

Get Something Started

How youth can turn ideas into action.

On November 12th, United Way of Winnipeg hosted a powerful youth leadership event at the IMAX® Theatre at Portage Place. Descriptively titled "Get Something Started", the event was attended by more than 250 youth and adults who were interested in learning how to put their community action ideas into action.

The event featured well-known Canadian speaker Marc Kielburger, described in the September 2002 issue of *Front & Centre* as a pioneer in youth leadership. Marc, now 25, spoke of his own experience living and working in the Klong Toey slums of Bangkok, Thailand at age 18, and how he has worked to empower other youth to make a difference in the world since that life-changing experience.

Several young leaders, including United Way Student Community Service Award recipients and Youth Connections-funded project teams, were recognized during the event for their outstanding volunteer work during the last year. "One of the reasons we planned this event is to show how ordinary people can make a huge difference. You don't have to conquer the world to be a leader. You can have an impact on people no matter where you are," explained MC Omolayo Famuyide.

"Get Something Started" proved that there are hundreds of youth in Winnipeg who are ready to stand up and take responsibility for making our city, and our world, a better place to live. United Way of Winnipeg is committed to offering exciting volunteer opportunities and leadership-building events that will equip them with the skills they need to make a difference.

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[Click to see photos of the evening.](#)



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The Chancellor Street Connection, a jazz quartet of students from Winnipeg, Selkirk and Anola, entertains guests at the Student Community Service Award reception.

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The IMAX® Theatre lobby provided the perfect atmosphere for Tuesday's reception.

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Award recipients, parents and friends take some time out to celebrate the benefits of volunteerism.

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Jan Belanger, Community Relations Director at Great-West Life, accompanied by MCs Omolayo Famuyide and Kandace Seniuk, congratulates the award recipients. Great-West Life is the major sponsor of the award program.

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Recipients gather for a moment of recognition.

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Students applaud each other for their dedication to helping others through volunteerism.

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A group photo. For the 2001/2002 award recipients, this reception was an opportunity to meet other young volunteers from across the city.

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Marc Kielburger, Rhodes Scholar and renowned Canadian social activist, offers words of encouragement to recipients and their parents.

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After the reception, over 200 people gathered in the IMAX® theatre for a powerful youth leadership event featuring a mini-seminar by Marc Kielburger.

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Kandace Seniuk of the Youth Connections Council presents a certificate of appreciation to Chris Demonye from Acadia Junior High. Acadia students organized a multicultural event last year, and received funding from Youth Connections.



With some help from a Youth Connections grant, students from Maples Collegiate hosted a community carnival last spring.

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Members from the Sister Mac location of Winnipeg Boys & Girls Clubs pose for a group photo to celebrate their highly successful youth basketball league, also funded by Youth Connections.

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Bobbie Sinclair accepts a certificate on behalf of the P.A.S.S. (Promoting Aboriginal Student Success) Youth Committee, in recognition of an excellent youth initiative which they organized last February.

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Members of the 2002/2003 Youth Connections Council enjoy some down time with Marc Kielburger after a successful but very busy evening.

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