



PRESS RELEASE



No One Left Behind: Ten Oaks Project and TD Bank Group are Bowling to Send More Children and Youth from LGBTQ+ Communities to Camp in 2015

OTTAWA – January 26, 2015 – Registration is open for the Ten Oaks Project's 11th Annual Bowl-A-Thon at **McArthur Bowling Lanes** on **Saturday, March 21st**, between 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM. **TD Bank Group** is once again the generous presenting sponsor for the 7th consecutive year.

The charity's goal is to send 144 children and youth to camp this summer (an increase of 10 more campers over last year) and raise \$40,000 during its afternoon bowling fundraiser. Funds raised during the family-friendly event help subsidize camper registration fees.

Ten Oaks has always held the philosophy that no one will be turned away because they can't pay. To remove any financial barrier for potential campers (the true cost is \$1,000 per child), the charity offers a reduced registration fee and a sliding scale to make their camps as economically accessible as possible. However, space is limited and there are waiting lists every year. Ten Oaks hopes that the addition of 10 extra spots this year will address some of the need.

Bowlers are encouraged to register their teams early at www.tenoaksproject.org. With a maximum of 32 teams able to participate, spots are limited. Once a team has registered, participants can create their individual and team fundraising pages *auto-magically* on the website through the secure **Giftool** donation service.

Fast Facts:

- **The Ten Oaks Project** is a registered charity and volunteer-driven organization that empowers children and youth from LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirit, queer) communities through its two outdoor education camping programs, **Camp Ten Oaks** and **Project Acorn**, both held at RKY Camp near Kingston, Ontario.
- The first and only summer camp of its kind in Canada, **Camp Ten Oaks** is an accredited member of the Ontario Camping Association and will take place from July 26-August 1, 2015, at **RKY Camp** near Kingston, Ontario. Registration for new campers aged 8 to 17 will open February 2, 2015.
- **Project Acorn** is a four-day program (August 30–September 2, 2015) for youth aged 16 to 24 that offers an empowering and liberating experience with workshops, speakers, camp activities and magic. Supported by **United Way Ottawa** and the **Inspirit Foundation**, it was spearheaded by the Ten Oaks Project's first ever Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) in 2008.



PRESS RELEASE



- On the same day as the Bowl-A-Thon, we are hosting the 2nd Annual **Acorn Prance** in Toronto! This dance-a-thon fundraiser will provide the Bowl-A-Thon with a little friendly competition (who will have the best dance moves??) and our goal is for the two fundraisers to collectively raise \$60,000.00. For more information about the Acorn Prance, please visit www.tenoaksproject.org

Quotes:

“We like to say that it takes a forest to raise a child. Of course we also know it takes a village and we’re hoping our village comes together to help us send more kids to camp this year. Our camps provide safer and accessible spaces where kids can be themselves and talk openly about their families. It sounds pretty simple, but a lot of our campers will tell you it’s not always easy to come out at other campers or talk about your two moms, two dads, or trans parents. We strive to foster self-confidence, strengthen connections and build capacity in our campers. They leave knowing they are not alone. That they have communities, villages and forests that support them.”

– Dawn Moore, Board President, Ten Oaks Project

“We’re committed to creating opportunities for diverse youth by supporting organizations that look to remove financial barriers, as well as other barriers that may prevent young people from developing to their full potential. That’s why TD is proud to support the Ten Oaks Project and help provide youth the opportunity to flourish in an inclusive environment.”

- Trista Lynch-Black, Manager, Marketing and Community Relations, TD Bank Group

About Ten Oaks Project

Based in Ottawa, the Ten Oaks Project has been meeting the needs of children and youth from LGBTQ+ identities, families and communities since 2004. With innovative and cutting-edge programming modeled on the principles of social justice, campers learn through play, workshops and social interaction to enhance self-esteem, life skills, independence, leadership and self-confidence. The Ten Oaks Project strives to ensure programs remain economically accessible and are safe spaces where children and youth of LGBTQ+ communities can thrive.

TD Community Giving

TD Bank Group invests in communities in order to effect positive change in the places where it operates and where its clients and employees live and work. In 2013, TD donated over \$74.4M to support community organizations in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. In



PRESS RELEASE



Canada, TD focuses on education and financial literacy, creating opportunities for young people and the environment. For further information, please visit www.td.com/corporate-responsibility.

For More Information:

Dawn Moore President, Ten Oaks Project president@tenoaksproject.org	Trista Lynch-Black Manager, Marketing and Community Relations, TD Bank Group trista.lynchblack@td.com
---	--