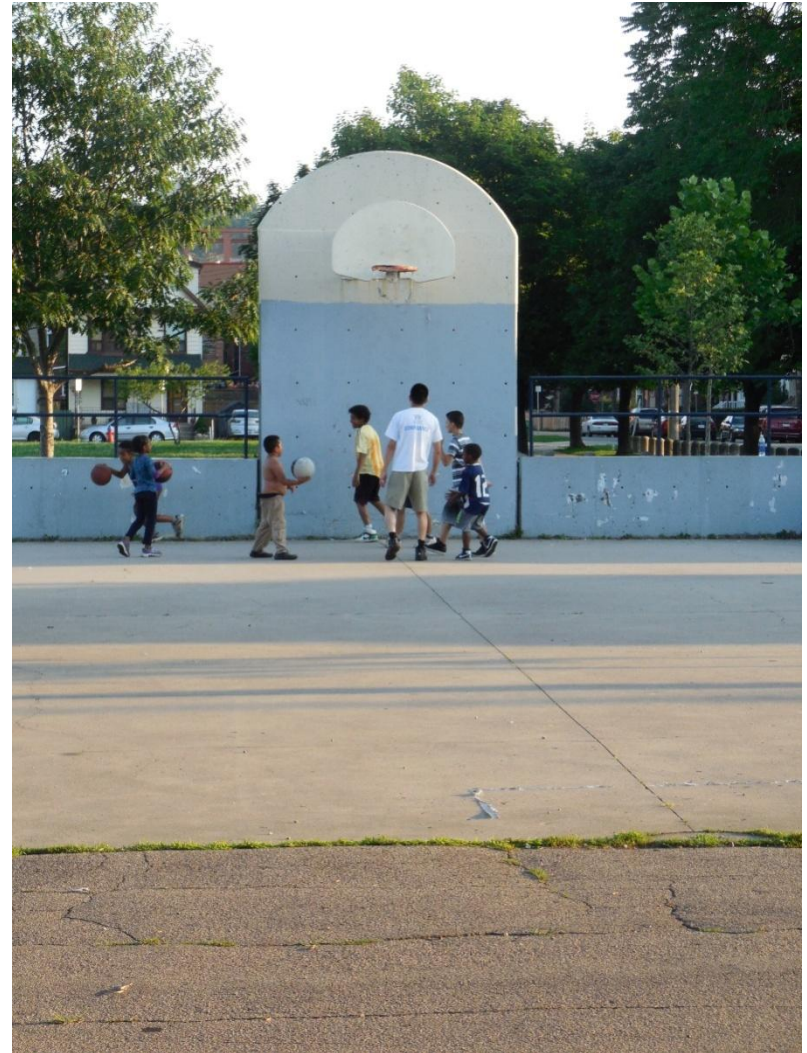
- The ongoing community mobilization committee structure identified above and will identify gaps and barriers to serve and support young people at risk and/or gang affiliated.

Outreach

- ❑ Outreach is a component for all Youth Workers
- ❑ Each worker has schools they are connected to and responsible for visiting and communicating with
- ❑ Each Youth Worker also has a Community Hub or neighbourhood that they engage with
- ❑ Finally each Youth Worker is connected with a recreation centre, usually within their hub/ target community

Outreach

- ❑ What does outreach look like?
- ❑ How does it benefit the YARD program?
- ❑ What community groups are we connected to?
- ❑ How do we respond to needs we see in the community?
- ❑ What trends are emerging in the evening hours around Hamilton?
- ❑ How does a youth who is met during outreach time join YARD? What processes are in place?



Outreach

- Outreach workers can be found meeting the youth in the communities where they reside.
- The workers aim to target neighbourhoods where youth are engaging in at risk behaviours. This involves visiting agencies, complexes, parks, etc. in different areas
- A focus has been on engaging with youth in housing complexes, faith based communities, social service agencies, recreation centres and various “hang outs” in these neighbourhoods



"We are so happy to see that the youth on the mountain are finally getting some attention. We are not used to things being offered to kids in our neighbourhood."

- Community Member

Intel/ Mapping

- Any information that connects youth to groups, activities, crimes, etc. is recorded and shared with all staff weekly
- Incidents that occur are also plotted on a map to remain visually aware
- This ensures we maintain safety and separate appropriate individuals
- Intel is collected in a number of ways
 - ▣ Conversations with youth
 - ▣ News articles
 - ▣ FB/ Twitter
 - ▣ At intake

Referral Process

Who Can Refer:

- ❑ Self Referral
- ❑ School Board
- ❑ Probation
- ❑ Social Service agencies
- ❑ Family members (e.g. Parents/guardians)
- ❑ Link on JHS website for online referral

Contact Process:

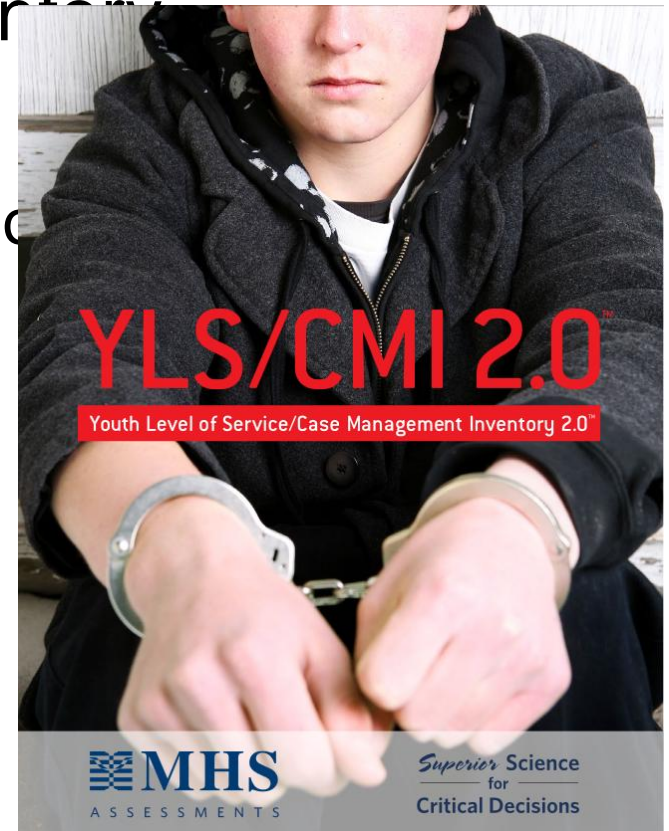
Once a referral is received, the YARD staff will be in touch with the individual, as well as the person making the referral, as soon as possible.

- ❑ YARD has received 164 referrals since last April.



What does “At-Risk” look like?

- If youth are under 18 years of age and not in school they are screened on the YLS/CMI 2.0- Youth Level of Service/ Case Management Inventory
- Factors considered are:
 - ▣ Prior and Current Offences/Dispositions
 - ▣ Family Circumstances/Parenting
 - ▣ Education/Employment
 - ▣ Peer Relations
 - ▣ Substance Abuse
 - ▣ Leisure/Recreation
 - ▣ Personality/Behaviour
 - ▣ Attitudes/Orientation



What does “At-Risk” look like?

- Youth over the age of 18 are screened on the LSI-R (The Level of Service Inventory- Revised)
- Factors considered are:
 - Criminal History
 - Education/Employment
 - Financial
 - Family/Marital
 - Accommodation
 - Leisure/Recreation
 - Companions
 - Alcohol/Drug Problem
 - Emotional/ Personal
 - Attitudes/Orientation



Intake

Youth who are interested in participating YARD complete an intake. This intake involves answering questions about themselves- ie. School achievement, drug use, criminal history, family dynamics, attitudes towards gangs, etc. Information shared in this intake process helps determine their risk level and appropriateness for YARD.

Accepted	Not Accepted
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Based on risk level, youth is placed in appropriate stream- Prevention, Intervention/Re-Entry2. Pre-test- voluntary3. Case management-Setting up goals4. Programming starts	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Inform client of the result and refer to appropriate agencies to address needs (Employment, Housing)2. Offer some assistance to connecting youth to these resources3. Inform referral source of the result and reasons

Program Core Strategy Breakdown

Prevention	Intervention	Re-entry
<p>Medium Risk</p> <p>12 weeks of 2 hours programming and 12 weeks of 1 hour rec</p> <p>2 hours individual/week</p> <p>12 weeks mentoring (2 hours case management and 1 hour rec)</p>	<p>High Risk</p> <p>24 weeks of 2 hours programming and 24 weeks of 1 hour rec</p> <p>3 hours Individual/week</p> <p>1 hour case management/goal setting/week</p> <p>24 weeks mentoring (3 hours case management and 1 hour rec)</p>	<p>High Risk with previous custody involvement</p> <p>24 weeks of 2 hours programming and 24 weeks of 1 hour rec</p> <p>3 hours Individual/week</p> <p>1 hour case management/goal setting/week</p> <p>24 weeks mentoring (3 hours case management and 1 hour rec)</p>

- I like the activities we do. I like how we learned about setting goals and what it does to achieve them. We've been through ups and downs but we learned how to prevent things. Even though we might have charges you guys treat us like friends and give us positive reactions. The first few days I was shy then I got to know you guys and I see it as you guys wanting to be our friends then telling us the positive instead of the negative like our other friends do.

- YARD Prevention Participant

- This is a good program for youth to learn about life and learn new skills. Meeting one on one with my worker has made me think about my life and my actions.

- YARD Intervention Participant

- YARD is good in addressing and helping youth that were on the path of a criminal life and behaviour. I would recommend this program because I saw a change in my son's behaviour. The case management and presence of a positive role model in my son's life have been good.

- Mother of YARD Prevention Participant (who recently had daughter also join the program)

Yearly Anticipated Number of Youth

□ Prevention Program

- 50 young people and their families will be referred to the program from years 1 through 5 for a total of 250 over five years.

□ Intervention Program

- 30 young people and their families will be referred to the program in year 1.
- 60 young people and their families will be referred to the program from year 2 through 5 for a total of 270 over five years.

"YARD has been there to support my grandson and myself through difficult times."

- Grandparent of YARD participant

Yearly Anticipated Number of Youth

□ Re-Entry Program

- 10 young people and their families will be referred to the program in year 1.
- 20 young people and their families will be referred to the program in year 2 through 5 for a total of 90 over five years.

"I like that YARD is the kind of place that I can come after school to escape getting into trouble with my peers. YARD has helped me to see things in a positive perspective. The intervention programs here have helped me to redirect my life in a positive way. The staff have consistently motivate me to reach my goals. I would absolutely recommend this program because it is a great way to meet positive friends and have positive role models in your life. The staff here are awesome, the recreational activities are great and the life and social skills programs are a great asset for people as it boosts them up to live a healthy life and develop new skills. I have grown to develop problem solving skills since joining YARD. I am currently learning how to set immediate and long term goals. I have leaned how to stay out of trouble from the law and ways to avoid breaking the law."

-Male, 18

Mentor Involvement

- Participants will be matched to trained volunteers based on their personality traits and general interests.
- Volunteers will provide support with recreational activities and mentoring, while promoting a healthy environment in which youth can develop their skills.

Being a mentor in the YARD program is a rewarding and exciting experience. I love the opportunity to give back to my community in such a hands on way. Seeing these participants make a positive change is a very powerful and promising sight.

- YARD Mentor

Mentor Role

Volunteer Mentors will also:

- Take the lead in supporting a young person through an ongoing, one-to-one relationship
- Participate in programming and activities before youth move to mentor phase, with a focus on relationship building
- Serve as a positive role model and friend
- Plan and participate in activities together
- Strive for mutual respect
- Build self-esteem and motivation
- Help set goals and work towards accomplishing them

Mentor Time Commitment

- Be willing and able to make a long term commitment to mentoring (minimum 6 months)
 - Be willing and able to meet with your mentee a minimum of
 - 3 hours for prevention youth and 4 hours for the intervention youth.
- Attend an initial three-hour training session plus additional training seminars as required
- Attend mentor/mentee group events, mentor support groups, and program recognition events as required

Trauma

Risk **assessment** tools capture participant's experiences with trauma

- Family Relationship (conflict at home can cause trauma)
- Alcohol and drug use (family's drug history can be traumatic event)
- Physical Violence (witnessing fights which involves youth's peers)

Trauma

- Friends/peers (death and relationship)
- Education (failing can be a traumatic event)
- Previous incarceration (institutionalized)

Trauma in the Community

Friends mourn Jesse Clarke, 14, killed in East Hamilton stabbing



By Adam Carter, [CBC News](#) Posted: Aug 19, 2014 8:58 AM ET Last Updated: Aug 21, 2014 10:34 AM ET

Safety Measures/SOP

- BBM
- Travel in Pair
- History of Weapon Use
- Intel binder
- Gang mapping
- Team meeting
- Sign in and out sheet

Website

- <http://www.yardhamilton.ca/>



□ Questions/ Comments?