

Boys 2 Men Conference

Toronto District School Board
May 3, 2016

“Thank you for your amazing work on the Boys 2 Men Conference. I am in awe at your organizational skills, flexibility and passion.”

*Stephanie Fearon
Instructional Leader
Equity and Inclusive Schools*



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Our staff and students had an amazing day at the conference! They came back to our school pumped to further promote inclusion in our school and communities. Our students especially enjoyed interacting with their peers from other boards. We would love the opportunity to further explore doing work with your organization.”

Jaz Sahdra, ESL Teacher, Irma Coulson PS, Halton District School Board

Harmony Social Changemaker

Pronunciation Ihär-mə-nē /sōSHəl/ CHänj,mäkar/ Noun An empowered youth who takes an active role in shaping their school and community by taking responsibility and ownership for creating conditions for positive social change and global citizenship.

Jaz Sahdra brought 25 students to one of Harmony Movement’s Social Changemakers conferences last year. When these students returned to their Milton school, they sprang into action! They created a breakfast club to serve all of the school’s 1,000 students and put on workshops for every student in the school focusing on the effect of negative language.

The difference our program has made is for all to see. According to Principal Merrill Mathews, “student leadership here at our school is such a reflection of all we imagine a school to be - living out our mission statement of Equity and Excellence for All.” For their social

change actions, Irma Coulson PS is receiving the 2016 Harmony Social Changemakers Award.

Thousands of youth across Ontario have accepted a call to action and have taken on the full-time permanent position of Harmony Social Changemaker, a job dedicated to creating change in their communities and the world. Membership is now open to all: social service providers, leaders, entrepreneurs, community members, and volunteers.

Will! Can! Must! Three simple words. If you have the will and desire to make a change, you can! If you have the ability to create a change, then you must because it is YOUR job to create the change you wish to see in the world. Membership is open to all – Will you? Can you? Then, you must!



Cheuk Kwan
Executive Director

2016 HARMONY AWARD

RISE Collective



Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere (RISE) is a multidisciplinary collective of artists and activists providing a welcoming and safe platform for the arts. What began as a small, intimate group of twenty Scarborough youth sharing their poetry and stories has blossomed into a city-wide movement.

Since April 2012, over 10,000 youth from across the Greater Toronto Area have come to RISE to be inspired, share love, and be among a community of other youth looking to make a change. Artists from RISE have also developed transferable skills to educate other children and youth in school and community settings.

“Harmony Movement truly changed the way I understood and looked at diversity and empowerment.”

*Danait Mehreteab, former student, Iona CSS
Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board*

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Boys 2 Men Conference, Toronto, Ontario

It was an amazing experience to witness 130 boys from the Toronto District School Board moved by the keynote address at Harmony's Social Changemakers Conference. Many were inspired and motivated to create change back at their schools. Valleyfield JS, one of the participating schools, brought Harmony's *SWOT Analysis* back for the whole school to participate in. They are using this activity to craft a collective action plan for social change in their school community.

Terry Fox PS, Ajax, Ontario

Harmony delivered a Social Changemaker conference and leadership program specially tailored to the school's intermediate students. The program inspired the submission of a *Speak Up* grant to help the school discuss issues surrounding race and religion in the 21st century. The students actively used Harmony's *Action Kit* to plan their Black History Month presentations and performances. Terry Fox PS has been focusing on building a remarkable school culture that is free of prejudice and we are proud to be a part of their journey.

Queen Elizabeth CVI and Loyalist CVI, Kingston, Ontario

Harmony worked with the Limestone District School Board on two separate occasions to facilitate in-depth conversations and impactful activities designed to create a strong student culture to prepare for the amalgamation between the two schools in September 2016. Students engaged in learning about social change, the importance of cooperation, and the role of leadership to ensure all feel welcomed and included in their new school.

Holy Name of Mary CSS, Brampton, Ontario

Since 2009, Harmony has delivered eight specialized diversity leadership programs on such topics as environmental justice, social activism, and "Equity through Photography". We have seen the school's commitment to producing strong social leaders for their community and are excited to continue our amazing relationship with them; and to watch their continual passion for social justice.

"It helps send a message to our students and communities that we are a board that values equity and inclusion and a board working to create spaces where all students belong."

Lori Taylor, Upper Canada District School Board, on receiving the Harmony Leadership in Education Award

"This award has been a validation that I did do the right thing and the time and energy was well spent, and it's such a great representation of everyone's effort."

Debbie Barbon, Grand Erie District School Board, on receiving the Harmony Educator Award

FRENCH LANGUAGE RESOURCES AND TRAINING

Since 2013, Harmony Movement has been supporting Ontario's *Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy* by providing French language resources to facilitate the integration of equity education into the province's French language school boards. All twelve Ontario French boards now have access to Harmony's educators' equity workbook *Manuel pédagogique sur l'équité*, as well as the e-learning module *Atelier pédagogique en EEI*.

This year, Harmony developed the facilitator guide, *Guide de formation*, to complement the e-learning module to enable board administrators in facilitating professional development on equity and inclusion with staff at the local level. We facilitated principals' workshops with the Catholic boards of Providence and Centre-Sud to provide learning on equity and inclusion as a framework in preparation for educators' professional development.



LEADERSHIP IN EQUITY AND SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAM (LEAP)

This year saw the completion of our four-year LEAP project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Harmony provided impactful diversity programming in Halton and Peel regions and helped inspire over 800 youth to view themselves as “social changemakers”.

Additionally, we trained over 240 educators and service providers in such agencies as the Milton Community Resource Centre and the Associated Youth Services of Peel, as well as more than 100 parents and caregivers, supporting transformative practices that positively impact their schools and communities.



EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Lori Taylor - A Match Made in Heaven

Harmony's partnership with the Upper Canada District School Board began in 2013 with student and educator training in Brockville, Ontario. With the dedication and support of Lori Taylor, then Peer Leadership and Student Success teacher, our collaboration ignited students' eagerness and passion for equity, encapsulated by last year's successful social media campaign #seemyvoice. The campaign is a platform for students, staff and families to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas about equity and inclusion in their schools and communities.

Brandie Lancione - Partners in Pink

For the last four years, District School Board of Niagara has partnered with Harmony to host their annual Pink Shirt Day / Positive Spaces student conferences. Working closely with Brandie Lancione, the board's former equity lead, we designed curriculum to support a greater awareness of LGBTQ issues; highlighted the need for accessible and safe spaces for all; and addressed biased perceptions that pose barriers to student success and wellbeing, culminating annually in a sea of pink.

Sylvie Gardner - A Nine Year Journey

Since 2007, Harmony has maintained strong ties to the Durham community at Dunbarton HS in Pickering, Ontario, delivering diversity programs and bringing awareness of equity issues to over 2,000 of its students. Dunbarton's commitment to social change and creating young leaders has been astonishing, thanks to Sylvie Gardner, a science teacher, who each year dedicated her time and effort to bring her students together for this incredible journey.

Josie Halycz - Mentoring Mentors

Halton Catholic District School Board Vice-Principal Josie Halycz's commitment to supporting student success through peer mentorship provided a perfect opportunity for a partnership with Harmony over the past three years at Corpus Christi CSS in Burlington, Ontario. Through a two-day Social Changemakers Leadership Program at Camp Brebeuf, we trained student mentors to deliver equity and inclusion training to their peers, with a particular focus on incoming grade 9 students.

"I can pinpoint specific moments in the workshop in 2008 where my perspective on life changed for the better."

*Alyssa Salamat, former student
Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy
York Catholic District School Board*

"Harmony resources contain case studies that are sophisticated, succinct and grounded in the social reality of teaching and learning."

*Hiren Mistry
Instructional Coordinator
Equity & Inclusive Education
Peel District School Board*

WORKPLACE INCLUSION TRAINING

“This is the most outstanding learning experience in my twenty-five years career.”

*Diane Chabot, CEO
Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries*

“Harmony facilitators were well-trained adult educators, working with us every step of the way to tailor the training to the needs of the organization and the wide variety of staff members being trained.”

*Cherie Miller, Director, Community Health
Regent Park Community Health Centre*

“I really enjoyed every single minute of your workshop. I hope that you will reach every city/town/village in Ontario and create a wonderful change on all levels.”

Georgina, OSSTF District 24

Building on past success, Harmony Movement continues to respond to the growing need for equity education by expanding its programs to support organizations at various stages of realizing their diversity and inclusion goals. Our customized training and consulting have helped organizations build capacity in inclusive service delivery, develop and implement inclusive organizational practices, and promote leadership that champions change.

Last year we were delighted to partner with such organizations as Regent Park Community Health Centre, Mount Pleasant Group, Youthlink, and LOFT Community Services to provide extensive training to all levels of the organization, from the person greeting you at the reception desk to the CEO.

MEET OUR NEW STAFF

Punita Bhardwaj

Punita has over fourteen years of experience teaching diverse learners, developing educational programs, and implementing development projects for the educational, NGO and not-for-profit sectors. Her work has taken her to Palestine, Mexico and across Ontario where she often worked with marginalized populations. Punita holds a Bachelor in Environmental Studies from York University, a B.Ed. from the University of Ottawa and an M.A. in Curriculum Studies from McGill University.

Ilaneet Goren

A social worker and an educator, Ilaneet brings more than fifteen years of experience working in the not-for-profit sector from a social justice and equity lens. Her experience ranges from trauma-informed mental health counselling to managing inclusive organizational projects in the disability sector. Ilaneet received her master's degree in Social Work and Community Development from the University of Toronto, and is a certified Life Skills coach.

Nira Lall

Nira received her B.A. and M.A. in Political Science with an emphasis on race, gender and immigration from York University. She brings over a decade of experience working in the not-for-profit sector with diverse populations both in Canada and internationally. As a believer in ongoing learning and education, Nira is also a life coach and brings expertise in a variety of additional arenas including marketing, business analysis, and operations.

2015 HARMONY AWARDS GALA



PARTNERS IN HARMONY

