

### IGRAD



### What is iGrad?



- Partnership between YRDSB and 36okids
- Located in Richmond Hill Home Base
- Created to service Homeless Youth
   Continuous intake
- Online learning Credit granting
- Classroom and teacher support
   Monday to Friday, 9:30 am 3:30 pm,
   September June

# How does iGrad Work?

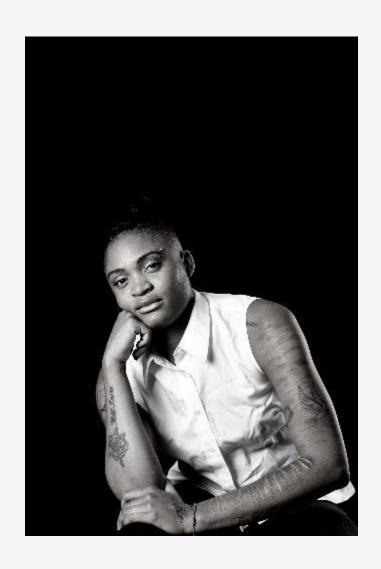
- Takes into account an individuals lived experience
- Works with youth to remove barriers
- Holistic Approach
- Flexible learning environment



### Why is iGrad Necessary?

- Transient Lifestyle bouncing from family member to family member, couch surfing, frequent moves
- Inherited trauma, abuse, and neglect





### How does iGrad Achieve Success?

- Meeting youth where they are at
  - <u>Literally</u> at the shelter instead of forcing them into the schools
  - Figuratively realizing that their needs extend beyond the classroom

#### Homelessness

- Homelessness = a lack of sleep, stress, anxiety, trauma = failure to succeed in school
  - Connections,
  - Stay,
  - Residential,
  - Night Stop,
  - Youth Outreach Workers who go into schools to identify these youth.



### Lack of Food Security

 Lack of nutrition = failure to succeed in school

- Full service kitchen that serves 3 (2 hot) meals a day,
- Food Pantry



# Lack of Life Skills & Coping Strategies

- Inability to fit into mainstream society makes success difficult
- Bounced around Foster homes
- Violent/Abusive Households
  - Life Skills Workshops
  - One-on-one informal counselling with Social Workers
  - Formal Counselling
  - Case Management by Youth Workers





## Conflict with the Law

- Homeless youth are overrepresented in the law system because of the lack of supports that are provided to them.
  - L.E.G.I.T. (Leadership
     Engagement Gang
     Intervention Team), support
     getting to and from court
     dates, assistance
     communicating with
     lawyers
  - Human Trafficking

### Mental Health Issues

- Depression, Bi-polar Disorder, Borderline Disorder
- Lack of health care (withholding of health cards)
- Stigma of mental health
- History of untreated mental health issues
- Youth turn to selfmedicating which leads to addiction issues.

- MOBYSS Bus (Mobile York South Simcoe),
- Sexual Health Clinics,
- Public Health Nurses,
- Paramedics,
- Dentist,
- Chiropractor,
- Massage Therapists,
- Nutritionists,
- Counselling,
- Anxiety, Parenting, and Self-Care Workshops



### Why iGrad Works

- Meets the youth where they are at
- Independent reporting period
- Looks at Overall Wellness
   Level and works to improve all
   areas of their life <u>before</u>
   dealing with education, and
   then closely monitors their
   status throughout the year.
- Makes referrals to appropriate resources to ensure good health of the youth

### Why iGrad Works

- Maximum flexibility in delivering programming
- Ability to connect and build a rapport
- Complete understanding of the youth and their needs



### iGrad's Focus

- Reengagement in education
- Not just on academic success and achievement, but the overall success and growth of the individual in the program.
- Important stepping stone in the life of the youth.

