PRESS RELEASE

Yemoja Village Project: Empowering Marginalized Youth with Affordable Housing and Support

FEBRUARY 24, 2024 - SCARBOROUGH, ON - Today marks a significant milestone in the journey towards providing marginalized and racialized youth with deeply affordable and secure housing. Boys and Girls Club (BGC) East Scarborough proudly announces the Yemoja Village Project, a transformative initiative aimed at creating 47 affordable housing units along with comprehensive support services to help youth thrive.

Led by BGC East Scarborough, the Yemoja Village Project focuses on addressing the pressing need for affordable housing in East Scarborough, an area grappling with significant housing challenges. This initiative is a beacon of hope, offering a solution to the national shortage of over 3.5 million housing units projected by 2030.

Situated at 62 Orchard Park Drive, Scarborough, The Yemoja Village Project responds to the deteriorating affordability of housing, aiming to provide equitable housing solutions for marginalized communities. Construction is set to commence in 2025, signaling a crucial step towards community development and empowerment. The project will stand adjacent to the MAAT (Mentoring Academic Arts Technology) Youth Innovation & Cultural Centre, a hub where youth aged 13-29 can explore their creativity and potential.

The programs offered at Yemoja Village will include academic support, artistic expression, physical well-being and food security initiatives, mentorship opportunities, employment and career assistance, and independence tools. These services will be tailored to meet the diverse needs of marginalized youth, including Black and Indigenous youth, in Scarborough.

"As we invest in expanding affordable housing, it's imperative to prioritize the most vulnerable in our society. Through the Rapid Housing Initiative, we're investing to ensure Canadians in Toronto and beyond have access to safe and affordable housing tailored to their needs. This entails collaborating with partners like the City of Toronto to ensure individuals facing various challenges have a secure place to call home. While today's announcement marks progress, we acknowledge there's more work ahead to address this issue." – John McKay, Member of Parliament, Scarborough Guildwood

The Yemoja Project's primary objective is to provide long-term, income-based transitional housing for marginalized youth and families, in collaboration with the City of Toronto.

For more information about the Yemoja Village Project and how to get involved, please visit our website or contact Segun Akinsanya, sakinsanya@esbgc.ca.

About the Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough:

BGC East Scarborough seeks to provide a holistic approach as it supports children, youth and families to pursue healthy lifestyles, personal competency, self-esteem, social and cultural integration and a sense of belonging. Our main site at 100 Galloway Road was created with much fundraising and assistance from the City of Scarborough. Over the years we have evolved from offering primarily recreational programming to utilizing a determined approach towards providing accessible quality social, educational and recreational programming through our Early Years Services, Licensed Childcare Services, Inclusion Services, Children & Early Teen Services, and Youth & Community Outreach Services. These programs and services are well supported by the Club's Finance & Administration Services, Strategic Partnerships & Resource Development, Volunteer Services, and Diversity, Equity & Social Impact.

BGC East Scarborough
(Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough)

MAAT Youth Innovation & Cultural Centre

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