WHO BENEFITS

- Marginalized youth from Toronto's low-income and immigrant-rich neighbourhoods
- WE will focus on bringing selected student-athletes into the BTST mentorship program. Academic mentorship continues from middle through high school graduation
- Coaches, staff and volunteers involved in the program
- Schools and the community experience a larger number of emerging youth leaders and an increase in school spirit and pride. Links develop between students from different schools and communities
- The sport of wrestling will have more middle and high school programs and participants
- Anticipated increase in graduation rates

WHO WE ARE

Team Impact, with its volunteer coaches and parents, has been providing an inclusive and high-level community wrestling program for more than 40 years.

Beat the Streets Toronto (BTST) is a natural extension of this history. This program provides academic and life skills mentoring to the wrestling discipline and focuses on marginalized youth.

Participating coaches and volunteers are active at all levels of local, provincial, national and international competition.

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WHY WRESTLING?

The martial art of wrestling is one of the original sports from the ancient Olympic games. Along with this history, wrestlers know what sets this sport apart from all others: How demanding it is. Skills developed on the mat are directly transferable to life. The qualities of stamina, focus, perseverance, commitment, independence, strength and courage all impact greatly in day-to-day relationships and the work place.

The many skill sets one learns in wrestling are transferable to success in the classroom and beyond.

ESSENCE OF THE PROGRAM

BTST combines the sport of wrestling, academics and life skill mentoring with a specific focus on supporting marginalized youth.

The BTST program provides an introduction to wrestling in middle and high schools as well as a central training centre for qualified student-athletes. The goal is to reinvigorate and promote the sport of wrestling in local communities.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

BEAT the STREETS Toronto is committed to fostering the holistic development of the program participants.

Growing up as an at-risk youth in an urban setting, many kids face a plethora of obstacles that act as barriers between them and their development. Therefore, BEAT the STREETS Toronto provides opportunities for student-athletes' success within a disciplined sport and paired with an academic mentoring program. This program follows them from middle school throughout high school.

MEASURABLE IMPACTS OF BTST

- Increased self-confidence and self-esteem of students in the program
- Increase in school attendance, practice attendance
- Increase in school graduation rates
- Increase in the number of middle and high schools offering wrestling within the physical education curriculum and after school wrestling programs
- Increase in the quality and number of National Coaching Certification Program certified coaches/teachers in the school systems

HISTORY of BEAT the STREETS

Founders of BTST visited BEAT the STREETS programs in New York and Philadelphia. While impressed with the New York organization, they were amazed by the level of engagement of the Philadelphia organization (BTSP) and their student athletes.

Highlights from the US Beat the Streets:
- A mentorship program that assesses each student, teaches them life skills, provides academic tutoring and prepares them for college
- Students from nearby universities participate in a highly effective "near peer" mentorship program with selected BTST student-athletes
- 94% advancement and graduation rate (vs. Philadelphia average 64%)

The richness and success of the US programs are the genesis of BEAT the STREETS Toronto (BTST)