



WHAT'S NEW

• Looking For A Few Good People

First, we have to pat ourselves on the back just a bit. Our recent group of participants have been outstanding. Their success in moving on to bigger and better things has been inspiring. What a wonderful testament to the fact that *Youth LIVE* really works. We couldn't be more thrilled or proud.

Now, let's get to the point. Most wise people will tell you that life is about balance. There is a flipside to our shiny, happy people story. As much as we love to see our participants move on from *Youth LIVE* to other positive experiences, reduced participant numbers puts us in a bind. It's difficult to operate our business initiatives when we're short of participants.

So, we're looking for a few good men and women - people who are motivated to make a change in their lives. Anyone between 16 and 30, not working or going to school full time should check us out.

If one of your clients or someone you know could benefit from our program, please encourage them to apply to *Youth LIVE* by calling our recruiting number at **490-5589** or sending an email to ylrecruit@halifax.ca.

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS

The following are departing comments given by participants in their exit interviews:

How did the program aid in your personal/professional development?

It has made me more responsible. I've learned to be more self motivated. It changed my character and I know I can keep a job without getting frustrated. - Shawn J. (Oct. 2007)

I have more courage now, and have a greater rapport with customers. - Jacob K. (Jul. 2007)

It gave me a good feeling about how I am going to be able to work in other jobs. - Robert D. (Jun. 2007)

What did you like about the program?

The staff was very good to me, and the type of work was interesting as a new experience for me. I also enjoyed my fellow coworkers. - Ashley C. (Sept. 2007)

I liked the structure; everything was organized and went smoothly. - Thomas G. (Jul. 2007)

EVERYONE HAS A STORY

We could natter on about *Youth LIVE* ad nauseam but thought it would be more interesting to learn about us from the people we serve, someone who has *LIVED* the experience.

Meet Jeff Gaudet, a participant in the program for five months. Here's his story...



Imagine you are in your late twenties. Caring for a sick relative has kept you out of the work force for a number of years. Now it's time for you to get a job. You search the job ads and go on a few interviews but nothing seems to pan out. You're caught in a classic catch 22 - you want to work but you can't find a job because you don't have enough work experience. Your confidence is running low and you're starting to feel desperate. You don't know where to turn.

Jeff Gaudet was in that very situation.

"At that point, I was ready to try anything. I was running out of options," said Jeff.

Fortunately, he heard about *Youth LIVE* from his stepfather and decided to apply to the program.

"When I came for my interview at the *Youth LIVE* Enviro Depot I was a bit intimidated because it was busy and hectic. Then I looked at the staff and participants who were there getting ready to start their day. They seemed friendly and relaxed so I thought it must be a good place to work."

And for Jeff, it is. He needed an opportunity to gain practical work experience, a chance to explore career options without worrying about a pay cheque and a supportive work environment.

"People here really care. They want to help you succeed. I've worked on my resume and had coaching on job interviews," says Jeff.

A typical day for Jeff might involve serving customers in the *Youth LIVE* Enviro Depot, delivering organic green carts to HRM residents or performing remedy work on properties that are in violation of municipal legislation.

For Jeff, the opportunity to gain customer service experience has been invaluable.

"I've always been shy so I didn't think I'd be able to do a job where I had to interact with customers. I was even afraid to apply for a Call Centre position. It was a huge barrier to getting a job. But now I know I can give good customer service."

Feeling good about what he is doing is the final piece of the puzzle for Jeff. His confidence is back and as the "senior man", he is a role model and mentor for new participants.

"Five months ago I would never have believed that things could change for me so quickly. Because of *Youth LIVE*, I have the experience, skills and confidence to find a full time job."



Jeff dealing with his pet peeve - non recyclable bottle caps left on recyclable bottles.

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

- *Youth LIVE* awards participants who successfully complete the 28-week program with a \$500 bonus. If a participant leaves in their 5th month for full time employment or school we show them the money as well. **Since July, *Youth LIVE* has awarded 8 bonuses!**



Thousands of bottles waiting to be processed in our Enviro Depot.

- In the month of **September**, the Youth LIVE Residential and Commercial Enviro Depot processed **520,263 beverage containers**. If the bottles were laid end to end, the distance would equal **80 times the length of the Macdonald Bridge**.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Life Skills Modules**

Youth LIVE takes a holistic approach to helping individuals become productive members of our community. In addition to providing the opportunity to gain practical, hands-on job experience, we offer interactive life skills modules. Our Life Skills modules cover topics such as:

- Attendance and Punctuality
- Budgeting
- Communication
- Work Habits

Contact Kate at 490-4456 for more information on our Life Skills Modules.

Youth LIVE

490-5589 or ylrecruit@halifax.ca

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