

Pathways to Education Scarborough Village Backgrounder

About Scarborough Village:

Scarborough Village was one of the earliest settlements in Scarborough. Located in the south-central part of the district of Scarborough, Scarborough Village is one of the most economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Canada. There are more than 15,000 residents within a 2 km area and a high proportion of single-parent families, children and youth.

Scarborough Village is a community in which many residents are active and engaged, however, it is also wrestling with many socio-economic issues related to poverty, unemployment, education, affordable housing, immigration, and family breakdown. Other youth issues include few links between the schools and families in the community, transportation access, lack of access to community and commercial services (no high school, bank or post office in the community), very little after school programming and higher than city average dropout rates.

The United Way and the City of Toronto have identified Scarborough Village as one of the 13 Priority Communities within the City of Toronto. Of the 13, Scarborough Village is geographically the smallest of the priority communities with an extremely high population density due to the number of buildings in the area.

Why Scarborough Village:

Prior to implementing the Pathways to Education Program™ in Scarborough Village, local youth and families cited a range of barriers to academic success, including:

- Students had no access to a local high school and lacked the funds needed for transportation to a school in a neighboring community
- Parents found it difficult to interact with teachers and school administrators due to a perceived lack of respect and communication barriers
- Increased rates of unemployment in the area put pressure on students to place more importance on employment than education
- Students were receiving miscommunication and believed they could enter certain trades without school credits

In addition, the Scarborough Village Pathways to Education Program has many partners which include parents, youth, Scarborough Village Recreation Centre, Toronto Community Housing, Action for Neighbourhood Change – Scarborough Village, the TDSB (Bliss Carman SPS, Sir Robert Borden BTI, RH King Academy), The SV Crisis Response Team, The SV Neighbourhood Action Partnership, the YWCA Girls Centre and the Centennial College Community Outreach Program. Partnerships have also been established with the local high schools and elementary/middle schools in both the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Pathways in Scarborough Village

The Scarborough Village Pathways to Education Program is offered through an alliance between United Way of Greater Toronto and Pathways Canada. In the first year of the program, 83 students registered for the program representing approximately 75 per cent of the eligible population.

Host agency: YOUTHLINK
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Tel: (416) 967-1773
Executive Director: Sandy Birnie

Pathways

Program Director: Ronni Gorman

Boundaries: The catchment area of the Scarborough Pathways program is between Eglinton Avenue East in the south, Cougar Court in the north, Kingston Road to the east and Mason Road to the west.

Area Dropout Rate (pre-Pathways): 32 per cent (Toronto District School Board data)

About Pathways to Education Canada – <http://www.pathwaystoeducation.ca>

Pathways to Education Canada is a charitable organization that helps youth in low-income communities graduate from high school and successfully transition into post-secondary education or training. Pathways addresses systemic barriers to education by providing leadership, expertise and a community-based program proven to lower dropout rates. Founded in 2001, Pathways operates in eleven communities across Canada, with programs in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

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For more information, please contact:

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