



- Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture;
- Surrey School District #36 (Safe Schools);
- Options: Services to Communities Society;
- Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS);
- Peace Arch Community Services;
- Crescent Beach Community Services; and
- Surrey RCMP

The original premise for this initiative was the awareness that ‘negative youth activity’ was regularly occurring throughout Surrey’s parks and public spaces after dark. The “MoYO” team frequently connects with youth across the city and encourages young people to use recreation facilities and services provided by the community such as late night youth opportunities in the high schools next to the parks where they are currently gathering. There is also the opportunity for youth to communicate what activities they want to have offered in Surrey that are not currently being delivered. As an example, a suggestion received from youth was that if schools located close to the parks were open, youth would use the gym space. Subsequently, Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture have worked with the School Board to open two schools in the evenings and those youth who were outside are now using the gymnasium space and enjoying active living with adult supervision.

## **DISCUSSION**

The “MoYO” program was piloted during the summer of 2006 and connected with just over 650 youth and subsequently experienced outstanding growth the following year. In the four months “MoYO” was in operation in 2007, the team connected with over 3,000 youth. The program also supports the recommended interventions in the Surrey’s Crime Prevention Strategies.

In 2007, Pacific Community Resources officially partnered with Translink. The purpose of the partnership was to develop meaningful and creative solutions on how to effectively reach out to youth who congregate at skytrain stations and transit bus loops. One such resource was the donation of a decommissioned shuttle bus provided by Translink. PCRS’s primary purpose for the bus was to enhance community-serving programs already successfully engaged with youth in various circumstances. One such successful endeavour is the Surrey based Mobile Youth Outreach Program (“MoYO”).

In June of 2008, the “MoYO” program received a 17-passenger bus from Translink donated to PCRS. With this generous donation from Translink and grant funding from Mayor and Council to support Inter-Regional At Risk Youth Link “I-RAYL” program (\$5,000), PCRS are able to convert the donated bus into an interactive mobile bus to support Mobile Youth Outreach “MoYO” program.

## CONCLUSION

This year is “MoYO”’s third year in operation. The “MoYO” program has steadily expanded to effectively outreach to over 3,000 youth in one year. Best practices now include meeting youth at recreation centres, shopping malls, skytrain stations, youth parks, parks and transit bus loops. With the recent edition of a full service mobile youth centre made possible through donations by Translink, Ministry of Child & Family Development, and the City of Surrey, “MoYO” continues to stretch the boundaries of conventional youth work. This summer when youth congregate within Surrey, the “MoYO” Program will also be on hand to offer support and direction. Most importantly, “MoYO” is the successful demonstration of multi-agency collaboration geared toward the betterment of youth in Surrey.

The “MoYO” team is also looking forward to another positive and interactive summer with our youth and the opportunities to provide young people in Surrey with more resources to build a healthy and positive lifestyle by forming relationships with trusting adult role models in the community.

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