



From the Director

It's not often a Federal Minister visits the Rock, so it was big news when Stockwell Day showed up recently to announce gang-prevention funding of \$1.9 million over the next four years. It's very encouraging when our government supports the Rock and has a commitment to youth-at-risk in the community.

This funding will help us develop programs to prevent youth from joining gangs, and to help youth that are already gang-involved. This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a province-wide evaluated project to develop and test best practices.

A common misconception is that this means all our financial needs are met - but this money is for new staff and programs, not existing ones.

\$1.9 million sounds like a huge windfall, but we're still very much a faith ministry. We're reliant on the community for the many programs we have, from Just 4 Gurlz to ministry times like the Gathering, daily morning prayer, community speakers and anti-racism events. Then there are operational costs like heat, hydro and insurance. They run into tens of thousands of dollars a year, and only a small percentage is covered by government funding.

That's why we look to the community to help us minister to the youth and share God's love. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach always - when necessary, use words." We minister to around 1,500 youth a year through our lives and actions. We're so thankful for our supporters and the churches that stand with us. We couldn't do what we do without them.

Rev. Alan Craig

AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

TURN OFF THE LIGHTS ON RACISM!



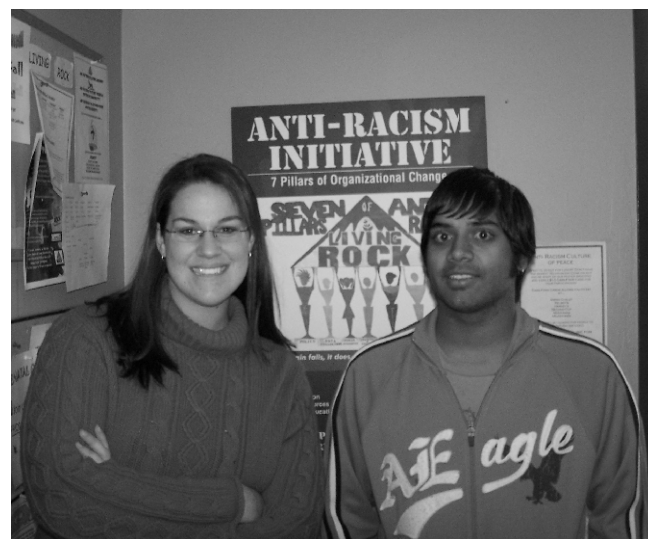
The Living Rock's Anti-Racism Program has launched a campaign to address racism in the community.

The initiative began when local youth stood together to fight racism. One youth wrote a poem on behalf of the group, which inspired the "Turn Off the Lights on Racism" campaign. Youth from a variety of cultures

and backgrounds recited the poem in the form of a commercial, and a website was created as a resource to youth and community agencies.

Different activities have also taken place, like an anti-racism lunch where youth and staff ate food from different countries.

The unveiling of the video took place at the Soupfest closing ceremonies on

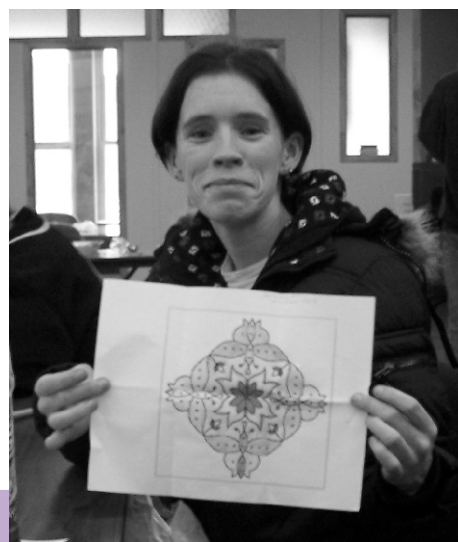


January 29. To find out more about the campaign or to view the video, visit www.turnoffracism.ca

Top: Jose, Amanda and Josh enjoy a cultural treat at the anti-racism lunch.

Middle: Laurie and Timmy focus on the Anti-Racism Initiative.

Bottom: Aimee creates some artwork at the anti-racism lunch.



BREAKFAST PROGRAM: THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Every day is a new day with the Living Rock Breakfast Program! Officially called "It's a New Day", the program gives youth a positive start to the morning and serves nearly 8,000 meals a year.

It's also a springboard for other support like educational help with the Adult Basic Education Association (ABEA), as well as the Rock Resources pre-employment training program which offers community work experience, drug counselling with Alternatives for Youth (AY), an onsite pre-natal group facilitated by Public Health, and exercise at the YMCA.

"It's a New Day" is the only youth-focused breakfast program in Hamilton and is currently operating at just a third of its normal budget. To return the program's funding to its 2007 level, the Living Rock needs to raise \$50,000. This will also help pay for:

- More fresh fruit at breakfast
- More programming and activities
- An additional full-time staff

The program has partial support from the City of Hamilton, Aboriginal Health Centre and CRIEDA. Our fundraising campaign last year raised \$10,000 in sustained donor support. We would like to increase donor support to replace the 2007 United Way emergency gift. **Please consider becoming a monthly donor to the Rock's Breakfast Program.** As little as \$20 a month - less than a dollar a day - will help give at-risk youth a fresh new start. Call our Development Team at 905-528-7625 to donate today.

"I have a hard time in the morning to eat at home because I have to get my son ready for daycare. I like to eat here because of the people and caring surroundings."

"It's a way to start my day on the right foot. I would probably not make it in this life without the help I get from the Rock."



Above: Elder Walter Cooke (left) from the Aboriginal Health Centre helps run a nutrition workshop.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS - SHARING THE LOVE!

There was plenty of love and festive cheer at the Living Rock this Christmas! While the snow fell outside, 137 youth and their families stayed warm with a hot Christmas dinner followed by gifts for everyone and a visit from Santa.



Thanks to the following sponsors for making it all possible:

- Ontario Public Service Ministry of Health
- The Meeting House
- Hooper Law
- Y108 CHML Christmas Fund
- Fortino's
- CRIEDA
- Burlington Baptist Church
- Food Bank Volunteers
- Canadian Border Patrol
- Daddy's Girls
- Alpha Marketing
- Mission Services
- Cotton Reel Clothing Co. Inc.
- McCallum McBride Fund
- Hamilton Food Share
- Carla's Restaurant
- Dundas Calvin Christian School
- City Kidz
- Stephanie Dermer
- Sandie Hamilton



DID YOU KNOW?

Your creative fundraising ideas keep on coming! Church on the Rock started a sock drive at the beginning of December, collecting over 1200 brand new pairs of socks for youth at risk. One church member bought 160 pairs from a company in Toronto, and drove there to pick them up!

The Korean United Church held a golf tournament, raising \$500

for the Rock's 'Meet the Streets' project. Tim Laws, our Housing Coach and Breakfast Coordinator (pictured below), accepted a generous cheque from the church.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet the Street' Service Projects and Video
(sponsored by Crime Prevention) Throughout 2008
Call to register 905-528-7625

Living Rock Golf Tournament
Thursday 5 June 2008
Beverly Golf and Country Club
Call John to register 905-627-3860
Sponsors, foursomes and prize donations welcome

'Arts of August' Summer Youth Project
Wanted: Artist mentors and volunteers to develop Cultural Fashion Show

MEMORIALS

The following is a list of donations made to Living Rock Ministries in memory of past friends, colleagues and family:

Received from:	In Memory of:
Helen Bannerman	Dorothy Royston
Robert & Betty Ann Brown	Dorothy McMaster
Martin & Ingrid Dykstra	Dorothy McMaster
Karen McMaster	Dorothy McMaster
Susan Walsh	Dorothy McMaster
Guy Gonzalez	Dorothy McMaster
Nancy Crapper	Grace Saunders
David & Donna Siddall	Grace Saunders
Mary L Thurston	Grace Saunders
Peter Brown	Grace Saunders
Alan & Karen Craig	Grace Saunders
George & Pam Siddall	Grace Saunders

LIVING ROCK MINISTRIES

contact info:

ADDRESS

30 Wilson Street, Hamilton ON
L8R 1C5

PHONE: 905-528-7625

FAX: 905-526-8723

WEBSITE: www.livingrock.ca

EMAIL: mail@livingrock.ca

Charitable # 88345 8812 RR0001

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have supported the Living Rock at our recent events.



Founded 1985 905-528-7625 www.livingrock.ca

WINTER 2008

AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Beaming with pride, Chris shakes the hand of his TRI-Rock coach as he accepts his graduation certificate. The room is filled with staff, youth and well-wishers - like his new boss, Rick Bell of Maitre D' Catering (pictured with Chris). It's a celebration of how far Chris has come.



"I came to the Rock four years ago," he says. "Me and my dad got into a fight, and I left home. I came here for breakfast and heard about TRI-Rock."

TRI-Rock is an employment program where youth receive training, support and work experience at the Living Rock, followed by an eight-week placement in the community. Youth receive a basic wage thanks to support from Service Canada.

Because it takes place in two parts, the program can fit around the needs of youth like Chris. He finished the first phase of TRI-Rock a few years ago, but he couldn't do the second part because he had to move. When he came back to the Rock last June, he was delighted to find he could 'TRI' the program again.

"This time I finished it," says Chris, smiling. "I did my placement at Maitre D' and I work there full-time now. It's exactly what I wanted to do. It turned out really well and my boss is great."

Chris is thankful to everyone who helped him get his 'perfect job', including Living Rock staff like Tim Laws who has worked with him from the very beginning.

"As a youth, it's hard to open up to people you don't know, but the staff are there to listen to you," he says. "It took four years to overcome my issues. You don't get too many second chances in life, but I got mine."

SOUPFEST!
WINNERS AND PHOTOS INSIDE!



Victim's Rights Advocate

Robert J. Hooper B.A., LL.B.



2008
SOUPFEST
PLATINUM
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YOUR RIGHTS AS A DONOR

If at any time you would like to change the amount of mail you receive from us, please contact the Development Team at 905-528-7625 ex 39 and we would be happy to comply with your request.

In addition, Living Rock Ministries assures its donors that personal information is not used for commercial purposes. We do not rent, sell, trade or share our donor information. Personal information is kept confidential and is used to mail information about our services to donors.

LIVING ROCK MINISTRIES PROGRAMS & SERVICES

youth food bank • breakfast program • evening meals • positive recreation programming • anti-racism initiative
employment readiness training • chaplaincy • visiting youth in custody • urban ministry training • addictions counselling
health clinic and medical supports • volunteer opportunities • educational assessments and supports • youth work-to-earn
incentives • computer resource room • housing help • supports for pregnant and parenting youth
creative art competition celebrating diversity • self care and health promotion for young women