

Advocate for Children and Youth Participate in Youth Initiative

SASKATOON— Saskatchewan’s Advocate for Children and Youth is heeding a call to action. That call came from a group called the United Youth Christmas Campaign. The campaign has a goal of collecting cash, non-perishable food items, mittens, toiletries, colouring books, and toys for underprivileged children and youth. Once gathered, the group will engage in what it calls “an epic party” for the families in order to distribute the items and bring out the spirit of the holidays. The inspirational leader behind the campaign is 15-year-old Maizie Bowkowsky who hopes “to find 100 of my fellow students to participate in the endeavour to make it a success. It’s all about youth helping youth”.

Advocate Corey O’Soupe has agreed to play the role of Santa for the initiative. He will join the group at various events and at the distribution. “It is so heartwarming to see the youth of Saskatchewan take ownership of a project that is not only this large, but it’s also so important for many families living in Saskatoon. Adults can speak to children for hours, and not have the same impact as someone of their own generation”. In his position as Advocate, O’Soupe has indicated that listening to children and youth is a priority. “I was so pleased to be asked to be a part of this project as I believe it gives inspiring young people, such as Maizie and her group, a forum to speak to others and for them to model this type of behaviour. It’s all about youth empowering youth to make a difference in our communities”.

The group has already secured local and national support for the initiative. Bowkowsky says that youth are noticing the events that are taking place in Saskatchewan, especially the tragedies in northern Saskatchewan. She believes “we need to unite to find our voice and stand beside our underprivileged brothers and sisters. We need to use our power to create hope and inspire a nation of youth to follow in our footsteps”.

They have started a Facebook page. You can participate, and follow their progress, at www.facebook.com/unitedyouthofmartensville .

-30-

For more information contact:

Eldon Duchscher
Communications and Public Education Coordinator
Advocate for Children and Youth
(306) 933-6700 or (306) 220-4648
educhscher@saskadvocate.ca