

October 30, 2019

### **\$13,100 OTF Grant Supports a SURE thing**

Hamilton, Ontario – On Tuesday October 29th, 2019, Banyan Community Services held a celebration to acknowledge the successful implementation of their **Self-Understanding and Regulation of Emotions (SURE) program**.

Andrea Hogan, Constituency staff for Monique Taylor Local MPP and Karen Logan from the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant Review Team, were on hand to congratulate SURE program graduations and staff and to hear more about how Banyan’s SURE program is making a difference in the lives of the youth and their families.

“This grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation gives Banyan the much-needed resources to enhance its great work in the community,” said Monique Taylor, MPP for Hamilton Mountain.

The youth along with their parents and Banyan staff discuss topics that would help them develop pro-social behaviours and develop strategies to better express emotions effectively. The group focused on day-to-day issues faced by the youth and approaches on how to deal with situations in different environments. One of the participants enjoyed the program so much he asked to assist the staff in teaching future sessions so he could share his experiences and learning with his peers. Thanks to a \$13,100 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant the SURE program offered education to 25 youth aged 12-14 years to help them gain skills and knowledge in area of emotional regulation.

Banyan’s CEO, Kim Ciavarella remarked, “We know that at-risk youth have better outcomes when there is early intervention, and programs like SURE are valuable because they help youth learn behaviours that will help them thrive in school and at home. We have seen first-hand the positive impact this program has had on these boys, which would not have been possible without the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant.”

Banyan is a not-for-profit organization that has provided quality services to the youth justice, children’s, and senior’s community support sectors since 1978. Banyan is committed to improving the mental, physical, and social well-being of at risk populations in our service areas of Hamilton, Niagara, Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, and Wellington.

An agency of the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is one of Canada’s largest granting foundations. With a budget of over \$136 million, OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities.

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