

# Kids, Cops & Computers

Educate, Motivate, Graduate



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## Police eBuddy Mentorship is Breaking Barriers

The *Kids, Cops & Computers* program is breaking barriers. And as an eBuddy with the Program, Constable Milton Ferguson is too.

Established in 1998, the Program gives underprivileged kids brand new computers and colour printers, Microsoft software, computer training, Rogers Internet access and then, uniquely, pairs them with a volunteer Toronto Police Officer who becomes their 'eBuddy.'

Ferguson, who's been part of *Kids, Cops & Computers* for the past four years, says participating in the Program reminds him of an experience that he had with a teacher being a mentor to him.

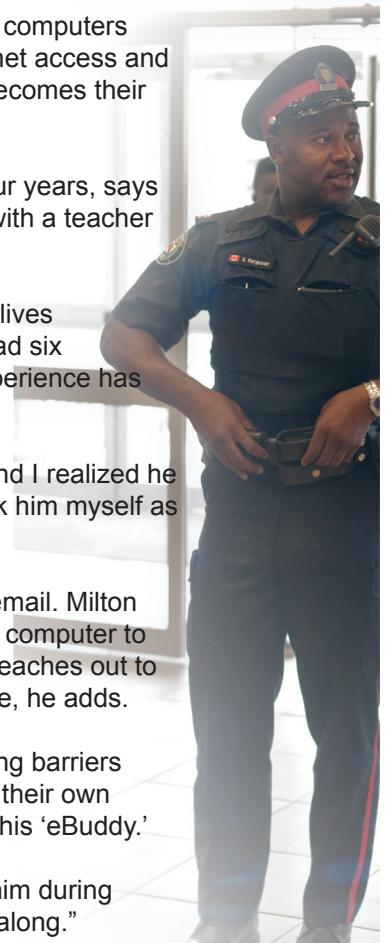
"The Program is doing what teachers do," he says, "and that's touching lives through people." The 43 division community school liaison officer has had six 'eBuddy' kids and although all have been memorable, one student's experience has left a mark.

"I met a kid in Grade 6 because he got in a fight with another student and I realized he needed direction, you know, a fatherly figure," explains Ferguson. "I took him myself as an 'eBuddy' and introduced him to the Program."

As 'eBuddies' the two kept in touch with one another regularly through email. Milton says he communicates with his 'eBuddy' about how he can use his new computer to pull up his grades and treat his sister better. The fact that the Program reaches out to students through technology makes the experience all the more effective, he adds.

"Communicating through email is very useful and instrumental in breaking barriers because you have an avenue where you can speak to those children in their own world," Ferguson says. Over a year later, Ferguson keeps in touch with his 'eBuddy.'

"I called him in person to wish him a happy birthday. I came down with him during school registration and if there's an event going on, I'll get him to come along."



The best part of the *Kids, Cops & Computers* program, says Ferguson, is that you can actually see the difference a computer and guidance can have on a child. The two paired together go a long way in a child's life. They Educate, Motivate, Graduate.

# Kids, Cops & Computers Update



Police 'eBuddies' have been matched and more than 145 students received new computers from **Kids, Cops & Computers** so far this year with an additional 67 installs planned for December and January. All Meet and Greets with Toronto Police Officers have been scheduled and students are already eagerly corresponding with their volunteer police officer 'eBuddies.'

"It's rewarding to match these students with police officer 'eBuddies' and get computers in their homes," says **Kids, Cops & Computers**' Program Coordinator, Heather Auclair.

"Student feedback has been very positive and we see the difference daily that a brand new computer and eBuddy mentor has on kids," she adds. This has been a tremendously successful year for the Program. "We've more than doubled the number of schools and we are now in all of Toronto's priority neighbourhoods that have schools with kids in Grade 7," explains Auclair.

Étienne-Brûlé, from Conseil Scolaire Viamonde, and Mgr-de-Charbonnel, from Conseil Scolaire de Districte Catholique Centre-Sud, are the latest additions to the **Kids, Cops & Computers** roster.



'eBuddies' Constable Daniel Hudson and Nana, North Kipling, share a few laughs during a 'Meet and Greet'.

## THANK YOU FREEDOM INTERNATIONAL

Freedom International's recent donation to Merry Go Round Children's Foundation had **Kids, Cops & Computers**' students in cheers. Peter McRae, Freedom's President and CEO, announced that Freedom will be donating \$25,000 to the Program during a recent MGR Board meeting.

The **Kid, Cops & Computers** students in the school were very grateful for the generous donation, as it will ensure that more computers and colour printers are made available to financially disadvantaged kids.

Freedom is Canada's leading full-service Inter-Dealer Broker. It provides integrated voice and electronic brokerage services to wholesale capital market participants in Canada and globally.



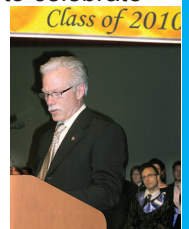
Students at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School and Peter McRae cheer on Freedom International. The students were very grateful for Freedom's donation of \$25,000 to the **Kids, Cops & Computers** program.

## Merry Go Round Congratulates Everest College's 2010 Graduates!

Merry Go Round Children's Foundation's Executive Director recently had the chance to give back to a corporate sponsor that's provided many **Kids, Cops & Computers** recipients the computer training they need to succeed.

Clayton Shold was the keynote speaker at the college's class of 2010 graduation ceremony. He explained, "the name Merry Go Round came about from the notion 'what goes around comes around'." Shold spoke of the benefits of the law of reciprocity.

Curtis Stamp, who came to celebrate his 57 year-old-mother's graduation, told Shold "the graduation was a very motivating experience for me...and your speech was the icing on the cake."



## KCC Alumni Reflection: Program “got me on track with my life.”

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Five years ago, Stephanie received what she describes as one of the most impactful gifts she's ever had: a brand new computer and colour printer, Internet connection and computer training from the **Kids, Cops & Computers** Program.

“It was a gift that got me on track with my life,” she explains. Stephanie was in Grade 7 when her teacher informed her that she'd been selected to participate in the Program. Today, Stephanie is completing her last year of high school and is still using the computer provided to her by the Program.

“I'm using it for everything—from doing school assignments to going on MSN and Facebook and getting updated with my friends.”

**Kids, Cops & Computers** works closely with the four school boards in Toronto to identify Grade 7 kids in Toronto's 13 priority areas who have great learning potential but are financially disadvantaged. It is a great challenge for these students to complete school assignments without adequate access to a home computer.

“It opened many doors of opportunity for me. I appreciated it at the time, but as I grow up I'm appreciating, even more, how the program helped my life” she explains.

The Police Officer eBuddy component was especially impactful, says Stephanie. **Kids, Cops & Computers** pairs students with volunteer Toronto Police Service officers who become Program 'eBuddies.'

For Stephanie, having an 'eBuddy' meant having somebody to turn to when support is most needed. “It was a great help. My 'eBuddy' is someone I know I can turn to for help and advice. We got along very well and still keep in touch,” she says.

The Program's *Inspiration!* event was also “very motivational,” she adds. *Inspiration!* is **Kids, Cops & Computers'** year-end celebration. Held in June of each year, it is a time when kids, cops, teachers and corporate sponsors come together to celebrate a year of accomplishments.

“The event brought everyone together. I met other students on the Program and the people running the organization. It felt like a community and you belong to it.”



Stephanie smiles as she receives her certificate back in Grade 7.

**Mark your calendar**

Purchase your tickets today  
Visit: [kidscopscomputers.org](http://kidscopscomputers.org)

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