

Leave Out Violence



Annual Report 2007/08





## LOVE NOW, THEN, AND ALWAYS

LOVE youth work to break the cycle of violence in their lives and in our communities. In most cases, it's been a tough road, for each of them has been exposed to violence – as a perpetrator, victim or bystander.

The process typically goes like this. A young person – often between 13 and 18 - is introduced to LOVE in their region. There, their plight is acknowledged. Along with other youth, they are listened to and coached by professionals, and given the opportunity to develop skills in communication through writing, photography, and an assortment of mixed media.

Guided by skilled youth workers and media specialists, our youth develop that crucial feeling of self worth. This new confidence makes it possible for them to take the next step and train as LOVE Youth Leaders, going back into their communities and helping young people in primary and high schools break the cycle of violence in their own lives.

LOVE, as you probably know, was the brainchild of Twinkle Rudberg. Through personal tragedy, she decided something needed to be done for youth who, as perpetrators of violence, are usually the victims of violence themselves. With the vision and commitment of her co-founders, Stan Chase, Brenda Proulx, and Harry Hopmeyer, programs were developed, funds raised and off they went in 1993.

From Montreal, LOVE quickly spread to Toronto and, with a Millenium Grant, LOVE opened branches in Halifax and Vancouver. By 2005 an office was opened in Manhattan. In 2008, LOVE programs were incorporated into the groundbreaking City Without Violence Strategy in Eilat, Israel.

As LOVE grows, we are able to relieve the pain of the growing number of youth caught in the trap of violence. At the same time, the ripple effect of our ever-extending reach helps the youth to help thousands of others in easing violence in our communities. In the year ended March 31, 2008, LOVE directly served 779 Canadian youth, who in turn reached out to help 30,178 youth in their communities.

Thank you dedicated staff, volunteers, and donors for making a difference – for supporting LOVE youth in their efforts to find their way and to break the cycle of violence that affects everyone. We've come a long way. Lots more to do.

Donald G. Baker  
President, National Chairman of the Board  
Leave Out Violence "LOVE"

# MediaArtsProgram\*

it's where the magic begins

Across Canada, LOVE's Media Arts Program (MAP)\* continues to be the cornerstone of our programming. Through media education LOVE supports young people who will lead the movement against violence. Video and broadcasting workshops have been added to those given in writing and photography to assist the youth in developing the confidence and skills to constructively and creatively voice their views on issues of youth violence.

features address a wide range of topics and reflect the youth's personal views not only on issues relating to violence, but also on the positive and beautiful side of their community. These topics were also the focus of LOVE Ontario's ongoing MAP Program at Ryerson.

The group dynamic within LOVE Nova Scotia's Media Arts Program reflects our National mandate for "youth educating youth,"

This year, regular LOVE BC programs held at Langara College were complemented by numerous guest speakers, such as professional photographers whose work focused on areas such as Downtown Eastside in Vancouver as well as the Gaza strip. The youth also had the opportunity to listen to a special talk given by hip hop emcee and poet Nadia Chaney. Throughout the year, the photographs and writings produced by the youth at LOVE BC were exhibited at both Eklektika Gallery and Lugz Coffee Shop Gallery in Vancouver.



LOVE Youth interviewing performing artist at the International Reggae Festival of Montréal.

LOVE Québec's MAP youth saw their exhibit *Larger Than Life* receive media coverage by CBC Radio One's *Radio Noon Montréal*. The exhibit, which featured original 3 feet by 4 feet prints, was held at the Nexus Center for Arts and Culture in

Old Montréal. One youth's photo was even selected and featured in the Daily Metro Newspaper, distributed free of charge throughout Montréal. A special journalism workshop was conducted by guest Bill Brownstein, prominent reporter for The Montréal Gazette as well. Finally, be on the lookout for LOVE youth Myer a.k.a. Clarity who is in the process of completing his first hip hop solo album.

LOVE Ontario's Media Arts Program operates at both Ryerson University and now at Humber College The latter is well established and reached 18 youth from the Rexdale community in the past year. These youth had the chance to meet with radio professionals who taught them how to research, produce, record and edit their own 30 to 120 seconds radio features, which will be broadcast on Humber College's radio station. These radio

as a lot of informal mentoring has been happening between the older and the younger youth attending the programs, whose ages vary between 13 and 19. The program is conducted exclusively by dedicated university students and professionals, some of whom have been volunteering for LOVE for more than three years, showing the level of skill and experience obtained by the youth, as well as the continuity of the programs offered by LOVE Nova Scotia.

\* Known as Photojournalism (PJP) until Fall 2008.

## Leadership Training

spokespeople for a world without violence

LOVE Québec Youth Leaders have been actively engaged throughout the past year, taking part in many projects such as the International Reggae Festival, the Vans Warped Tour, and a multi-school wide concert with Canadian Idol Winner Eva Avila. It is with pride that we see Beatrice Yankey, one of our most active leaders, working in collaboration with local fashion designer Astri Prugger in creating her own clothing line, which will be part of Astri's upcoming fashion show to be held in September. LOVE Québec's 30-minute radio program One Love, broadcast monthly on Montréal's radio Mike FM, is still running strong after one year. This happens thanks to the amazing work of Youth Leader Mandy Benoualid, who produces and DJ's the show with the help of other youth from the West Island area. Mandy has also been hired as the radio intern for LOVE Québec's 2008 summer programs, alongside Youth Leader Sarah MacDonald who will be working as the photography technician intern.



Love Youth Leader filming in Toronto.

Youth Leaders from LOVE Nova Scotia submitted a video entry into the *Racism: Stop It!* campaign. They also had the chance to be invited as special guests to a Q&A session with Clark Johnson, director of the HBO Peabody award-winning drama series *The Wire*, which looks at the different institutions affecting the everyday life of Baltimore's inner city's citizens. One youth was so inspired by this encounter that he would like to realize a documentary about LOVE, building on his previous experience working on the LOVE Red1 video project.

LOVE Ontario now has youth from the Rexdale community being trained as local Youth Leaders through the Leadership programs held at Humber College. The experience they acquired while graduating from PJP enabled them to create a magazine which includes not only poetry, writings and pictures from LOVE youth, but also pieces such as an interview with Toronto Mayor David Miller realized by the youth themselves. The magazine will be distributed in schools and community centers in the Rexdale area to help spread the word of LOVE.

LOVE BC's ongoing partnership with the University of British Columbia allowed Youth Leaders from the Vancouver area to attend a film production course. While improving their creativity and facilitation skills, they developed a growing understanding of the different forms of violence youth might be exposed to. Congratulations! One LOVE BC youth was nominated at the YMCA Power of Peace Award, and three others were nominated at the City of Vancouver Outstanding Youth Awards where youth leaders Max Paquin and CB Light won awards in their respective age groups. Bravo!

## Leadership Camp

life-altering experience



Youth and staff of the 2007 edition of LOVE Leadership Camp.

Youth Leaders from Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Vancouver and New York joined together in August 2007 to participate in leadership workshops at LOVE's annual Leadership Camp, held at Camp White Pine in Haliburton, Ontario. These workshops included discussions and training to raise awareness among the youth on issues relevant to current youth culture. Professional social service staff, senior youth leaders and camp specialists came together to create a healthy environment and make sure this five-day Leadership Camp was a positive, life-altering experience for every camp participant.

## School & Community Outreach

changing youth culture from the inside out

This year, youth and staff from LOVE Nova Scotia did 15 in-school presentations in the Halifax region alone. Return visits were held at the request of the principals from four of these schools, showing the impact outreaches have on local communities. The Moment in Time music video, which was entirely produced by LOVE youth, was accepted into the Halifax Independent Film Festival. Fifteen youth attended the screening, which had a packed audience. LOVE Nova Scotia is building a positive name for itself in the broader youth-service sector and is constantly asked to take on new youth, receiving referrals from children's hospitals, parole officers, social workers, school administrators and other youth-oriented programs.

A new partnership has been established between LOVE Ontario and Breaking the Cycle, a gang exiting program for the Toronto area, uniting 10 LOVE youth and 25 BTC youth for the purpose of creating an outreach focusing on exiting/staying out of gangs. It is presented in many schools, after-school programs and group homes. As well, LOVE youth from West Humber Collegiate Institute paired once a week with students from grade 6 to grade 8 attending the Community Initiative for Student Success program at Elmbank Junior Middle Academy, presenting the various new outreaches they developed throughout the year.



BC LOVE Youth Leader at the Lee Matasi shoe release party.

LOVE BC welcomed among its team new Program Director Sara Kendall, who dove head first into the Northern Visions project, reaching out to rural and remote communities of northern British Columbia. Sara's efforts, combined with those of the other LOVE BC staff members and volunteers have been recognized in the form of the 2008 City of Vancouver Outstanding Youth Organization Award. LOVE BC has also partnered with the Surrey Urban Youth Project to offer programming starting in the summer of 2008. Surrey is a highly underserved suburban municipality on the outskirts of Vancouver, and has a large number of youth facing violence related issues such as drugs, gangs, and racism on a daily basis. The twice-a-week, summer-long program is comprised of traditional Violence Prevention Committee (VPC) activities, as well as arts-based empowerment activities in an attempt to reach as many youth as possible in Surrey, which is considered to have the largest growing youth population in Western Canada.

Over 250 youth are now directly involved within LOVE Québec's 12 Violence Prevention Committees (VPC's). They have reached over 12,000 youth this past year through outreaches. In St-Michel, LOVE Québec's French chapter has partnered with local community organizations on special video projects related to youth violence. One of these projects finished in second place in a contest held by Éduc'Alcool addressing drinking issues. Many of the youth who participated in these special projects have since become LOVE youth, spreading the message of LOVE and strengthening LOVE Québec's presence in St-Michel. The English chapter now also has its own LOVE "hub" at Dawson College, where the administration showed its belief in our cause by giving LOVE Québec its own room, which is run by three LOVE youth from the West Island area of Montréal.

## LOVENational

Board of Directors at March 31, 2008

Donald Baker, President, Chairman  
Jeffrey Baikowitz, Vice President  
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Lyla Hunter, Youth Representative  
Reggie Russaw, Youth Representative  
Diane Carty  
Michael Diamond  
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Rhian Walker

### Honorary Director

Twinkle Rudberg, Co-Founder

[www.leaveoutviolence.com](http://www.leaveoutviolence.com)  
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## LOVERegional

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# LOVE's Summarized Financial Statements

## SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31

### ASSETS

Current assets	2008	2007
Cash and short-term investments	\$576,720	\$370,935
Other current assets	55,352	28,148
	<u>632,072</u>	<u>399,083</u>
Cash with restrictions on use	7,129	7,124
Equipment and leasehold improvements	87,507	35,728
	<u>\$726,708</u>	<u>\$441,935</u>

### LIABILITIES

Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$67,198	\$46,435
Deferred contribution and grant revenues	246,812	100,775
	<u>314,010</u>	<u>147,210</u>

### NET ASSETS

Net assets invested in equipment		
Unrestricted net assets	61,136	35,728
	<u>351,562</u>	<u>258,997</u>
	<u>412,698</u>	<u>294,725</u>
	<u>\$726,708</u>	<u>\$441,935</u>

## SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEARS ENDED MARCH 31

### Revenues

Contributions	2008	2007
Private foundations and individuals	\$575,100	\$362,539
Public foundations and charitable organizations	388,490	379,925
Business enterprises	305,237	372,841
	<u>1,268,827</u>	<u>1,115,305</u>
Government grants	325,434	248,736
Fundraising, net, and other	197,921	197,316
	<u>1,792,182</u>	<u>1,561,357</u>

### Expenses

Programs and services	1,109,120	941,459
Fundraising and administrative	413,180	381,536
Occupancy	127,139	94,326
Amortization of equipment and leasehold improvements	24,770	12,391
	<u>1,674,209</u>	<u>1,429,712</u>

Excess revenues over expenses of the year	117,973	131,645
Net assets, beginning of year	294,725	163,080
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$412,698</u>	<u>\$294,725</u>

These summarized financial statements present information derived from the annual financial statements of Leave Out Violence "L.O.V.E."(Canada). However, they do not present all of the information included in the financial statements. Complete financial statements, and the report of the independent auditors, are available on request at all Canadian offices of the organization.

# 2007/08 Supporters

making a difference in our community

Thank you to all our supporters for their generosity and commitment. Donors listed here have provided contributions from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008. Please visit our website at [www.leaveoutviolence.com](http://www.leaveoutviolence.com) for a more comprehensive donor history and to learn how you can become a LOVE supporter.

## **EmeraldHeart**

\$100,000 +  
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## **DiamondHeart**

\$50,000 - \$99,000  
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West Island Community Resource Centre