

**Dorset Park  
Neighborhood  
Association**

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Winter 2016 ISSUE 19

# DORSET PARK

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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### ACSA Food Bank

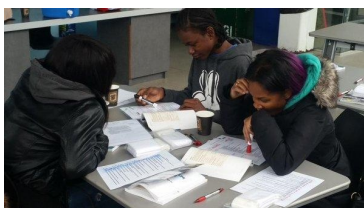
The ACSA food bank continues to serve client families in its catchment area of north-west Scarborough: M1T, M1S, M1P, M1R, M1H, M1W, and M1V. The ACSA food bank operates by appointments. Please call 647-723-9238 on Tuesday between 9am to 5pm to book an appointment. Appointments are taken all day and calls are answered in sequence. Please be patient when you call as there is a high demand for appointments. Intake will be completed at your first appointment. Those in need who live on the edge of the catchment area in North York (M2J) can contact the North York Harvest food bank directly at 416-635-7771. Those in need in other parts of Scarborough and Toronto can call Daily Bread Food Bank at 416-203-0050 to be referred to a food bank in their area. The ACSA food bank has provided food assistance to Syrian refugees over the last month and in partnership with the ACSA Newcomers Centre has informed the families of where they can access a food program in the future – at the hub or in the area they are moving to. Thank you to the many community donors who support our food bank as we try to meet the needs of hungry members of our community and also to link those community members to other services provided by ACSA and our partner agencies

*Thanks to Christine Markwell*

### First Aid and CPR Training

In November ,15 young people from both Canlish and Glamorgan communities were trained in first Aid/CPR. The training took place at McGregor Park Community Centre, with support from the City of Toronto's Crisis Response program and collaboration with Rosalie Hall.

*Thanks to Michael Kissi*



## Dorset Park Community Hub and Girls Group

Dorset park community hub is excited to re launch the Friday Girl's program starting Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup>. "With my girls" is youth led leadership program for girls ages 14-18 and will be offered every Friday from 4-7pm. The program will include a variety of different activities that focus on leadership development and on having fun.

The Dorset Park Community Hub continues to offer a variety of programs and services ranging from employment services to yoga classes to computer training , newcomer and settlement services. We are located at 1911 Kennedy Road, Unit 105 and are open from 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Please stop by or call 416-292-6912 for more information.

*Thanks to Laura Harper*

## CNIB

At Dorset Park Hub adaptive devices are available for people living with vision loss. These devices include a tabletop magnifier known as a CCTV (Closed Circuit Television), a computer with Zoomtext Magnifier Reader program, and DAISY players. DAISY stands for Digital Accessible Information System, a digital talking book format that offers many advantages over traditional audio books on a traditional audio CD.

For further information on these devices and how to access them please contact Roxanne Hazell-Blackman at 647 849-1540.

*Thanks to Roxanne Hazell-Blackman*

**acsa** AGINCOURT COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION  
NEWCOMERS' CENTRE  
1911 Kennedy Road, Unit 105, Scarborough, ON M1P 2L9 • Tel: 416-292-6912 • Fax: 416-292-6913

ACSA-Newcomers' Centre provides services to newcomers in Toronto to assist them in their settlement and integration process. Established in 2010, the Newcomers' Centre has served thousands of newcomers to assist them in their wide array of needs such as finding opportunities for employment, upgrading of skills, addressing immigration & citizenship problems, navigating the government system, and ensuring a successful settlement process for all newcomers.



**Backpacks with School Supplies  
for Syrian Kids**



To register, please call **(416) 292-6912 ext. 3**

E-mail: [newcomers@agincourtcommunityservices.com](mailto:newcomers@agincourtcommunityservices.com)

Eligibility: Syrian families who are Permanent Residents and Convention Refugees

We also provide a Welcome Package with Gift card to the newly arrived Syrian families

Visit us at: [www.agincourtcommunityservices.com](http://www.agincourtcommunityservices.com)

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## FAMILY FUN DAY!!

(REGISTRATION ONLY)\*

**WHEN:**

**Saturday, February 13 from 11am – 2:00pm**

**WHERE:**

**Dorset Park Community Hub**

**1911 Kennedy Road,**

**Unit 105 Scarborough**

**To Register and for Further information please call**

**(416) 292-6912 Ext. 3**

**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

Family Photo Booth

Games and Activities

Art and Crafts for kids

Henna tattoo

Prizes

Pizza Lunch



**\*Permanent Residents, Live-In Caregivers, and Convention refugees are invited**

Permanent Residents, Live-In Caregivers & Convention Refugees/Protected Persons are **ELIGIBLE** to get **FREE TTC TOKENS** for this event upon presentation of their Permanent Resident Card or other immigration documents

Visit us at: [www.agincourtcommunityservices.com](http://www.agincourtcommunityservices.com)

## Food Advocacy

The Community Food Advocacy Project is focused on working with those who access the food bank and is about empowering them by providing them with the education/information that they can use to advocate for themselves and each other. Over the first few workshops we cover topics such as income security, housing, employment, poverty reduction, minimum wage etc., and then work with them on taking action, such as, setting up information tables to raise awareness on housing issues to the service users who walk into the Hub. We invite speakers who are experts in some of the topics that are part of our workshops. The workshops sessions are happening 2 to 3 times a year for 12 weeks each time. To know more about the project, contact Jasmeet Sadana, the Community Food Advocacy Coordinator at [sjasmeet@agincourtcommunityservices.com](mailto:sjasmeet@agincourtcommunityservices.com) or 416-292-6912 ext. 300.

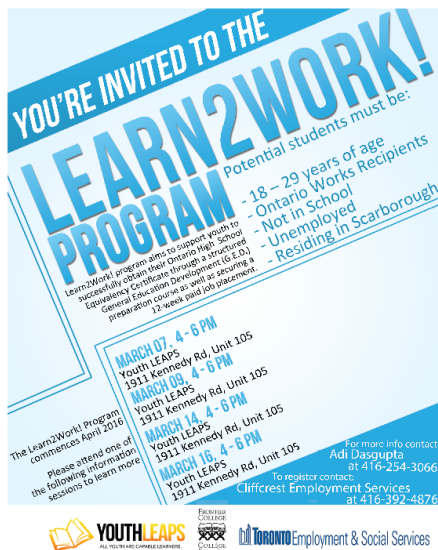
*Thank to Jasmeet Sadana*

## Essentials Skills Upgrading– Toronto District School Board

Are you an adult interested in improving your reading, writing, math and computer skills?

An assessor from the Essential Skills Upgrading program with the TDSB will be at the Dorset Hub for drop in ,information, and registration regarding adult non-credit upgrading on the second Thursday morning of each month 10 a.m. – 12p.m. (upcoming dates are Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>.) Please register with staff at the front desk.

*Thanks to Hellen Pantis-Tassis*



**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE LEARN2WORK! PROGRAM**

Potential students must be:

- 18 – 29 years of age
- Ontario Works Recipients
- Not in School
- Unemployed
- Residing in Scarborough

Learn2Work! program aims to support youth to successfully obtain their Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate through a structured preparation course as well as securing a 12-week paid job placement.

**MARCH 07, 4 - 6 PM**  
Youth LEAPS  
1911 Kennedy Rd. Unit 105

**MARCH 09, 4 - 6 PM**  
Youth LEAPS  
1911 Kennedy Rd. Unit 105

**MARCH 14, 4 - 6 PM**  
Youth LEAPS  
1911 Kennedy Rd. Unit 105

**MARCH 16, 4 - 6 PM**  
Youth LEAPS  
1911 Kennedy Rd. Unit 105

The Learn2Work! Program commences April 2016. Please attend one of the following information sessions to learn more!

For more info contact:  
Adi Dasgupta at 416-254-3066  
To register contact:  
Cliffcrest Employment Services at 416-392-4876

**YOUTH LEAPS**  
ALL YOUTH ARE CAPABLE LEARNERS

**Toronto Employment & Social Services**



**WITH MY GIRLS**

**ENCOURAGE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER**

**FREE PROGRAM FOR GIRLS AGED 14-18!**

**BEGINS FRIDAY JANUARY 22ND 2015**

**4:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

**Dorset Park Community Hub**

**With My Girls**  
Woman Helping Woman Reconnect With SELF, PASSION, and PURPOSE

Join us weekly every Fridays at the Dorset Park Community Hub (1911 Kennedy Road, Unit 105) for our empowerment girl's group. We offer a space dedicated to helping young girls develop interpersonal skills such as cooking, and group organization. We seek to inspire girls through motivational talks, career goal workshops, opportunities, movie nights, trips, event planning, and much more!

For more info please contact Waghna Anwarzi at [withmygirls.acsa@gmail.com](mailto:withmygirls.acsa@gmail.com)

**acsa**  
AGINCOURT COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION



**HOW TO BECOME A COMMUNITY FOOD ACTIVIST?**

Topics Include:  
Food Access, Income Security, Minimum Wage, Housing/Tenants' Rights, Poverty Reduction, Democracy Talks, Civic Action

**WHERE:** Dorset Park Hub, 1911 Kennedy Road, Unit 105

**WHEN:** Fridays 10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Feb. 26 - May 20, 2016

**Join Us for Information, Tips & Support!**  
*\*Childcare available upon request*

To register or for more information, contact Jasmeet Sadana at 416-292-6912, ext 300

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inform support educate advocate empower

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## Thai Pongal (Tamil New Year)

English Circle for women senior Sarojini devi Balachandran did a speech about thaipongal. It's a Hindu thanks giving day. At Dorset park hub we celebrate a pongal event on 22nd January 2016 6-8 pm.

I am Sarojinidevy, I am a Sri Lankan Tamil. I have been in Canada for nearly 10 years. I would like to give you a brief speech about our traditional festival known as "Thai Pongal". People of different faiths, races, ethnicities and cultures have different traditional or religious festivals, likewise, Tamils from communities across the world, especially in Tamil Nadu in India and in Sri Lanka celebrate "Thai Pongal". Thai Pongal is a traditional cultural and religious festival.

It is a farmer's festival, but each and every Tamil, whether he or she lives in cities or towns, nada or anywhere else in the world is pleased to celebrate Thai Pongal, everyone thinks they should be thankful to the sun which they worshiped as one of the gods, and also they are thankful to the cattle, cow and bull which have been helpful since human civilization began. In addition, Tamils want to maintain their identification by practicing their tradition and culture.

Thai Pongal day always falls on the 14th or 15th of January every year "Thai" means January in Tamil, Pongal means cooking milk rice or boiling over milk from a pot which is made out of clay. Still most of the people prefer clay pots.

On the Thai Pongal day people wake up before the sun rise. After having their bath they go to the temple and worship. At their home clay pot. Beside the hearth they make an altar, on which they work out beautiful designs artistically. In the alter they make the offering. After the sun gets rise, as an offering they serve cooked rice with fruits on Plantain leaves, in addition to bettle leaves, arecanut and coconut. After lighting our traditional oil lamp, members of the household worship the Sun God, Singing religious song, burning camphor and incense sticks, they then share the cooked milk rice with household members and guests.

The following day of Thai Pongal is important to the farmers because they want to show gratitude to cow and bull by celebrating this day as "Maatu Pongal". On that day they adorn the cow and bull, and worship them. As same as Thai Pongal they boil the milk rice in the farm yard and dedicate it to them piously. Every farmer thinks these animals are their life and soul and their right hands on the farm. All the Tamils look forward to this happiest day. After the festival, they harvest the rice paddy crops.

*Thanks to Sarojini Devi Balachandran*



## Community Development in Child Welfare

The Community Development and Prevention Program (CDPP) was launched in 1968 at the Children's Aid Society of Toronto, to address the prevention aspect of our work. The program is comprised of 4 Community Development workers, and one Supervisor.

The strength of our Community Development program is its ability to share our expertise, skills, resources and facilitation capacity with community partners. Our Advocacy Policy, which is imbedded in the Agency's strategic priorities includes initiatives directed at: affordable housing, poverty reduction, Out of School-time programs for children in "middle childhood", an active and resourceful Out & Proud program that provides support to LGBTIQ youth and their families involved with our agency and work with communities and partners to improve services within diverse communities including: African Canadian, Caribbean Canadian, and Muslim communities across the city.

As a Community Development Worker, working in Scarborough, I have provided my support to community-led initiatives in Dorset Park including:

Joining with Dorset Park residents and community partners to advocate for increased City funds to support the Emerging Neighborhood strategic plan and

Helping transition the NAP (Neighborhood Action Partnership) from a "Priority neighborhood" to wards an "Emerging Neighborhood" status.

Assisting with the multiyear Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to support Youth Engagement Initiatives in Dorset Park

Securing Community Initiative Funds from the Children's Aid Foundation for youth and community training, and to programs in other communities including Mornelle Court Coalition, regarding free summer children's programming.

In the spring of 2015, the CAS of Toronto produced a video entitled "Advocacy Matters", in which Malsan Gananendran and Abeer Ali, key leaders in the Dorset Park community were featured in the video. To view that video, visit the CAS of Toronto website at [www.torontocas.ca](http://www.torontocas.ca).

We look forward to continuing our work together to help ***prevent circumstances that require the protection of children.***

*Thank s to Molly Barnes, Community Development Worker, Children's Aid Society of Toronto*

## Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association

### Vision:

We dream of a safe Dorset Park where people know their neighbours, take pride over their community and are able to access programming.

### Priority Areas:

1. Safety
2. Program/Services

3. Food Security/Community Garden

4. Employment

5. Communications

If you would like to get involved please call 416-292-6912 ext 315

**[www.DorsetPark.com](http://www.DorsetPark.com)**

***Call for Submissions***

Everything about the Community



The Dorset Park Community Newsletter is calling for submissions focusing on safety, programming, food security/gardening, programs, employment and or other topics of interest to the Dorset Park community. Please email your submission to

[gmlsan@agincourtcommunityservices.com](mailto:gmlsan@agincourtcommunityservices.com)

416-292-6912 ext 316



*Supported by*

