

BEAT THE STREETS TORONTO

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

 Beat the Streets Toronto IMPACTING YOUTH THRU WR. NG



IMPACTING YOUTH THRU WRESTLING

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

So it's been a while since our last newsletter, a lot has happened and it's been quite an amazing ride! To be honest I don't even know where to start, I feel the best thing to do is let this newsletter speak for itself.

I just want to thank everyone who's been a part of the process of our spring and summer season. Welcome to our new members, our new participants and our newest donors. We want to thank you so much for being a part of the Beat the Streets Toronto experience.

The most important thing I've learned this year is the fact that the best thing we can offer to Beat the Streets Toronto students and athletes is access. It is been our pleasure to give access to opportunities that normally would not be offered under regular circumstances to many individuals in our program. It is giving them a brand new outlook on life and we see the development on a daily basis and we are very proud of everything we have accomplished so far especially this summer.

This summer was incredible and we are excited to share with you what has happened over the course of the last six months.

From being awarded the Ontario Sports and Recreations Fund Grant, to our Wrestle the North event, a lot has been going on! Enjoy this newsletter as it brings us tremendous pleasure to share our experiences with you.



Thank you!
Neal Ewers
Executive Director

A photograph of a person's legs and feet in athletic gear, positioned on a light-colored gym floor. The person is wearing black athletic shorts, black socks with a pink and purple stripe at the top, and black sneakers with a green and black patterned sole. The background is a dark, textured mat.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Marijana Cuvalo
Jessica Marasovic
Marzena Bogdanowicz
Bernard Sanchez
Debora Beam - FOYT
Tamara Williams
Corina Barbul
The Ontario Sport and Recreation Fund
Jobs Canada
YAACE
Ontario Wrestling
The Blue Jays Care Foundation
Richard Pilosof
John Ewing
Blast Athletics
Ink Designs





“Beat the Streets Toronto is an outstanding organization that I have seen first hand positively affect the lives of youth in the Toronto area.

This world class event will give these young athletes an opportunity to showcase their skills and most importantly showcase the exciting sport of freestyle wrestling to Canadians.”

Erica Weibe
2016 Olympic Champion

BTST AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

In March we started after school programs in middle schools cross GTA. We added Elmbank Junior Middle Academy who joined Dixon Road Junior Public School and Samuel Hearne Junior Public School as the only middle or elementary schools in the GTA that have wrestling teams. In May things turned up when we were awarded the Ontario Sports and Recreation Communities Fund to increase our programming to four schools in the GTA. We are very excited about this and grateful to the Ministry for this grant. These programs are offered at a critical time

during the students day between the hours of 3-5PM when they are most susceptible to negative influences while often being at home alone when parents are at work. This is a key time during the day to keep kids of this age involved with activities and we are very happy to offer these programs in schools cross Toronto. The smiles on their faces as they participate in these programs are our biggest rewards but it also helps that we know that they're in a safe place during this critical time.



BTST AWARDED ONTARIO SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITIES FUND

In April of this year Beat the Streets Toronto was Awarded the **Ontario Sports and Recreation Fund** to start 4 After School Wrestling and Mentorship Programs in Middle Schools. Programs like [Elmbank Junior Middle Academy](#) and it's community will benefit from this opportunity.

The [Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund \(OSRCF\)](#) is a grant program that supports a vision of getting and keeping Ontarians active in community sport, recreation and physical activity. This spring, Beat the Streets Toronto was successful in our application to OSRCF and was delighted to hear that we would be receiving support for our After School Program which operates in underserved communities in the GTA and serves middle school children.

This has long been a goal of BTST, as we understand that helping youth in Toronto starts with the younger children, children ages 8 – 13. It is our understanding that this is the age where children are most vulnerable and exposed to negative influences. We've learned this through our experiences with our current programs at

Dixon Grove public school, Elmbank Junior public school and Samuel Hearne public school. Over the past two years, we saw great success working with these schools and learned just how important it is to have programming like this available to students at a vulnerable time of the day. We witnessed how much the students enjoyed participating in the program. We look forward to expanding this program and are grateful to the Ontario Government for giving us the opportunity to grow and reach even more at-risk youth.

Stay tuned for some fantastic results!

PLAYTEX SCHOLARSHIP

In May one of our West Humber Collegiate wrestlers was successful in applying for a Playtex Scholarship which resulted in a commercial with Olympic Champ and Beat the Streets Toronto friend Erica Weibel! Playtex provided the athletes with free swag and gear while Erica brought the inspiration to help these young women continue on their journey!



BTST PARTNERS WITH YAAACE AND JOBS CANADA!

This was a very busy summer for us at BTST. Another highlight was the fact that we were able to provide summer jobs for 8 of our students coming from Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

Through Youth Association for Academics Athletics Character Education (YAAACE) our students got the opportunity or access to earn a salary helping other children ages 8-14 at a summer camp in the Jane and Finch Corridor.

This program was subsidized by the Jobs Canada and this three-way partnership provided our students with their first job experience. An experience like this is invaluable for a young person as they learn important life skills and gives them a leg up when competing for future jobs and building their portfolio.



SUMMER INTENSIVE CAMP IN TORONTO

This July we held our first ever BTST Intensive Summer wrestling camp. Thanks to the **Focus On Youth Program** we were able to secure free space at the City Adult Learning center in Toronto and we were able to deliver a free wrestling camp for kids across the GTA. We also had kids coming from all cross Ontario. This was a very successful camp, our busiest day saw well over 100 participants.

“This is not your regular wrestling camp.”

At this camp we incorporated beach workouts where Coach Mar put the Athletes through rigorous training sessions at woodbine beach. We hope to make this an annual event and continue to grow it as it was well received by all who attended.

Want to see all the fun we the kids had? [Click here!](#)









BTST HOLDS FIRST WRESTLE THE NORTH

On July 12, BTST held our first Wrestle the North Event where we invited wrestlers from all across Ontario to participate in a Gala to showcase the sport of Wrestling to the City of Toronto at Nathan Philips Square.

This was the first time in 60 years that a wrestling event had been held at this location. We had 20 great wrestling matches, we had a good turn out, we had a scholarship to give out, a lifetime achievement award and lots of swag to give away.

We hope to build on this event every year growing it to into an international event that invites competitors from all across the world to showcase the sport of wrestling.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this event happen.

[Click here](#) to see how awesome it was!



FIRST MIRZA BASHIR AKBAR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO BTST STUDENT

During Wrestle the North, thanks to the generosity of former wrestler Nayu Akbar, Beat the Streets Toronto was proud to award Simi Jayeoba the Mirza Bashir Akbar Scholarship for \$2000 dedicated after Nayu's father.

Simi is an exceptional student and wrestler, who joined Beat the Streets Toronto two and a half years ago. She attended William Lyon McKenzie Secondary, where she maintained a 94% average. This September, she was

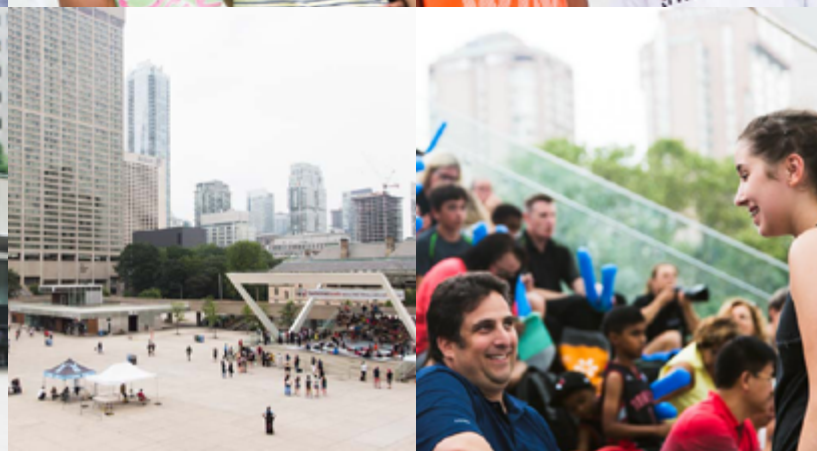
accepted and started attending McMaster University where she is studying life sciences. She was also elected as first year representative for the science society at McMaster. Go Simi!

She's a great girl with a great future ahead of her, and we are so proud that we got the chance to work with her and connect her with Nayu. This scholarship will go a long way to help her realize her full potential!





WRESTLE THE NORTH





BTST AND THE BLUE JAYS

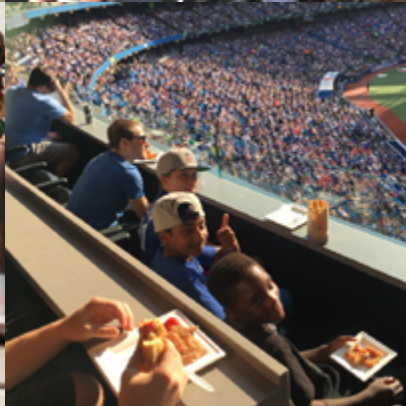
On September 23rd, [Blue Jays Care Foundation](#) invited us to come and enjoy the game in their VIP box.

The Beat the Streets Kids really enjoyed themselves and had a blast. Especially when the Blue Jays beat the Yankees 8-1! Go Jays!

Thank you so much Blue Jays Care Foundation. It was a great experience and a great way to start the new wrestling season!

[Click here](#) to check out the full gallery.







SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR WRESTLE THE NORTH SPONSORS AND DONORS:

**Blast Athletics
City of Toronto
Government of Ontario
Hammersmith Corp
Ink-Linked Design
OAWA**

**One Team Health
Ontario Trillium Foundation
RP Investment Advisors
United World Wrestling
Xatchi**

BTST SCHOOLS AND REGIONS FOR 2016/17

610-650 students served over 2 years participated in one of our 3 programs: After School Program, Mentorship Program or Regional Program in 13 schools in 5 neighbourhoods (Etobicoke, Jane & Finch Corridor, North Toronto, South Toronto, Scarborough).

School	High/ Middle	Location	How many kids served	BTST Program
Martin Grove CI	HS	Etobicoke	110 over 2 years	After School
West Humber CI	HS	Etobicoke	40 over 2 years	After School (donated mat) / Mentorship /Regional
North Albion Collegiate	HS	Etobicoke	60 over 2 years	Donated mat / After School
Silverthorne C.I.	HS	Etobicoke	20 – 30 over 2 years	Donated mat / After School
Emery C.I.	HS	Jane & Finch Corridor	20 over 1 year	Regional
C.W. Jeffries	HS	Jane & Finch Corridor	60 over 3 years	After School
Newtonbrook C.I.	HS	North Toronto	100 over 2 years	Regional
Central Tech	HS	South Toronto	15-20 over 1 year	After School/Donated mat
David & Mary Thompson C.I.	HS	Scarborough	20-30 over 1 year	Regional Program
Downsview C.I.	HS	North Toronto	20 over 1 year	After School/Donated mat
Dixon Grove Junior Public school	MS	Etobicoke	100 - 120 over 3 years	After School / Mentorship / Loaned mat
Elmbank Junior Middle Academy	MS	Etobicoke	30 over 1 year	After School / Mentorship/ Loaned mat
Samuel Hearne Junior Public School	MS	Scarborough	15 over 1 year	After School / Mentorship
Schools starting this year				
Hollycrest Middle School	MS	Etobicoke		After School/Mentorship
John G. Althouse Middle School	MS	Etobicoke		After school Program/ Mentorship



PLEASE VISIT
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TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR STUDENT ATHLETES.

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