

July 20, 2010

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Tomorrow Starts Today - Neighbourhood Makeover**

Of the many social concerns that have surfaced over the past decade, one of the more prevalent has to be the rising environmental concern. From the recent G20 summit, to Shanghai's World Expo; then back across the ocean to Gulf of Mexico's oil spill, the world cannot part with all the noises over the environment. These issues have been pervasively covered by the media; spread extensively over the internet; everyone is well aware of the intensity of these environmental issues. However, of the rise in awareness over the environment, how much of it has raised our degree of action? With the concerns being largely understood, how many have actually taken steps to reduce their personal impact on the environment? And of all those, how many youths have taken up the cause as their own and realized the impact this has on their future?

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Town of Markham celebrated the initiative of Across U-hub's <Neighbourhood Makeover> and the launch of the new Big Blue Belly solar compacting recycling container. Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Deputy Mayor John Heath, Councillor Alex Chiu, Councillor Don Hamilton from Town of Markham, Vice Chair of Across U-hub board of directors, Mr. Stanley So, and Across U-hub's board member Ms. Maria Yau were among the many who were in attendance to motivate and encourage the youths in their participation of the meaningful makeover event.

"This is another example of the leadership that we have in the community that is from our youth. The youth in our community are engaged and they are making their contribution. This is just another contribution from the Across U-hub's youth; coming forward, cleaning up the community, and making it a better place." said Mayor Frank Scarpitti. <Neighbourhood Makeover> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> programs under Across U-hub's <Tomorrow Starts Today> campaign. In an attempt to propel forward the growing environmental awareness, Across U-hub has launched a new campaign titled <Tomorrow Starts Today>. Ms. Maria Yau, project Co-ordinator, research & information services, organizational development of

Toronto District School Board, says “<Tomorrow Starts Today> is one such initiative, organized by Across U-hub to raise youth’s awareness to respect the environment as well as consciousness to protect it. Through the series of outdoor activities, the initiative helps youth to translate their environmental concern from an intellectual and emotional level to action, allowing them to realize that young people can make a difference in the community. The campaign also creates a cross cultural community for youths to work hand in hand for a common cause.”

<Tomorrow Starts Today> began back in April 2010 where Across U-hub organized a tree planting day for youths. Over 70 youths came to support the cause. Following the success of the tree planting program, <Tomorrow Starts Today> will carry out their 2<sup>nd</sup> program in the series, <Neighbourhood Makeover>, this summer. <Neighbourhood Makeover> will be taking a group of youth to a neighbourhood in Markham to perform a litter cleanup on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The purpose of <Neighbourhood Makeover> is to raise public awareness and individual responsibility to the surrounding environment on littering and recycling through committed actions. Although the duration of the litter cleanup will be short, this group action will instil and encourage public spiritedness and show how little things can make a difference. In addition, the one day program will include several group activities and discussion on environmental related topics. Participants will come out of the program with a renewed sense of awareness as well as practical knowledge to bring home so that they may become better stewards of the city and of the environment.

For more information about <Tomorrow Starts Today> campaign or if you wish to participate in this meaningful <Neighbourhood Makeover> and other <Tomorrow Starts Today> programs, visit [www.tomorrow-starts-today.com](http://www.tomorrow-starts-today.com) or email at [info@acrossuhub.com](mailto:info@acrossuhub.com)

All programs are open to youth 16 and above.

Program: <Neighbourhood Makeover>

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2010

Fee: \$8 for Non Member, \$5 for Member (includes a light lunch)

Location: 160 Gibson Drive. Unit 1, Markham, Ontario

Organized by: Across U-hub, with support provided by Government of Ontario

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### **Across U-hub Overview**

*Together we help nurture our youth:*

- *To become a bridge across cultures by taking roots in Canada while developing a global perspective*
- *To become servant leaders for communities by helping them grow holistically*

### **Our Work:**

*We adopt creative, interactive and multi-disciplinary approaches:*

- *To nurture our youths' holistic growth*
- *To cultivate their servant leadership skills*
- *To promote peer support and mentorship*
- *To foster their sense of community and to encourage active participation in cultural and civic activities etc.*

### **Inquiries:**

For more information about Across U-hub, please call us at 905-944-1944, e-mail us at [info@acrossuhub.com](mailto:info@acrossuhub.com), or visit our website at <http://www.acrossuhub.com/>