



Turning pain into purpose.

Members of the Executive Committee,

Think Twice as an organization firmly stands behind the decision to expand the CityServe program into the summer. The overall program that has run up until now has been an amazing addition to the community. Through the program participants who have experienced trauma, grief and violence within their communities have been able to turn their pain into purpose and assist those in need within their own communities. At the start of the program CityServe participants were more hesitant to speak out and utilize their own voice to address community issues, but as the weeks progressed immense improvements were achieved. Through workshops and community engagement within correctional facilities, schools and the community as a whole the confidence of each CityServe participant increased daily.

One of the main goals of Think Twice as an organization is to help individuals turn their pain into purpose. Through programs such as the Kings to Kings/Kweens to Kweens (K2K) project Think Twice has been able to accomplish this. The project has allowed the organization to facilitate positive workshops that address resiliency and mental health within federal correctional facilities, high schools and middle schools. The CityServe participants have been positive additions to the K2K project by assisting with organization outreach and recreational programming within the community as well. The participants have also been trained to develop their own workshops that reflect organizational goals and positive outcomes. Workshop subject matter has included mental health, resiliency, conflict resolution, bullying, social media and much more.

Lastly, one the most beneficial aspects of the CityServe program has been the educational piece. Participants have been able to attend workshops, training courses and sessions that cover employment, continued education, leadership and mental health. Participants have also spoken about how the CityServe program has been more beneficial and engaging than their past school experiences. The program has given young individuals incredible opportunities that they would not have otherwise been exposed to. The program has been an exceptional response to youth unemployment within the city and an extension is very much needed to address the issue of unemployment that has affected so many young individuals. This program has given participants transferable skills that will assist them well into the future. We are also thankful to have the support of the City of Toronto throughout this whole process, they have been extremely helpful. Our hope is that this partnership and program can continue due to the tremendous results we have witnessed throughout this entire process.



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Sincerely,

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