

To whom this may concern,

Relatively unknown to the general population lay a wonderful team of people who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of others, who live by the motto “helping others help themselves.” Jeannette Robert started her “charity” work in the hopes of effecting change in the lives of children and youth. Ron, Jeannette’s partner in arms; Bonnie, Jeannette’s daughter, and Megan, Jeannette’s protege, have all worked tirelessly to develop what has been one of the most life changing programs that we have ever been privileged to be a part of.

Having no supports of our own and nowhere to go when we found ourselves in crisis, we were pointed in the direction of TAPP. We were registered for the FEM/MEN program. We came in angry, unaware of the baggage we were actually carrying with us, and we were each confronted with 23 other individuals who were in the same emotional turmoil as we. This was the first step in bonding and growing. Over the next few weeks, Jeannette, Megan and Ron gave us all glimpses into their lives and their troubles, thus solidifying the bond that was forming. Our esteems grew more than a few notches.

But it was in the face of adversity that our bond with each other and that with Megan, Jeannette and Ron were tested. In the wake of a suicide, something that has touched all of us in some way or another, we found peace, harmony, safety, shelter, and love within each other. Something that Jeannette and Megan taught us, we found unity. It was our combined strength and compassion that has helped Jeannette, Ron and their families mourn such a loss and begin to heal, while still pushing forward with life. Jeannette and Megan gave us emotional shelter when we needed it, and we in turn, were able to give it back.

It is important to recognize the incredible work that this team of dedicated people does for the community. For the girls of FEM, the boys of MEN, the group from Dreamweaver’s, and the team in Office Admin; Jeannette, Ron and Megan’s work goes beyond the classroom, beyond the office, right down to the very essence of what makes us human. Our hearts.

From the bottom of ours, we reach out to you, and ask that you help us honour the people who have taken countless young, broken, hopeless men and women and have given us something that we needed the most in life. Not a hand out, not a hand up, but a chance!

Thank you for this opportunity,

The TAPP Crew.