



Across U-hub

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Immediate Release

The annual Across U-hub Celebration and Fundraising Dinner was held with success in Le Parc Conference and Banquet Centre on Sunday. The organizing body Across U-hub is thankful for the generous donations from the community despite the current economic status; these contributions will play a vital role in developing today's youths under the organization's mandate. The Honourable Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of Citizenship & Immigration, His Worship Frank Scarpitti, Mayor of Markham, Mr. Chin Lee, Councillor for Toronto, Mr. Godwin Chan, Councillor of Richmond Hill, Dr. Joseph Y.K. Wong of Yee Hong Foundation, along with many school board superintendents and board trustees of the Toronto District School Board were all special guests of the night.

The gala commenced with the performing of National Anthem by youth musicians and volunteers. Maria Yau, educator and member of the board of directors of Across U-hub made remarks regarding the pressure faced by youths in minority group nowadays; the pressure originates from school, family, society, the differences in their own traditional values versus the western culture in Canada. These youths often achieve high academic grades but lacks participation in extra-curricular activities. Consequently these youths lagged behind in their development in communication, foresights, leadership, confidence and other interpersonal skills. Maria also emphasized that our community lacks organizations that dedicates their services to youths, so it is difficult for youths that lack these soft skills to fit in the mainstream community while maintaining their self identity. She strongly believed that the proper nurturing must be given to these youths that they can contribute to our community and to our nation.

The program further presented with videos of activities by Across U-hub for the past year, featured a group of youth volunteers travelled to Sichuan, China in June this year to host a "Your Heart My Heart, The Rainbow Wish" event. This event was a continuation of the Lament Concert held in June last year, immediately after the 8.0 Ms Great Sichuan Earthquake on May 12, 2008. On stage these youth volunteers told their stories of friendship and love, and how they have learned a valuable life lesson from the victims, especially comparing with our privileged western lifestyle.

These stories of youths echo the mandate of Across U-hub: to help youths excel and develop intelligence in many areas in life. Through peer mentorship, youth participants come to self-realizations and were put into proper perspective of their role as a global citizen. Nicole Wong, Executive Director of

Across U-hub, emphasized that this is a continuous process called the “Life Project” for assisting youths in the community to grow up with positive values and empathy.

Many people showed their appreciation and support to the work of Across U-hub. Minister Michael Chan and Mayor Frank Scarpitti both gave words of encouragement to attendees of the banquet, highlighting the importance of having organizations like Across U-hub is vital to the development of a healthy society. “I am delighted to see the work of Across in Markham. We need organization like Across U-hub to build a healthy city,” says Mayor Scarpitti.

The grand finale for the banquet was the ensemble of the song “One Family”. Inspired by victims of Sichuan earthquake, a number of Chinese Canadian youth composed and wrote the song to signify the closeness they had felt with the victim as a family. Board of directors, youth musicians and volunteers presented the song and filled the banquet hall of 650 guests with love and joy.

The proceeds from the gala will go towards Across’ work in developing the physical and psychological health of youths. Programs organized by Across includes annual leadership training camp, City Mosaic, Tic Tac Toronto, Refeel Playback Theatre and Youth Leadership Developing Certificate Program. For more information, youths of parents may inquire at 905-944-1944 or browse <http://www.acrossuhub.com>.