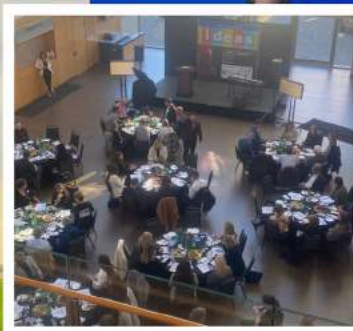


Impact Report

2022



Community Youth Council
Dare to be Youth Charity



2021/2022 – 2 years of incredible growth for DTBY

In 2020, in the heat of the COVID-19 pandemic, DTBY reimagined its mission as a movement dedicated to empowering high school students and young people in Halton, Hamilton, and beyond. This started with the launch of the Surviving to Thriving Workshop, which equips our participants with the skills to build their confidence, self-esteem, and mental well-being.

This program quickly turned into a movement, with the cascading effect bringing together young people from across the region, all around a common vision of unity and purpose. Since then, DTBY has experienced incredible growth, having impacted well over 1,000 students (14-24) from across the GTHA with our suite of high-impact programs.

Throughout this movement, we have heard time and time again from our young people, that they are worried about the future. This has only intensified in recent years due to rising costs of living, climate change, and conflict around the world.

Our young people are being challenged more now, than ever before.

What would be surprising to many though, is that one of the biggest stressors of young people in Ontario today is finances. They are worried about their financial future, are lacking the knowledge required to save or invest, and are concerned about having the financial means to support a post-secondary education.

This feedback has led to the development of DTBY's newest Financial Literacy program, 'Enhance your Finance', which focuses on financial Resilience and Wellness. Debuting in April 2023, all around the vision of helping 14-24 year olds thrive by developing resilience, life skills, and improving their overall wellness. Financial and emotional wellness go hand in hand, and despite being a vital aspect of one's overall wellness, financial wellness is not typically included in traditional programming for young people and young adults, and thus this project fills an important gap.

This is just one of the projects that DTBY will be launching in 2023, all around the vision of helping young people unlock their potential and empower them to make their mark and achieve the life they genuinely want to live. After all, we often hear that young people are the leaders of tomorrow, but in actuality, they are also the leaders of TODAY.

Your support is needed to ensure our young people are set up for financial success now and in the future.

As one Youth Inspire Community Day participant, Ellis, put it, "People often say that youth hold the key to creating a better future. Youth Inspire Community Day has taught me that not only can we create a better future, but young people also have the power to fight for a better present. Unified, we are stronger."

Unified we are stronger. This was certainly the case in 2022, as DTBY had the opportunity to partner with dozens of community partners who helped elevate DTBY's impact to a whole new level. It takes a community to build a movement, and without the support of these incredible partners, there simply would be no movement. Thank you!

Here's to 2023, to building off this incredible momentum, and to empowering the next +1,000 young people in Halton, Hamilton, and beyond!

A truly heartfelt thank you,
Shannon Tobin and Drew Simon

It takes a village

We are privileged to have the support of such a fantastic team who make our movement a success! We'd like to thank our incredible 2022 team; board, students, and volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you!



Shannon Tobin
founder & ceo



Drew Simon
director of
development



Anthony Busija
cpa / finance



Miranda Ayim
CYC group mentor



Stephanie Hall
workshop facilitator



Leena Sharma Seth
workshop facilitator



Kale Black
workshop facilitator



Amelia Lamb
workshop facilitator



Makayla Cherrett
event coordinator



Carolyn Swora
workshop facilitator



Megan Zalzal
student liaison



It takes a village



2023 Programs

Youth Inspire CommUNITY Day

The Youth Inspire Series is DTBY's signature program that consists of a series of programs, focused on the theme of UNITY, that is designed to connect youth to engage with their communities and engage in meaningful dialogue around equity and inclusion. Four hundred participants participated in the second Youth Inspire Community Day event, and we are excited to build off this success and expand the program in 2023.

Community Youth Council

The Community Youth Council (CYC) provides Youth Inspire Community Day participants with an opportunity to take on a leadership role and drive community change. In the spirit of "service-above-self", the CYC gives young leaders an opportunity to develop their leadership skills, engage with a network of like-minded peers, to make a mark in their community, and gain community service hours. Members of the Community Youth Council gets the opportunity to take part in a unique small-group professional mentoring program facilitated by 3x Olympian Miranda Ayim. Through guided mentorship seminars, Miranda helps youth develop their resilience and essential life skills and move towards thriving.

Spotlight Series

The Spotlight Series helps tell the stories of youth who are the leaders of today. It includes a series of speakers panels and podcasts facilitated by the CYC, which focus on the theme of UNITY. It gives youth the opportunity to positively impact other students by sharing their stories and lessons, and by helping engage their peers in dialogue about how to build more inclusive communities.

Financial Resilience & Wellness Program

The Financial Resilience & Wellness Program is designed to provide youth with quality educational programming to help them develop their financial resiliency skills. This program provides youth with a self-serve online program to help them develop a holistic understanding of financial literacy and how this intersects with their emotional resilience and wellness. Launching in April 2023.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Pledge

DTBY is partnering with the local community organizations supporting BIPOC youth and taking steps to implement diversity, equity, and inclusion into all aspects of our programs. We have partnered with local non-profit and equity consultant, Mending the Chasm, to support us with the development of our program curriculums, and to help launch a new program: Youth Affinity Groups, which will create a safe space for youth to engage in dialogue around equity and inclusion with their peers.

Stats at a Glance: Student Engagements

300+

Students Attended the
Youth Inspire
Community Day 2021

400+

Students Attended the
Youth Inspire Community
Day 2022

80

Students Attended the
Equity Planning
Action Workshop

60

Students Attended
the Leader
Within Program

26

Students Attended the
CYC/Peer
Mentorship Program

15

Students Attended the
Spotlight Project

55

Students Attended the
Youth Inspire Q&A
Speakers Panel Event

1000+

Students In Total
Participated In
DTBY's Programs &
Volunteer Initiatives

The Impact of Our Programs

- Students who participated in a Youth Inspire Community Day felt an average increase of 20% for the score they gave to the statement “I feel connected to my community”.
- Students who participated in a Youth Inspire Community Day felt an average increase of 19% for the score they gave to the statement “I have a strong understanding of resilience”.
- 90% of Leader Within participants developed useful tools and strategies to improve their overall wellness.
- 100% of Peer Mentors gained valuable leadership experience and felt that the program helped them step outside of their comfort zone.

Partnership Stats

- High schools represented at events – 48
- Community Organizations partnered with – 30+
- Individual donors who supported DTBY – 81
- Grant Funders who support DTBY – 6
- Corporate partners who supported DTBY – 28



Stories of Impact

"It was a wonderful experience participating in the event! I would undeniably recommend it to all youth, as inspiration from peers and successful individuals can hint at all the possibilities there are for you to absolutely excel in your own space."

– YICD Participant

"I LOVED Youth Inspire Community Day as it taught me so much about resilience and community, and how we can create a safe space within our own communities. I wish everybody could hear what the speakers had to say because I learned a lot and the whole event was very insightful!"

– YICD Participant

"DTBY has helped me grow as both an individual and a member of the community. Through its Leader Within Workshop, I am constantly inspired to create change with like-minded leaders in the community. I am looking forward to having fruitful discussions with members of the CYC and propelling the future leaders of our community."

– Leader Within Participant

"DTBY has given me a platform, a voice that I am able to utilize to advocate for youth within my community. I have met an abundance of leaders like myself who have sparked a sense of light in my life."

– CYC Member and Peer Mentor

"Youth Inspire Community Day had a big impact on how I think when overcoming obstacles. Before, I thought that it was better to leave things alone rather than to overcome difficulties. Now, I know that it's worth it to keep pushing through setbacks because it can get you to a better place than before."

– Youth Inspire Community Day Participant

"I feel inspired for the first time in a long time. I am no longer stressing over my future and career path. I am slowly letting myself accept that this is something that is interchangeable and not set in stone. It really opened my eyes to concepts that I thought I understood already."

Hearing these real-life examples from these amazing incredible people who were able to do so much and hearing their stories were just, overall life-changing."

– YICD Participant

"I'm part of DTBY because it gives me the opportunity to meet amazing people and to be a part of something that will help me grow as a person and develop skills that will help me in the future."

– Leader Within Participant

"The DTBY Youth Inspire Community Day event is one that helped me recognize that there are so many other like-minded individuals in our community who want to help create a more equitable environment for the future. The speakers were phenomenal and inspired us as audience members to take action."

– YICD Participant

Stories of Impact

"Youth Inspire Community Day showed me that I can make a difference in my school community by stepping up into leadership roles and listening to the needs of my community."

– YICD Participant

"It really inspires me to see just how many people truly care about our community and want to make positive change, and that really motivates me to make change."

– YICD Participant

"As the president of my school's student council, I feel passionate about making a difference in my school and the community surrounding; to try and help students get on the right path and bring forward important conversations that students are usually left out of. Being apart of Community day was a great and empowering experience for not only me but everyone who attended. being able to listen to the stories of important activities and motivational speakers have helped me open my eyes to better ways i can be involved with my community and with the students as well. it was a night to remember!"

– YICD Participant

I LOVED Youth Inspire Community Day as it taught me so much about resilience and community, and how we can create a safe space within our own communities. I wish everybody could hear what the speakers had to say, because I learned a lot and the whole event was very insightful!

– YICD Participant



Watch Youth Inspire CommUNITY Day speaker clips & interviews [here](#).



Community Change Partners



And thank you to our 83 individual donors, many of whom donated on a monthly basis, for their support in ensuring we can keep our programs free of cost for students.

Become a monthly donor: dtby.ca/donate-now

Community Change Partners

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MENDING the CHASM
Building Inclusive Cultures From The Inside Out

Stikeman Elliott

A message from our Board

Dear Friends and Supporters of Dare to be Youth Charity (DTBY),

As the Chair of the Board, I am delighted to present our annual impact report, highlighting the incredible work that DTBY has accomplished over the past year. Our organization's mission is to inspire young adults to make their mark and drive community change, and I am proud to say that we continue to deliver on this goal.

Thanks to your generous support and dedication, we have provided a wide range of programs and services that have positively impacted the lives of countless students and young adults. From mentorship and leadership development programs to scholarships and educational opportunities, we have worked tirelessly to create a brighter future for our youth and next generation of leaders.

I am especially pleased to report that DTBY has continued to expand its reach and impact in the community. We have forged new partnerships and collaborations, and have made significant strides in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in all our work.

Of course, none of these milestones would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our incredible DTBY Operations Team, including Shannon Tobin, Founder & CEO, Drew Simon, Director of Development and Anthony Busija, Finance Lead, along with our fantastic volunteers and business and community sponsors.

On behalf of the entire board, please accept my sincerest gratitude to each of you for your unwavering commitment to DTBY's mission.

As we look ahead to the future, we are excited to continue our work and build upon the progress that we have made. Echoing the wise words of Helen Keller:

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

With your continued support, may we create a better, brighter future for students and our young aspiring leaders of tomorrow.

With gratitude and sincere thanks,



Brittany Phillips
Chair, Board of Directors
Dare to Be Youth Charity (DTBY)



Brittany Phillips
chairperson



Carolyn Swora
past chairperson



Carolyne Rashford
board member



Christian Mukendi
board member



Karl Wulf
board member



Kyla Devereaux
board member

WE ARE
stronger
BECAUSE OF
you!
thank you



CommUNITY is a key component of thriving and wellness.

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dare to be YOU
make your mark