

# YOUTH EMPOWERING PARENTS: PROGRAM INFORMATION

## What is the YEP Program?

- A YEP program consists of volunteer youth providing one-on-one teaching to their parents, or other adults/seniors from their community.
- Where required, youth and adults/seniors are paired on the basis of shared language.
- Imagine, for example, a 14-year old Somali youth teaching a 45-year old Somali adult how to write an email, find directions using Google Maps, create a Word document, or find key information on the internet.



## Program Objective

- The goals of the YEP program are to
  - 1) enable any youth to take on a leadership role by teaching skills they may already know; and
  - 2) build healthy intergenerational relationships; and
  - 3) support adults in need.



## Program Structure

- YEP programs operate at community centres and schools, after-school and/or on weekends. They typically take place once per week, 90 minutes per session.
- Youth volunteers are typically aged 12-18.
- Prior to the program starting, youth are trained how to become effective tutors.
- Youth follow the YEP curriculum, which features easy to use diagrams and pictures, to teach various skills.
- Lessons include: Typing Skills, Internet Skills (internet searching, E-mail, YouTube, social media), Microsoft Office, and more. Click here to see a [sample](#).
- A program facilitator monitors each interaction and supports participants where required.
- Certificates are awarded upon successful completion. As well, youth receive a small honourarium (usually around \$25) at the end of the program.

## Benefits of the Youth Empowering Parents program

### For young people:

- For those in high-school, YEP is a convenient and exciting way to complete some of their 40-hours of community service.
- This is a meaningful volunteer experience – teaching skills to adults/seniors, rather than other mundane volunteer opportunities (e.g. photocopying papers, posting flyers in the area).

*"It was exciting to help an adult on their journey into the Internet and witness their genuine enthusiasm for something that was part of my everyday life. She was especially excited by Google Translate, knowing that she could now read the Toronto Star and follow the local news."*  
[Komahan, Youth Tutor, Rexdale neighbourhood]



### For adults/seniors:



- Language barriers may prevent some adults/seniors from attending other computer training programs. This pairs them with their child or someone of the same language.
- They receive free one-on-one tutoring, allowing them to focus on what they need to learn and to practice at their own pace.

*"I didn't think [youth] could teach so well, but when you think about it, they use computers every day so it makes sense that they would be great teachers. And, because it's one-on-one, I can focus my learning on what I need the most."* [Valarie, Adult Tutee, Regent Park neighbourhood]

### For community agencies:

- YEP is a unique program to offer to existing clients, and potentially new ones.
- Youth are encouraged to bring their parents to your facility, and vice versa.

*"It's been a great way to build micro-leadership skills in our youth. The one's we'd never expect are the one's who are seizing the opportunity to be a teacher for an adult in need."* – [Grant Recipient, For Youth Initiative]

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