



# BROTHERS WHO CARE



## Combating Systemic Challenges and Promoting Positive Narratives

The importance of Black fathers cannot be overstated. They play a vital role in the lives of their children, families, and communities.

We want to welcome you to the June edition of Brothers Who Care, and for the bulk of this edition, we are going to be honouring Black fathers, and the significant role that they play in our community.

Despite the fact that there are some men who unfortunately are unable to be what they need to be for their families, there are a percentage of Black fathers who challenge negative stereotypes and misconceptions surrounding fatherhood in the Black community. They demonstrate that they are capable, loving, and committed parents, shattering stereotypes that perpetuate negative narratives and hinder positive societal perceptions.

Black fathers play a crucial role in strengthening communities, and in this month we are going to honour these men. It is important to note that the significance of fathers extends beyond racial boundaries, and the positive impact of involved fathers can be seen in families of all backgrounds. However, recognizing the importance of Black fathers specifically is crucial in combating systemic challenges and promoting positive narratives that celebrate their contributions to their families and communities.

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There is so much happening at Brothers Who Care, and the best way to stay up to date is by visiting us at <https://brotherswhocare.com/>.



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## Distinguished Dialogue with David Griffiths

*Let's be real; balancing the demands of work, personal life, and fatherhood can be a constant juggling act. Finding enough time to spend with your children, your spouse, all the while fulfilling other obligations can be challenging, and I have experienced feelings of guilt and frustration when I can't be as present as I would like.*

*Fatherhood can bring about a range of emotions, including joy, love, and fulfillment, but it can also bring feelings of: anxiety, self-doubt, and pressure. Managing these emotions and finding healthy ways to cope with stress is crucial, and striking a balance between work and family life can be particularly difficult for fathers. The pressure to provide for your family financially may lead to long work hours and limited time for family activities.*

Then, there is the fact that society often places less emphasis on the role of fathers compared to mothers, which has led to a lack of support and resources for fathers. This can leave dads feeling isolated, and unsure of their abilities, as they may have fewer opportunities to connect with other fathers or seek guidance.

*All this being said, there is a greater challenge faced when you are a Black father living in North America. Black fathers often face negative stereotypes perpetuated by the media, which continues to lead to bias and discrimination. I have witnessed men unfairly labeled as absentee fathers, or portrayed as unfit parents, despite evidence to the contrary. These stereotypes can affect how others perceive Black fathers and may result in biased treatment in various spheres of life.*

*This is why Brothers Who Care has become a movement here in Canada. Black fathers often find themselves navigating parenting norms and expectations that differ from their own cultural background. Balancing cultural traditions and expectations with societal norms can create unique challenges and require additional effort to find a parenting approach that aligns with their values while also meeting the needs of their children.*

*As an organization, we are providing a space for Black fathers to prioritize nurturing a positive racial identity in their children. We have established a narrative that actively counters negative messages, and we provide support to fathers who actively want to help their children develop a strong sense of self-worth and resilience in the face of racial discrimination or societal challenges.*

*Despite these difficulties, it is important to note that many Black fathers successfully navigate these obstacles and play integral roles in their children's lives. We serve as loving, dedicated, and supportive parents, fostering strength, resilience, and a sense of cultural pride in our families.*

*Supportive communities, access to resources, and ongoing efforts to address systemic inequalities contribute to a more equitable and inclusive society for Black fathers and their families.*

*This month is all about you dad. Know that if you need the support, the team at Brothers Who Care is here to help.*

*Celebrate yourselves, and know that we are celebrating you!*



## Jump into June with Brothers Who Care?

On **Saturday June 10th, 2023** we celebrated our second "I SEE ME" Awards Celebration in the ever bustling city of Toronto. Later in the newsletter, we will share all the excitement of the day, and what you missed if you were unable to make it.

What was truly a heartwarming sight was to see children excited about their accomplishments. When children achieve something they've been working towards, whether it's: academic, creative, athletic, or personal, their excitement is contagious and so was the energy.

This year, youth won a total of **\$14,400** to contribute to Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP). In the last two years, we have successfully contributed a total of **\$24,400** to our competing students, and we are looking to contribute even more the next cycle of the Stock Market Game.

### WE HAVE EXCITING NEWS!

For parents who were unable to register their children for the spring session of The Stock Market Game, our community partners [Y.A.A.C.E.](#) will be hosting the summer session starting Wednesday July 5th, 2023. Stay tuned for more details!



## Dates to Remember

**June 18th, 2023**

### Father's Day

Father's Day is a holiday honouring one's father, or relevant father figure, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. The single most common date among world countries is the third Sunday of June

**June 19th, 2023**

### Juneteenth

On June 19, African Americans will celebrate Juneteenth. This day marks emancipation from chattel slavery and the long and violent struggle for Black people to be recognized as equally human.

While this is not an official holiday in Canada, it is significant for thinking about the history of race, racial relations and education.

**June 27th, 2023**

### Canadian Multiculturalism Day

Canadian Multiculturalism Day honours the many cultural communities that help build a strong and vibrant Canadian society.

Take this opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity that enriches us collectively and reaffirm your commitment to equity, inclusion, and mutual respect.

### SCHOOL IS OUT

Our young ones have successfully completed another year of school. Time for some family fun!

# It's Tough out Here for Dad's

## Dad to-do List

Being a better dad is a noble goal, and we thought it would be a great time to brush up on our daddy skills.

### **Spend quality time together**

Dedicate uninterrupted time to engage in activities that your child enjoys. This strengthens your bond and creates lasting memories.

### **Communicate openly**

Encourage open and honest communication with your child. Create a safe space for them to express their feelings, thoughts, and concerns without judgment.

### **Listen actively**

Pay attention to what your child is saying and show genuine interest in their lives. Give them your undivided attention when they want to share something with you.

### **Be involved**

Take an active role in your child's life by participating in their activities, such as attending school events, sports games, or recitals. Show your support and interest in their hobbies and achievements.

### **Lead by example**

Children often learn by observing their parents' behaviour. Be a positive role model by demonstrating qualities such as: kindness, integrity, responsibility, and respect. Show them how to handle challenges with grace and resilience.

### **Provide guidance and boundaries**

Establish clear expectations and boundaries for your child's behaviour. Set consistent rules and enforce them fairly. Offer guidance and explain the reasons behind your decisions.

### **Show love and affection**

Express your love and affection to your child through hugs, words of affirmation, and acts of kindness. Let them know that they are loved unconditionally.

### **Be patient and understanding**

Recognize that parenting is a journey filled with ups and downs. Practice patience and understanding when dealing with challenging situations. Listen empathetically and try to see things from your child's perspective.

### **Support their interests and aspirations**

Encourage your child to pursue their passions and interests. Provide them with opportunities for growth and development in areas they are passionate about.



### **Take care of yourself**

Being a better dad also involves taking care of your own well-being. This is something that we skip as father's and it is the most important.

Prioritize self-care, maintain a healthy work-life balance, and seek support when needed. Your own happiness and fulfillment will positively impact your relationship with your child.

Remember, every child is unique, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to parenting. Stay adaptable and open to learning along the way. The most important thing is to consistently show love, support, and active involvement in your child's life.

## Spotlight on our Sponsors

As a growing organization, we have learned the importance of collaboration, and the significance of having partnerships and sponsors. Our sponsors play a critical role in ensuring the long-term sustainability of Brothers Who Care initiatives. Their ongoing financial support allows us to continue our work, make a positive impact, and fulfill our missions.

The involvement of our sponsors have helped us raise awareness and funds for our educational programs, and our numerous community-focused activities. This month we would like to **SPOTLIGHT** the work of our sponsors.



Since the start of their charity golf tournament in 1990, they have donated over \$4.6 million benefitting local hospitals, children's charities and kids' camps across the Greater Toronto Area.

It is only through the community's generous support that they have been able to make a difference. Even if you are not a golfer, there are many ways to support the cause as they welcome sponsorships and cash donations (tax receiptable).

With a continued focus on investing in mental health, immunotherapy and child and youth leadership initiatives, the Longo Family Foundation will donate 100% of proceeds to the following charitable partners:

Vaughan YMCA

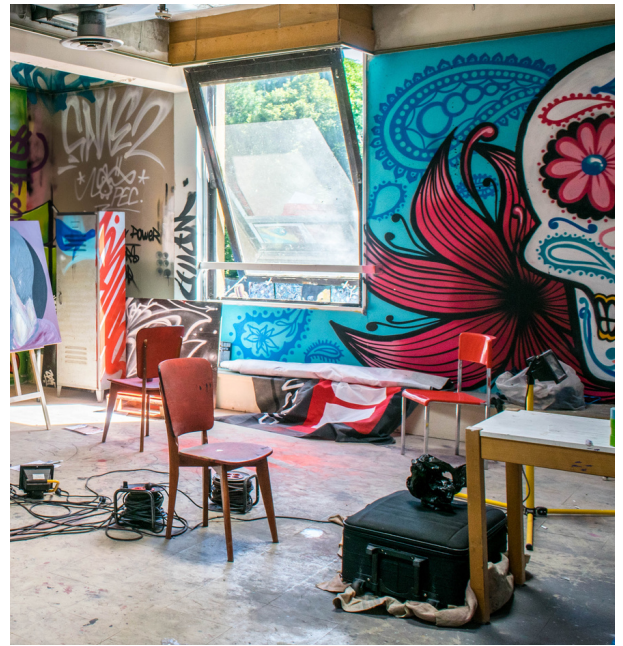
Erin Oaks Kids

The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation

Lumenus Community Services

Camp Kirk

Trillium Health Partners



## CIBC C2 Create & Curate Art Program

CIBC's C2 Create and Curate Art Program (C2 Art), is a Canadian national art competition. Each year, CIBC awards two early-career artists with the opportunity and funding to create a body of work. Finalists' work is displayed in a solo exhibition inside their new headquarters, CIBC Square South Tower at 81 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario.

By empowering artists, they enrich the cultural landscape, support the diversity of Canada and encourage new ideas and ways of thinking. This year, a selection committee including members of CIBC and the art community selected two finalists: Maya Skarzenski, an interdisciplinary artist, curator and designer based in Toronto, ON and Mike Pszczonak, an artist and educator based in London, ON.

The two selected artists will now begin to create a series of works which will be exhibited in a solo exhibition for each artist.

"We are thrilled to announce our support of these two very talented artists," said Dr. Claudette Knight, Vice-President, Workplace Design and Experience, CIBC. "By investing in artists we enrich our cultural landscape, foster dialogue and encourage new ways of thinking."

To learn more about the **C2 Create and Curate Art Program**, please visit:

<https://www.cibc.com/en/about-cibc/create-and-curate.html>



# "I SEE ME" Awards Ceremony

*"Tesla!"*  
*"Amazon"*  
*"Apple!"*

It was truly amazing to see children grades four to grade 12 shout out stocks that they had traded during their experience with The Stock Market Competition. 30 to 40 years ago, this was unheard of in the Black community, which is what makes the "I SEE ME" Competition such an impactful initiative.

Accomplishing something meaningful gives children a sense of achievement and boosts their self-esteem, and on Saturday June 10th, 2023 there was a room full of children who recognized that their hard work and dedication had paid off.

The celebration was important for both the parents and the children. Celebrating children's accomplishments encourages positive reinforcement. When they see that their efforts and achievements are acknowledged and appreciated by others, it reinforces their motivation to continue striving for success. The excitement they exude serves as a validation of their hard work, which creates a positive cycle of growth and development.

What we hope is that as our "I SEE ME" participants enthusiastically share their accomplishments, it can inspire and motivate their peers and siblings. We are hoping that seeing their friends' excitement will ignite a spark in others to pursue their own financial goals. Children can become role models for one another, fostering a supportive and encouraging environment where everyone can thrive.

We had an incredible group of students this year, and we are proud to announce that we tripled our numbers from last year. We want to take this time to thank both the children and the parents for putting in the time and effort to make this competition so exciting and competitive.

The students who competed this year displayed a high level of motivation and demonstrated a proactive approach to their learning and personal growth. With the help of our incredible mentors (**Taylor Bogle, Hasina Qaderi, Keandre Japal, Thalia Rutherford, Anya Watts-Johnson, Ryan Robinsion**) students were able to set targets for themselves and work diligently to achieve them. They were willing to go the extra mile to achieve excellence and were not easily discouraged by challenges or setbacks.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all, and a special SHOUT OUT to our community partners **One Voice One Team** and **IBM**, and to our volunteers, this would be impossible if it wasn't for you.

