

## St. Leonard's Society of Toronto

STEP is operated by the St. Leonard's Society of Toronto (SLST).

SLST is a non-denominational registered charitable organization that is dedicated to creating safer communities. For over 20 years, SLST has operated a range of crime prevention and rehabilitation programs from its two locations in Toronto's Riverdale community.

### Donate

SLST relies on financial contributions from government, foundations, community partners, and individual donors. Support us in our mission to provide safer communities for our youth and for the residents of Toronto.

### Volunteer

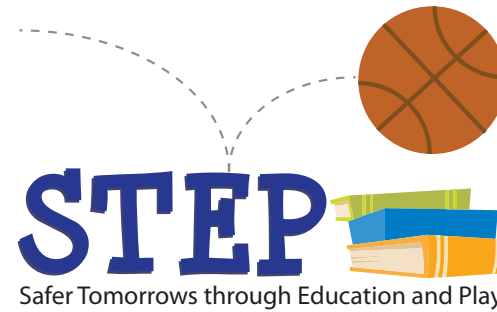
We could not succeed in our mission without the efforts of our many volunteers. Join us as a volunteer and help us to create safer communities.



St. Leonard's Society of Toronto

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# STEP ahead of the crowd

A Safe Environment | A Learning Environment | A Fun Environment

## Parents: help your kids prepare for real world challenges

We all want our kids to be prepared for life -- to make friends, find happiness and gain important skills that will help them in their schooling and future professions. However, today's youth are faced with numerous challenges that can make success difficult to achieve. An overwhelmed school system, violence in schools, peer pressure, and other realities can often create barriers to keeping kids healthy and most importantly, safe. St. Leonard's Society's STEP program is a free program that provides kids between grades 5 and 12 with a safe after school environment where they can learn important life skills and get help with their homework.

## A Safe Environment

Open during the school year from 3:00PM onwards, STEP provides kids in grades 5 to 12 with a safe afterschool environment where they can hang out with friends, take part in a variety of fun and educational activities, and get help with their homework. The program is designed to keep kids away from the influence of drugs and gangs, and ensure they remain engaged in positive activities. Many of our staff and volunteers are aspiring teachers and social workers, meaning they are familiar with school curriculae and are knowledgeable about life skills coaching.

## A Learning Environment

STEP offers general and one-on-one tutoring for program participants who need help with their homework. We also hold a wide range of workshops where kids can learn important life skills like resume building, problem solving, dispute and conflict management, self-esteem building, and healthy body image. Participants also get a chance to develop leadership and team work skills. The program offers a positive and non-judgmental environment where kids can feel comfortable being themselves.

## A Fun Environment

STEP organizes a variety of field trips and events throughout the year, including an annual drama production where kids get the chance to show off their talents on stage. Other past events have included movie nights, trips to Jays and Raptors games, card game tournaments, bbqs, and much more. Since program participants are from a variety of schools, kids also get the opportunity to meet new people and develop new friendships. "I didn't realize how easy math could be until I worked with a tutor in the STEP Program," *STEP participant, Grade 8 student* "St. Leonard's has long been a leader in identifying local needs and providing relevant programs to address them. St. Leonard's has demonstrated a willingness to engage parents in diverse ways, while at the same time meeting the needs of their children," *Jill Worthy, Superintendent of Education Toronto District School Board*

## Kids: gain confidence, have fun and meet new people

Growing up can be tough. Everyone expects you to take on more responsibility, do well in school and still have a social life. Not to mention that you're supposed to avoid drugs and gangs, ignore bullies and not give in to peer pressure. How can you keep up?

St. Leonard's Society's STEP program can help. We provide a safe space after school for you to hang out with friends, meet new people, and get help with your homework from our volunteer tutors. We also organize loads of events like bbqs, drama productions, card game tournaments, and workshops. So you can have fun, and maybe even learn a thing or two in the process.



# STEP

Safer Tomorrows through Education and Play

