

Celebrating 26 Years

2015 Fall/Winter Newsletter



Communicating through Puppetry

THE CONCERNED KIDS CELEBRATING 26 YEARS

Educating Through Puppetry

The Concerned Kids Charity of Toronto

We exceeded all our expectations at our inaugural "Chair"-ish the Kids Mix & Mingle Fundraiser Thursday, September 17th. The event was a resounding success with some 200 guests in attendance that generated well over \$25,000 for The Concerned Kids. We have already set a goal for next year of \$30,000. I wanted to share some comments from two of our board members:

Mark Albert (15 year board member) - "In the history of TCK, never have we had this success, this exposure and this much sparkle and fire."
Richie Borins, (Chairman) - "Wow indeed! What a great event. Some of my friends and family are pretty tough critics and they all raved about the evening. The financial outcome is just amazing!"

These exciting financial results would not have been possible



if it were not for our wonderful Live and Silent Auction Donors.

However a special mention is warranted to **The Miller Tavern North** and its very generous proprietor, **Rick Montgomery**, who open his doors by donating the venue and the fabulous food and libations. We must not forget our fabulous volunteers plus the wonderful staff at The Miller Tavern that handled the registration area, the auction area and ensured that there was ample food and drink for all.

Event Volunteers

Jesse Vuksanovich
Sabrina Imineo
Randhir Dhillon
Carole Browne
Lenore Farrell
Frank Rinaldo
Barry Schimmons
Nick Kubicek
Umar Butt
Brad Teichberg
Rebecca Ananda
Pancheta Barnett
Max Borins
Tessa McCarthy

Miller Tavern Staff

Heidi Milford
Phil
Kayla
Devon
Sarah
Alex
Alannah

New Program Material & Puppeteers

With the training of puppeteers well underway on our New Program Material on Topics of "Mental Health", encompassing subject matter on Depression, Self Esteem, Anger Management; "Making the Right Choices" - Substances Abuse (prescription drugs, street drugs, alcohol & tobacco awareness); Peer Pressure



and Bullying & School Safety, we are confident that our interactive puppet presentations will better equip students to recognize and dispel the stigma of mental health issues; be able to say no to peer pressure, drugs & alcohol; and to acknowledge that being a bully is not okay.

We have started accepting bookings & had our very first performances at St. Martha Catholic School on October 22nd. Schools are pleased with our new program format of age appropriate targeted presentations, allowing The Concerned Kids to perform more than one show in a single day at each designated school, providing for better interactive time between puppets and students due to smaller

student audiences. In addition, The Concerned Kids has incorporated a Junior/Senior Kindergarten Program which is more in keeping with this young age group "**Having Good Manners on the Playground.**" Possessing good problem-solving skills, not only allows the students to do better in school, but using these skills will help them with their journey through life. It is the goal of The Concerned Kids, with its educational performances, to prevent problems before they happen.

Welcome to the Newest Puppeteer Members

Michael Glidewell
John C J Murphy
Anna Burkholder

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Making New Waves

Being a Hero at Your School

Michelle is a recent graduate from **Regal Road Public School** in Toronto where The Concerned Kids performed at the end of the school year in 2015, and she is also the founder of the "Be You: Anti Bullying Club". She is the embodiment of what School Heroes Unite aims to foster in students.

she wasn't the only student being bullied, and that's when she decided to create the "Be You: Anti Bullying Club". In March of this year I had the privilege of giving a special School Heroes Unite presentation at Michelle's school, and helped reveal that she was to be given a special award through the TDSB.



Caitlin & Victoria

Michelle was bullied in grades 4 and 5, but rather than be the victim of her circumstances, she chose to be a hero. She realized

Two of Michelle's predecessors, **Caitlin & Victoria** have continued to carry the torch at Regal Road Public School and **raised more than \$100**



Michelle Lewis

to have The Concerned Kids perform at their school. Michelle is a great example of what's possible, but I believe that all students have the potential to

be heroes for one another. They simply need a plan of action, and the commitment as a school to take these small actions every day. When an entire school makes this commitment, as they do with School Heroes Unite, and the staff supports and encourages the students, truly magical and healing results can occur.

We Have Moved & Our Newest Board Member



Douglas Hurst & Tinda Holland

The Concerned Kids and its 60+ puppets have found a **new home at Dundas & Bloor**. The much larger premises allow ongoing puppeteer training, rehearsals and ample storage for its family of puppets, props & back drops.

OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

Randhir Dhillon has been engaged in a 15 year Financial Services career holding various roles within Client Services, Operations and Technology at Mackenzie Financial, International Financial Services. She is currently employed at TD Canada Trust as a Senior Project Manager. One of her passions has been giving back to her community for a number of Non-for-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, SickKids, and United Way, as well as assuming the Chair position of the Parent Council and Manager for (2) Minor Girls Hockey teams. Her most import job has been raising her son who is now 20 years old.

BOARD MEMBERS

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Partner, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP

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Celebrated Canadian Author



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educating children through the
uniquely engaging art of puppetry

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.theconcernedkids.com
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www.facebook.com/concernedkids

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“Chair”-ish The Kids Mix & Mingle Live & Silent Auction Donors



GET INVOLVED

Become a Puppeteer. Receive professional style training in the art of Bunraku Puppetry. Help to educate young people about some of the most important social issues and challenges facing our youth today.

Visit our website www.theconcernedkids.com for more details.



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE
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AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/concernedkids

We Need Your Support

Your generosity not only brings smiles to the faces of our young audiences, but helps to bring awareness of the subject matter being presented and empowers students to take positive action. When they raise their hands to ask questions of our puppets...sometimes they forget their question...but sometimes they come back with a most powerful comment...their enthusiasm for the performance, however, is always obvious.

Your investment allows *The Concerned Kids* to present its socially relevant program material in a factual, unbiased, entertaining, non-threatening, child-centered way that helps to build problem solving abilities, learn alternatives to bad or unsafe behavior (right from wrong), and teach children to act with kindness, respect and how to make their communities a safer place to live, learn and play. These children are influenced by our puppet performances and will continue to be so for years to come.

The Concerned Kids is an important, worthwhile charitable organization and it needs your continued commitment and support. It is hard to say "thank you" and "please" sometimes in the same breath, however your donation dollars provide a sustainable foundation and allows *The Concerned Kids* to fulfill its mandate.

Thank you for being concerned!



Meet Mark Riley

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Yes! I want to help The Concerned Kids reach more of the community's children with its programming.

- I would like to Sponsor a Performance
- I would like to receive the next TCK Newsletter via email at the email address below
- I would like to be a **MONTHLY DONOR** \$20 _____ \$30 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____
- Please accept my donation of \$_____ (cheques made payable to The Concerned Kids)
A charitable tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.
- You can also make your donation online at: www.theconcernedkids.com and click on **DONATE NOW!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: The Concerned Kids Charity of Toronto
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(416) 636-1656 ext. #1

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