



SPOTLIGHT

Diversity Week - October 4-8, 2010

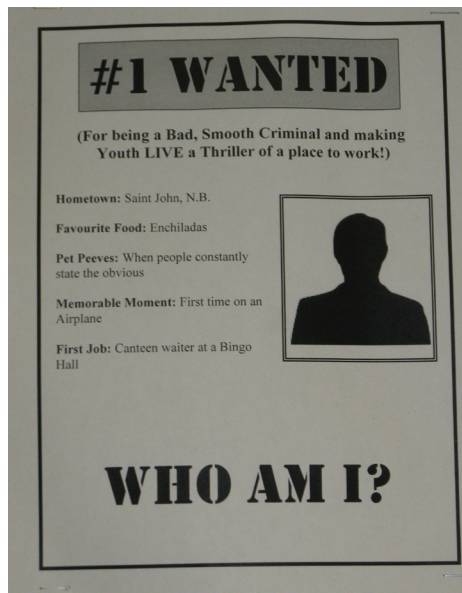
Embracing what makes each of us unique

Valuing Diversity is a core value of Youth LIVE. Respecting every individual's unique nature and recognizing the value diversity brings, not only to the work place but also our everyday lives, is one of the most important competencies we can share with our participants. So it should come as no surprise that we wanted to do something special to celebrate Diversity Week 2010.

The creative minds at Youth LIVE put on their thinking caps and came up with a contest to showcase valuing diversity Youth LIVE style. Staff members were asked to submit information about themselves that they feel makes them the unique individual they are. A wanted poster including the information and a photo silhouette (see photo to the right) was created for each staff member. The posters were numbered and displayed on a wall in the lunch room.

Participants were given four days to identify the staff member in each poster. The participant who correctly identified the most staff members would win a day off with pay. The winner of the day off would be selected by random draw in the event of a tie.

The winners were announced at a Parisian-themed diversity breakfast featuring croissants, fruit, cheese and coffee. Congratulations to Megan, winner of a day off with pay, and Zach and Taylor, who won \$15 movie passes.



(Above) Wanted poster.

(Below) Diversity Week contest participants pose in front of the wanted poster display.



CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS

Here's what our participants say about Youth LIVE:

What would you tell someone about the Youth LIVE program?

It's a good place where you can work, learn, get your head back on your shoulders and get out of the rut you are in.

Josh M.

It's a good experience and helps you out a lot - a really great confidence booster. I would say that it is an all-around good place to be.

Kevin P.

Definitely take this program; it's a learning experience.

Chris C.

Were your expectations met by being a participant in the Youth LIVE program?

Yes, more so than I expected. I have become more confident and have a better grasp on life in general. The team leaders especially have helped me a lot.

Kevin P.

I feel like it made me feel better as a person. I learned organizational skills and I learned my lesson on punctuality and attendance.

Chris C.



MISCELLANEOUS GOOD STUFF

- **New Brochure** - We are happy to have a new recruiting brochure and are eager to share it with potential participants and service providers. Kate Apestiguy, Operations Coordinator, will be doing site visits in November. Contact our recruiting line at 490-5589 if you would like an information package dropped off at your location.
- **Weekly Staff and Participant Meeting** - Staff members and participants meet every Friday morning. This weekly meeting provides a fun and casual environment for staff members and participants to celebrate the soft skill development the program offers. The meeting has a different theme each week based on Youth LIVE core values, such as Valuing Diversity or Leadership.

It's also a time for reinforcing Youth LIVE's operating principles. An operations staff member and a participant often demonstrate the safe way to carry out common tasks, for example correct hand signals for backing up a truck or the proper way to maneuver a paper collection cart through an office building.

The most popular component is the quiz/fun activity contest. The winning participant earns a prize, such as a \$5 Tim Hortons Card or a brown bag lunch. But the icing on the cake is the bi-weekly recognition draw, held every second meeting. All the recognition cards awarded to participants over a two week period are entered in a draw. The participant who's name is drawn chooses a prize from a selection of gift cards.



Staff members and participants take part in the Teamwork and Communication theme activity during a weekly meeting.



Participant John Ramey receives his program completion certificate from Program Generalist Tamara Matheson.

- **What inspires us to keep doing what we do -** During a recent intake process, an applicant gave what we believe is the best answer ever to the question "What do you know about the Youth LIVE program?" "You give a bridge to people who have burned all of theirs," was the applicant's response.

- **Reasons why our current participants were motivated to join Youth LIVE and why they've stayed with the program:**

Jonathan E. - I needed job references.

Chris S. - I needed to turn my life around. It keeps me busy and out of trouble.

Hunter W. - I needed references and to leave my rural community. It's a good way to get your foot in the door.

Glenn T. - I needed to get back into a routine, I am enjoying myself, it's fun. It's the longest commitment I have made in a long time. There is great communication here and one-on-one time when you aren't doing something well.

Taylor D. - I haven't worked in a while. I don't really communicate well because of my social anxiety. But this program is helping me interact more.

Stephen H. - I was definitely ready for a change in my life. Youth LIVE is giving me that opportunity. It's a very positive environment to be in.

Youth LIVE

490-5589 or ylrecruit@halifax.ca

www.halifax.ca/police/YouthLIVE

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