

Inspiration

A Newsletter for the Supporters & Friends
of Merry Go Round Children's Foundation

SUMMER 2017

Kids, Cops
& Computers

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Paying it forward for future *Kids, Cops & Computers* students

Student-led fundraisers build stronger leadership and community skills

On the night of Wednesday June 21st, families of students at St. Lawrence Catholic School gathered together for an evening of entertainment. Attendees were charged \$2, with snacks available for sale as well. With a little bit of creativity and dedication, the St. Lawrence fundraiser was a huge success and raised **\$800!**

The event was organized by *Kids, Cops & Computers* students as part of their community engagement. Your support makes it possible for students to develop their

leadership skills by taking part in events such as the *KCC Kids Give Back* program.

This year nine schools took part in *KCC Kids Give Back* raising funds to support future students in the program and raised **over \$3,700!**

Helping kids develop as leaders through this growth period is a priceless gift. Your support provides long-lasting benefits as students move into their adult years.



St. Anthony Catholic School



Queen Victoria Public School



St. Lawrence Catholic School

Inspiration

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Merry Go Round Children's Foundation

441 King St.W, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M5V 1K1
674-559-2744 www.kidscopscomputers.org

Your gifts build creativity

My name is Sanaa Hamilton. I'm a student at Cummer Valley Public School, and just finished my Grade 7 school year in June. I am a member of our student council and I really like being involved in my school community.

Before joining *Kids, Cops & Computers* this past school year, I did not have a working computer at home. This made completing my homework difficult because most of my teachers' assignments required access to technology... *21st century, am I right?*

When I received my HP laptop at Cummer Valley's *Launch*, I was so happy. I was hugging everyone! My work and tech skills improved over the school year after receiving the laptop and support in the lunch sessions. I love being creative and when I get older, I want to be an artist. I am excited to continue learning about digital art on my laptop for the future.

Thank you so much again for giving to the Program and kindly supporting all of the students.





Thanks to you, Kids, Cops & Computers participants celebrate success



“Kids, Cops & Computers has made a real difference for these kids with the Program’s ongoing support and provision of a new HP laptop.”

- Cherie Zuzarte, St. Dorothy Catholic School

Thanks to your support, over 600 students in Toronto improved their computer proficiency, increased digital literacy and developed essential life skills this year through participation in *Kids, Cops & Computers*. Students celebrated their achievements at *Inspiration Games* held at the Hangar at Downsview Park on May 30th.

The day included fun games, an HP photo station, a delicious lunch from Pizza Nova, and an awards ceremony

to recognize the outstanding efforts of students, police officers, and educators in *Kids, Cops & Computers*.

MC Patricia Jaggernauth of CP24 led the celebration that included over 600 students, 38 educators, 15 officers, 12 volunteers, and 18 donors who congratulated the Grade 7 students completing their first year in the Program. Having completed the Program, students officially earned ownership of their laptops.

“Look at the kids and the officers playing together. This Program is a wonderful way for Toronto Police to build positive relationships with youth.

- Dave Rydzik, TPS Acting Superintendent

Your gifts at work helping students succeed!



Cineplex: Helping Students Bridge the Digital Divide

An Interview with Heather Briant, Senior Vice President, Human Resources



Cineplex has generously supported KCC for 5 years now. Why do you think bridging the digital divide between classes is important?

Cineplex and its employees believe in supporting local communities and charity events that benefit good causes. We are proud to support *Kids, Cops & Computers*, which

positively influences students to become stronger leaders and volunteers in the community as well as positive role models for their younger peers. The Program's focus on bridging the digital divide which addresses the societal inequality between those with and without financial means to access technology is important; every child deserves a chance to reach their potential and this includes having access to resources that help them achieve their goals.

What aspect of the Program resonates with you?

The mentoring provided by a designated Toronto Police Officer with the students is an area that resonates. *Kids, Cops & Computers* provides an opportunity for positive youth-officer engagement within a safe setting. This aspect of the Program helps to build healthy relationships while students learn key skills for their futures.



Cineplex guests enjoying dinner at Inspiration Night 2016

Before joining the Program, many students struggle with schoolwork as they do not have a properly functioning computer at home. Could you function without access to technology?

The reality is that the digital divide still exists for those living in financially reduced circumstances. As a professional, access to technology is essential in the workplace and in today's world we know that it's essential for students to access everything they need for success. Without *Kids, Cops & Computers*, many students would be left behind.

What skills can you see students acquiring in the Program that could be transferred toward a future career in the entertainment/media industry?

Having a sense of imagination, creativity, and curiosity is important for anyone working in this industry. Whether you are working in digital animation, production, or writing, it would be difficult to develop new ideas without these traits. *KCC* students have an opportunity to take hold of their creativity using their donated laptops. They can develop cool projects, explore the internet, view videos, and build a portfolio.

If you could give a piece of advice to KCC students, what would it be?

Don't give up on something you love if it becomes hard or difficult. Without hard work and perseverance, your passions won't come alive. Always take the opportunity to learn new skills like the ones you are learning in the *Kids, Cops & Computers* program. They will help guide you toward the future you want.



"I want to really thank the donors of *Kids, Cops & Computers* for giving me this opportunity to succeed. This is so generous of you and it will help so many kids, like me, do well in their lives."

- Isra Akmeh, Grade 7
Alexander Stirling Public School