

making

PLAY

possible!



# Who we are:

Coordinated by Recreation Steering Committee  
Partnership with Healthy Communities  
Every Kid In Our Communities Workgroup

(UCDSBEO/CDSBEO; City Of Brockville; Municipalities; Child & Youth Wellness Centre; Family & Children's Services; United Counties; Families; Recreational Organizations, **YMCA, Girls Inc. Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Public Health, Safe Communities Coalition, St. Lawrence College, Libraries, Community Health Centres, etc. )**

## Making Play Possible Program

(Staffed by CYWC; Administration support; Financial Administration;Office)

Accepting referrals; Matching Kids with activities; Attending to special needs; Fundraising; Program Planning; Marketing; Developing Partnerships

# What is MPP?

- A community response to providing access and inclusion for all youth in sports and recreation opportunities

# Why MPP?

What Does Research Tell Us?

Children and Youth who take part in recreation and/or the arts:

- Are more successful in school
- Are less likely to have mental health problems
- Are less likely to engage in crime
- Are less likely to engage in at risk behaviours

# Why MPP?

- Youth in Leeds Grenville identified lack of affordable recreation as #1 issue facing our communities
- 36% of families with children in Brockville are lone parent families (32% increase in 5 years → challenges efforts to reduce child poverty and increases stress on families)

# MPP opens doors to:

- Athletics (i.e. soccer, basketball, hockey, dance...)
  - Visual Art Classes (i.e. painting, drawing, pottery...)
  - Equipment (i.e. footwear, uniforms, costumes...)
  - Social Recreation Groups (i.e. Scouts, Brownies, Girl Guides...)
  - Instrumental music /voice lessons
  - Parent/Child Groups
  - Social Skills Classes
  - Reading programs
- ... and much more!



# How do we operate?

We currently have a .5 Coordinator and administration support.

Referrals are accepted by families, intake staff, clinicians or community organizations.

We attempt to meet with all families to evaluate the child's needs and interests.

We negotiate a contribution with each family and we seek subsidy from recreational organizations.

# How many children have we helped?

Approximately 500 to 700 children and youth are helped each year

Since inception (2004)

Over 4500 children and families



**Approximately 200 clubs and organizations have been involved with MPP across Leeds and Grenville Counties**



# How we work together

- Identifying children needing support
- Pooling resources
- Joint fundraising

# Future Goals

- Reach more children in rural areas
- Increase support to kids to ensure success
- Increase financial support
- Increase support from recreational organizations
- Coordinated approach to supporting recreation for children and youth across Leeds-Grenville and Lanark