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HELP US HELP KIDS

WWW.MOORELANDS.CA

FALL 2015



Moorelands

Back To School
is a
BLAST

confidence

self

sports

Fairness

Sharing

Team camp

decision

Skills work

High

Respect connections

Community

Swimming

Caring

ropes

Friendship

Honesty

identity

arts

Belonging

Citizenship

character

canoeing

crafts



“Moorelands made me believe I deserve to succeed.”



Aamna began her Moorelands journey at the Valley Park **Youth Lead Excel Demonstrate (LED)** program in grade 8 and went on to attend the **Moorelands MG Leadership Program**. She has also volunteered and worked at our **City Summer Day Camp** and our **Budding Leaders After-school Teams (BLAST)**. This fall she begins

her Political Science degree at Queens University.

“I live in a high priority community, where the graduation rates are relatively low, and the crime rate is high. So many people I know grow up thinking they are not capable of doing anything... talented, intelligent people who just don't get the opportunities to do something with their lives.”

“I was scared, a timid young girl lacking in self-esteem, when I first joined Moorelands. I was convinced that I was not going to do much in life. Who was I, an immigrant girl, not that smart, not that rich, not that charismatic, to succeed? It's a question that haunted not just me, but so many other people I know. Who am I to succeed?”

“And that's where Moorelands made a difference. Through its Leadership and Summer Camp programs, Moorelands provided me with the skills I need to succeed. Moorelands helps youth build confidence and

character, make good choices, and above all helps us recognise our potential. Moorelands changed my whole life and I can never thank Katie and the other staff enough for it.”

“Today, I am a successful, young adult on my way to building a good life for myself, and I owe



Aamna helping a new generation of youth leaders.

it all to Moorelands. But that's not all that makes me happy. I'm happy because I know I'm not the only one. There are so many other kids that can benefit from Moorelands. Kids who think their life is going nowhere. Moorelands can give them the drive, the passion and the confidence that they need.”

“Moorelands allows youth to do something for themselves, their families, their communities, and serves as inspiration for others to do the same. Moorelands sparks a cycle of competent leaders who get up, get going and do amazing things. Not just for themselves but for their whole community. And for this I am so thankful.”

Read more alum stories like Aamna's at www.moorelands.ca/moorelands-alumni/ and join our alumni community.

– A.M.

INVEST IN BUILDING



“At Moorelands I learned how to work together and get more confident.”
Ali, aged 10

“I learned that respect means being kind to each other.”
Rachel, aged 8

“Now I come here, I show respect at home to my family and help them do chores.”
Tanvir, aged 6



“I don't wait for someone to be a leader anymore. Instead I try to be a leader myself.”
Prem, aged 11

For \$18/day Fatima can attend BLAST



Moorelands Youth Leadership Program is Growing!

Moorelands' Youth Lead, Excel, Demonstrate (Youth LED) is poised to double in size at Valley Park and will build on hands-on volunteering opportunities in Toronto...

Demand is high for Moorelands' newly revised youth leadership and volunteer program, **Youth LED Volunteers** and it is only going to grow. **Youth LED Volunteers** is set to almost double in its capacity, helping up to 58 youth grades 7-12 develop leadership and life skills through fun, hands-on experiences. The program is designed to help them master the skills and character qualities they need to become leaders, first of themselves and then in their community. At the same time it gives youth the opportunity to volunteer back in their community, earning vital community volunteer hours and giving them opportunity to practice community engagement. In a direct response to youth's requests, there will be increased opportunity for volunteer experiences — up to 20 hours added. And more time devoted to the practical application of skills learned in Youth LED. Donations for this high-demand program can be made directly to Moorelands online, or by sending your cheque to 250 Merton St, Suite 501, Toronto, ON, M4S 1B1.

– M.L.

SKILLS ...



*"I learned how to be responsible and take care of my sister."
Jayne, aged 9*



*"I'm more responsible now because I used to lose a lot of things now I am careful."
Daniel, aged 7*

*"Moorelands taught me about teamwork. Now when I'm at school or with a group of friends, whenever we are playing or working on a project I listen and use everyone's ideas."
Sabina, aged 12*



*"Moorelands teaches you: never put down people. Never say bad words."
Gloria, aged 7*

For \$26/day Kharim can attend Youth LED Volunteers

Smart Ways to Give

Give the capital tax exempt gift of securities such as stocks or bonds, to make the most of your philanthropic support and to save you the most in taxes paid for 2015.

By giving stocks or bonds to help Toronto's most vulnerable children build character and learn new skills and strategies that help prepare them to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood. For more information, or to learn how, please call Maureen Lewis, (416) 466-9987, ext 307.

— M.L.



BLAST

Zara really likes the crafts. Zayed really likes the snacks. Lubna, their mother, really likes the quality programming at an affordable price. What they all *really* like is the BLAST (Budding Leaders After-school Team) program!

Lubna Aslam discovered the Moorelands BLAST program at a very opportune time. She was re-entering the work force and looking for after-school child care for Zayed, grade 5, and Zara, grade 3. She was thrilled to find BLAST that, in her words, "doesn't offer traditional babysitting." She appreciated the intentional programming and has seen the positive impact it has had on her children.

Since her children joined BLAST, Lubna has seen an improvement in their social skills and confidence, especially in daughter Zara who, when she started BLAST, wasn't very outgoing and didn't have a lot of friends. By the end of the program, Zara knew "just about everyone!"



Both children have learned to be more responsible and independent, and they are much more open to new experiences — like trying new foods. Now, she says, they ask her to buy food items, like hummus and pita, which they have enjoyed during snack time!

If Lubna were to describe BLAST to her neighbours she would tell them that it is the most stress-free program she has experienced. "Parents don't have to do a lot — Moorelands staff have everything under control. It's convenient, right in her children's school, and it's a safe environment."

BLAST made Lubna's transition back to work less stressful, knowing her children were well taken care of. For first-timers Zara, Zayed — and Lubna — Moorelands' BLAST program was a *really* positive experience!

— N.S.

Putting Pen to Paper — the Value of a Personal Ask

Our wonderful SAK letter writers put pen to paper this summer in support of Moorelands' **Send a Kid to Camp Campaign**. Because they did, we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$145,000 and raised \$175,000 to send 152 kids to camp this year!

— M.L.

THANK YOU

This summer I was a cabin leader at Moorelands' camp and I'd like to thank you for your support. I've been a personal witness to the positive impact that Moorelands has on the campers - how they grow in confidence and skills through the week. Their smiles show that it is all worthwhile. Thank you for believing in this camp and what we stand for. But most of all, thank you for believing in these kids. Your support literally changes lives.

Get on your feet for Moorelands!

It's time to dust off your running shoes, get on your feet and walk/run to raise funds for Moorelands! Help Moorelands help kids from some of Toronto's most underserved communities by walking with us at the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. Raise \$150 or more in sponsorships/donations and we will reimburse your registration. All donations will receive a Moorelands tax receipt.



When?

Sunday 18th October @ 8am.

Where?

Exhibition Place, Parking Lot 2,
Near the Direct Energy Building, CNE

Find out how you can register and change a child's life at <http://www.moorelands.ca/scotiabank-toronto-waterfront-marathon-2015/> or call Helen Banham, 416.466.9987 ext 312.

Baby Bundles Items, Urgently Needed



We are thankful to all the individuals and groups who have supplied our Baby Bundle program with gifts-in-kind. Baby Bundles provides essential items needed in the care of newborns. Baby supplies are entirely gifted and volunteers take great care in preparing bundles for distribution. So far this year, your gifts have enabled the distribution of 101 Baby Bundles and we thank you for this. However, we now find ourselves in urgent need of specific supplies in order to provide full bundles to newborns in need.

We are in **urgent need of new cotton sleepers size 6 months, zinc oxide (up to 250g), body lotion (444ml), body wash (444ml), and petroleum jelly (375g), and towels.**

Your gifts are greatly appreciated and provide hope, support and connection to those receiving them. One mom noted: *"All the items given in my Baby Bundle are more than helpful and useful. Thank you to the wonderful and thoughtful people that dedicate their time to do this."*

Moorelands' Baby Bundle gifts-in-kind can be delivered to our offices at 250 Merton Street, Toronto in Suite 501, Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. Your caring means so much!

- C.P.



OUR MANDATE

At Moorelands, we recognize the inherent value of all children and youth. We work with Toronto's children and youth affected by poverty, to provide them with positive and fun experiences to help strengthen their confidence, competence and character.

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Bridging the opportunity gap for kids

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