

## Tuesday, Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 @ 6:30pm – Meeting with Working group

- Attendance: Margaret, Sorabhi, Chris, Shabana's son, Benjamin & wife?, Sofia, Alex, Janet, Bridget, Suad, Ali, Amina, Fauzia, (Another Indian lady?), Shabana, Ahua, Isha, Shalini, Another Somalian lady?
- Currently at 480 pledges
- Margaret and Sorabhi practiced their presentation that they will be making to the AWG on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Below are some suggestions that the group gave:
  - Mention that other elementary schools can benefit
  - Emphasize that all Jarvis students are going to benefit
  - Opening the pool will:
    - Help teach children skills earlier
    - Job opportunities in life saving
    - Motivates students to join swim classes
    - Swim club which is non-competitive
  - Media results who that St. James Town has low physical activity and education skills
- Outdoor Pools were originally operated by the YMCA but the community suffered when the Y decided to pull out. With the structure that we're setting up of permits, keeping the Jarvis pool open will be more sustainable, and is not dependent on a single organization.
- Why was there success with this project?
  - There was a proper channel to voice community concerns
  - Healthy coalition was created: Jarvis students, parent council, High school principal, AWG, Politicians, community members, community agencies
  - Learnt that in unity there is strength
  - When we take action towards something it leads to outcomes
  - Learned that community matters
  - We need to learn how to work the way the community works (community culture)
    - Forms need to be more accessible
    - Need to be careful with language, taking into account experience of residents – may not know what Aquafit is, we could have worded the questions differently
    - This is about literacy
  - Through our meetings we are starting to know each other and our strengths and what different people can give
  - Working together provides people opportunities to show their talents
  - It worked because everybody was committed
  - We need to pick things that are achievable to build our capacity, learn then move forward
- Next steps:
  - Book some training space in the warehouse for advocacy training
    - How do you do political systems
    - Commitment of 6 hours/months
    - Projects

- Access to training at the Wellesley centre, when the city first built the centre they asked the community for support, but now they aren't supporting the community with providing space
  - TDSB space for programs, other space exploring the philipino community centre, food handling courses on Fridays
  - Crosswalk
- The community is enthusiastic about working towards changing policy for the benefit of the community.
- In priority schools TDSB (?) has provided \$35 000 to cover permits. Queen Alexandra is one of these schools. Is Jarvis or Rose Avenue one of these schools?
- We need to include more youth in these initiatives (St. James Town Youth Initiative...)
- Agreement that we will continue our Advocacy meetings on Tuesdays at 6:30pm