

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

ABOUT "REALITY CHECK"

TORONTO

Excellent...gripping content and delivery. [Teacher, A. Y. Jackson SS](#)

Teachers and students are still talking about the wonderful presentations...The sessions are enlightening, invaluable and help develop the students' sensitivity to the plight of others. [Chaplain, Bishop Allen Academy](#)

The information that Covenant House provides to our students is at the utmost importance and will certainly help to make responsible citizens out of them; but above all, they (the students) need to acknowledge the suffering of their fellow human beings, and develop compassion for and love of their neighbours. [Teacher, Bishop Allen Academy](#)

Our older students benefit very well from this presentation since they will face "leaving home" and its reality in the immediate future. [Teacher, Bishop Allen Academy](#)

Amazing and very moving presentation that really engages students and gives a better and deeper understanding of such an important issue. [Student Teacher, Blessed Cardinal Newman CSS](#)

Presentation content was good and presenter was very strong. [Guidance Counsellor, Bloorlea MS](#)

Extremely powerful and enlightening presentation that captivated our students and opened their eyes to youth less fortunate around us today. The facilitator had a special talent of relating to the students: She had them laughing, crying, shocked and fascinated. It really was an emotional rollercoaster, where aspects of the content were still brought up in discussions weeks later. [Teachers, Branksome Hall](#)

A very engaging and relevant program for my students. [Teacher, Canadian Martyrs CES](#)

Excellent...Totally engaged our students. [Child & Youth Worker, Caring and Safe Schools - Pharmacy](#)

Very valuable presentation for the Grade 7 & 8 students at our school. Students were fully engaged for the full 90 minutes! [Guidance Counsellor, Danforth Gardens PS](#)

Our students learned about homelessness, drug use, and that the choices they make today will impact their lives...Very engaging presenter. [Guidance Counsellor, Donview Middle Health & Wellness Academy](#)

Excellent information and presenter who gave the info smoothly and answered all the questions put forth by the students in a knowledgeable and supporting way. Bravo! [Teacher, Dorset Park PS](#)

Our facilitator did such a good job of engaging the students and the slide show was so helpful. [Teacher, Dovercourt PS](#)

The information provided was very relevant to our students' age group. The students' feedback was positive and they were engaged in the presentation. They learned many things they were not aware of before this presentation. Thank You, Great Presentation! [Teacher, Earl Haig SS](#)

Beautiful, captivating presentation that inspired myself and my friends to become leaders and help. [Student, Earl Haig SS](#)

I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and my students unanimously agreed that they all learned something new! It had lots of varied activities and engaged the kids a lot! [Teacher, East York CI](#)

Very informative presentation. The group activity was interactive and interesting. [Teacher, East York CI](#)

The 'trafficking' piece was eye-opening! [Teacher, East York CI](#)

The students truly loved the presentation. Classes are already doing follow-up activities. [Guidance Counsellor, The Elms JMS](#)

Excellent! Very engaging. Students were engaged and surprised at the homelessness facts. [Teachers, Etobicoke Year Round Alternative Centre](#)

Engaging, current and brought harsh realities out in the open. Very real and thought-provoking presentation. [Teacher, Fairbank PS](#)

I was really impressed with this presentation. The slides were culturally relevant, informative and supported the talk. Our facilitator was an articulate speaker with a way of engaging her audience with her broad knowledge and sense of humour. Many students stayed behind during recess to continue the discussion with her. I will recommend this presentation to other schools. [Teacher, General Crerar PS](#)

Fantastic - the presenter was enthusiastic, well prepared and shared her knowledge with the kids in an engaging way. [Teacher, General Crerar PS](#)

Highly engaging and related well with the students. [Guidance Counsellor, Greenwood College School](#)

How do you afford housing, food, clothing and transportation when you have no family support, job or education? What do you need to sacrifice to make ends meet? Covenant House's "Reality Check" presentation highlights the hardships of living independently on an extremely limited budget... A wonderful hands-on way to learn the realities of street life. [Communications Officer, Greenwood College School](#)

The presentation was relevant for our students and had them engaged; they definitely learned - our staff did too. [Teacher, Holy Cross CES](#)

Provided our students with insight into the challenges some teens in our society are faced with and the support available to them through Covenant House. [Educational Assistant, Holy Name CES](#)

Great presentation...the students really enjoyed it. [Teacher, Humber Valley Village PS](#)

Wonderful, engaging presentation that continues to have resonating effects within our community and beyond. I have no hesitation in strongly recommending this program. My students were very interested and one student even said she needed to use the washroom but couldn't because it was too interesting to miss anything...I hope these young people will continue to grow and learn with your inspiration to help. [Teacher, Jarvis CI](#)
Wonderful presentation...An eye-opener for many of us--me too! It covered a lot of territory and fit in beautifully with our unit on the homeless. [Teacher, Jarvis CI](#)

Captivating storyteller outlining the raw realities of youth homelessness with a practical & eye-opening financial literacy workshop to drive home how close homelessness is to all of us. Brilliant! [Vice-Principal, L'Amoreaux CI](#)

Excellent presentation! My students were really engaged and particularly liked the activity at the end where they had to create a budget. [Teacher, Malvern CI](#)

Excellent...A perfect fit to both curriculum and engaging students. [Teacher, Malvern CI](#)

Students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed this presentation. Would definitely book in the upcoming year. [Teacher, Mary Shadd PS](#)

Very practical, interesting and engaging! Thank you Covenant House for adding professional development skills; it's knowledge and attention builds awareness and better CYW practice. Thank you for providing students with the opportunity to explore more about at risk youth. [CYW Instructor, Medix College of Healthcare](#)

Dynamic, culturally-sensitive, genuine, charismatic and fact-based...the best and most informative presentation I have seen yet...Every school in the GTA should see this presentation! [Child & Youth Worker, Monsignor Fraser CSS](#)

I thought this presentation was excellent. The issues that our marginalized population faces on a day to day is not only compelling but also puts them at risk for becoming homeless. I found the presentation not only informative but was provided in a student sensitive manner with the right dose of humour and compassion. Thank you...I would love to have our facilitator back in the future. [Teacher, Monsignor Fraser CSS – Midland North](#)

Engaging and thought-provoking. [Staff & Students, Newton's Grove School](#)

The information was shocking, relevant, uncomfortable, and enlightening. A needed presentation. [Teacher, Newtonbrook SS](#)

Terrific, informative, insightful and enlightening. Our students were genuinely moved. [Teacher, Newtonbrook SS](#)

Thorough, engaging and very real. [Teacher, Newtonbrook SS](#)

Students were inspired. Connected very well with our curriculum and gave students something to think about that they haven't thought about before (ex. How much it really costs to live). [Teacher, Newtonbrook SS](#)

Great! Will definitely book again. May be interested in looking at ways to take action.... [Vice-Principal, Norseman JMS](#)

Our presentation was very good...The content is very important for students to know. [Teacher, Our Lady of Guadalupe CES](#)

Absolutely brilliant! Everyone, including myself, was totally captivated. [Youth Minister, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church](#)

A very eye-opening presentation that teaches students the reality of life. [Teacher, Our Lady of Wisdom CES](#)

It's alarming – the number of teens that are homeless...Covenant House is a safety net that in reality, serves as a stepping stone to a chance at a productive future. [Teacher, Overflow Centre](#)

Loved the presentations. Was an eye opener – not only to the students but the staff also. We all learned a lot. [Child & Youth Worker, Pharmacy – Caring and Safe Schools](#)

When I learned about all the different things that homeless kids can do at Covenant House, I was encouraged and inspired to start something in my community for those in need of food and clothing, especially closer to the winter months. [Student, Pleasant View JHS, Toronto](#)

Dynamic and well-prepared! [Vice Principal, Pleasant View JHS, Toronto](#)

Absolutely wonderful presentation. Our facilitator was very professional and knew how to relate to our students in a caring and responsible manner. [Teacher, Royal St. George's College](#)

Great reality check for students! Enjoyed that it touched on myths and stereotypes of the homeless. Definitely fit in with curriculum expectations. [Teacher, SATEC @ W. A. Porter CI](#)

Fantastic, informative, interactive presentation - exactly what the students needed! I think they all took away something from that presentation! [Teacher, Second Street JMS, Toronto](#)

One of the strongest presenters I have ever heard. Our students were engaged for the whole session – and that is highly unusual with our student population. Extremely impressed. [Guidance Counsellor/Teacher, Sir William Osler HS](#)

Incredible! My students told me it was the best presentation they had ever seen. The presentation was over days ago but we all can't stop thinking about it. Would highly recommend to anyone! [Teacher, Sir John A. Macdonald CI](#)

It was a powerful presentation that provided a lot of important messages. [Social Worker, Sir William Osler HS](#)

This presentation tied in very well with the "Before You Run" presentation. Students were fully engaged during the presentation and were left to ponder many of the issues that came up. One student stated that the presentation made him realize how quickly your life can change if you aren't careful. I really do think the students left with more insights and empathy. This presentation is a must for any school. [Teacher, St. Augustine CES](#)

A life changing presentation! Highly appropriate material delivered in the language of teens...Very engaging, had the attention of all the students – captivated from start to finish - very hard to do with teenagers. Above and beyond expectation...The presentation really gave face to those in the streets. [Teachers, St. John Paul II CSS](#)

A powerful presentation. So real, so beneficial, so inspiring and engaging. You could hear a pin drop, our students were engaged and eager to participate. [Teacher/Counsellor, St. Martin's APPLE Program](#)

Students benefitted from such an inspiring and hopeful presentation. Fabulous facilitator who was informative, compassionate, engaging, and powerful. [Child & Youth Worker, St. Martin's APPLE Program](#)

This presentation really helps students de-stigmatize why people end up on the streets. Tolerance and empathy is so important to building a loving community. [Teacher, St. Raymond CES](#)

Excellent presentation! Very engaging and students had the chance to really understand the reality of living on the streets. [Teacher, St. Wilfrid CES](#)

Wonderful presenter...Really connected with our students. The content was perfect for our age group and also relevant to their own experiences. [Teacher, Wexford PS](#)

YORK

Very well done presentation! The presenter did an amazing job connecting with our students! We would recommend this presentation to all schools! [Child & Youth Worker, Anne Frank PS](#)

All Covenant House presentations are amazing. [Head of Family Studies, Aurora HS](#)

Emotional, inspiring and informative. The stats were helpful. Great content and speaker. [Child & Youth Worker, Aurora HS](#)

Valuable, memorable and informative. Fantastic, energetic speaker that entranced the students for the entire period. [Teachers, Aurora HS](#)

Great! Changed our views on the real world and how teens are placed in these situations...Makes you think about getting serious. [Teacher, Aurora HS](#)

Teaching our students about social responsibility is such an important part of educating our future youth. The financial portion of the presentation was amazing. The information provided was excellent. Appreciated the emphasis on post-secondary education. [Teachers, Father Michael McGivney CA](#)

Outstanding presenter, effective images. Very informative, engaging presentation. [Teacher, Father Michael McGivney CA](#)

Both "Before You Run" and "Reality Check" programs are very useful for our students. Teaching our students about social responsibility is such an important part of educating our future youth leaders. The financial portion of this presentation was amazing. [Teacher, Father Michael McGivney CA](#)

Awesome presentation. Feedback from students was positive. Students were very engaged and interested – Hit home for most of them. [Assistant Department Head, Alternative Education, Huron Heights SS](#)

Amazing!! Very inspiring and informative! Absolutely necessary and conducive to a variety of curriculum expectations! [Guidance Teacher, Huron Heights SS](#)

I was thrilled with my students' responses...Key messages about the importance of education and about accepting others without judgment were very well received. [Teacher, Huron Heights SS](#)

Holding the attention of 30 teenagers for 75 minutes straight is nearly impossible - unless you're a video game or a movie – and our facilitator captivated the student audience for a solid 75 minutes and they wanted to hear more! This presentation fielded lots of positive and amazing dialogue that doesn't necessarily arise in daily lesson and curriculum programming. The students felt safe and comfortable to share and ask questions. [Teacher, Huron Heights SS](#)

Fantastic presentation... The students very much appreciated it and learned a lot from it. [Teacher, Huron Heights SS](#)

Very powerful and informative presentation! [Guidance/Teacher, Huron Heights SS](#)

I've never seen our students so engaged in the classroom. [Child & Youth Worker, Huron Heights SS - ACCESS](#)

My students have been hearing both 'Before You Run' in grade 10 and 'Reality Check' in grade 12 for several years and I think it is a fantastic way to bookend their high school experience. The material is relevant and extremely informative. [Chaplain, Jean Vanier CHS](#)

The students enjoyed the interactive component by doing the budget. [Teacher, Keswick HS](#)

Consistently awesome! Students were once again fully engaged and moved by the presentation!! [Teacher, Markville SS](#)

Dynamic and captivating. Our speaker really made the topics relevant to our students. I will definitely book Covenant House presentations again. [Guidance Teacher, Milliken Mills HS](#)

Terrific. Informative, insightful, and enlightening. Our students were genuinely moved. [Teacher, Newtonbrook SS](#)

The presentation really hit home with our students and gave them some real world perspective about the financial hardships that children/youth without family support face. [Child & Youth Worker, Morning Glory PS, Pefferlaw](#)

These presentations are invaluable! [Teacher, Our Lady Help of Christians CES](#)

The presentations were excellent; engaging the students thoroughly...it was by far one of the best presentations for our students. [Religion Department Head, Sacred Heart CHS](#)

Excellent presentation that exposed students to the sad reality that is part of many young people's lives. The budgeting activity was interesting and informative. [Teacher, Sacred Heart CHS](#)

Great presentation: Timely and relevant. [Teacher, Sacred Heart CHS](#)

Absolutely PHENOMENAL presentation about youth homelessness and all the effects of it. I absolutely loved the presentation and it exposed the truths of what is actually going on with in society and broke the stereotypical approach that people tend to believe... Despite not knowing what it feels to be homeless, I have so much compassion towards those who are in need – especially youth – because they are so vulnerable and just because they are having a hard time and may have had a rough past does not make them any less than anyone else and it is with places like Covenant House where in which the youth within Toronto and the GTA are able to change their lives around... If just one person takes something from this, and this one thing is able to change their life, then that is the beginning of prevention and could ultimately change or save a life... I personally would like to thank Covenant House for all that your organization does to assist youth on a path to a better life and for helping those in need. [Student, Sacred Heart CHS](#)

I will be booking this presentation for my class/es again! The presenter was great at keeping the kids' attention! [Teacher, Sir William Mulock SS](#)

Excellent presentation! Students are highly engaged and participating in discussion – to the point where we ran out of time – but the students stayed after the bell to hear the end! The interactive group activity allows students to be actively engaged and participate. [Teacher, Sir William Mulock SS](#)

An amazing program I think every school should be a part of. [Teacher, St. Elizabeth Seton CES](#)

I really believe these presentations make a difference. [Teacher, St. Elizabeth Seton CES](#)

The student activity is effective since it provides students with an opportunity to see the realities of budgeting. [Teacher, St. Jean de Brebeuf CHS](#)

Students thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated our facilitator's enthusiasm and excellent presentation skills. Students also enjoyed the interaction and friendly competition at the end of the presentation. [Teacher, St. Joan of Arc CHS](#)

Captivating! [Teacher, St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS](#)

Fantastic presentation!!! My class had a wonderful discussion the next day regarding the information that was presented to them. It was a real eye-opener for them. They really have no idea about the many social issues affecting our youth in today's society. [Teacher, St. Robert CHS](#)

Hands-on activity was fantastic! [Teacher, Stephen Lewis SS](#)

The experiences and voices of hidden homeless youth are empowering, real, and life changing. [Teacher, Stouffville DSS](#)

This was the best presentation I have had...so engaging for the students. [Teacher, Thornlea SS](#)

It was an amazing informative presentation and had my students even taking notes! Excellent delivery of content I could tell the students were really engaged from start to finish. The work you do is very needed to the youths of today. [Teacher, Tommy Douglas SS](#)

Always appreciate the presentation on the reality of what homeless kids go through. It creates awareness and inspires us to help out and give back to those in need. Excellent speaker – connects with the council members. [Community Program Supervisor – Recreation, Unionville Youth Council](#)

Amazing presentation! [Teacher, William Berczy PS](#)

DURHAM

An excellent learning experience...Our students loved this presentation. [Teacher, Ajax HS](#)

I've seen a lot of presentations throughout high school; this one was by far the best. Powerful, enlightening and effective. Our facilitator talked to us, rather than at us. I was engaged on intellectual and emotional levels. I won't forget the facts, faces and stories that were shared. [Student, Ajax HS](#)

Best presentation I have ever seen! [Student, All Saints CSS](#)

Very engaging and well received by our students. They were talking about it for days after! [Teacher, Durham Alternative SS](#)

Phenomenal...Brought light to so many issues and our speaker was amazing. I walked away from this presentation wanting to make a difference and re-evaluating the stereotypes of 'homeless'. [Teacher, Father Donald MacLellan CSS – Reconnect](#)

FABULOUS...We wouldn't keep asking them to come back if it wasn't. [Child & Youth Counsellor, Father Donald MacLellan CSS – Return Ticket](#)

One of the best presenters I have ever seen...Professional but connects well with the students. [Teacher, Glengrove PS](#)

Our students always learn so much. They are often insulated in their middle-class bubble and seeing the reality of life on the streets opens their eyes. We work hard to help create Global citizens, and this program really helps in attaining our goal. It's a valuable tool that I believe all students can benefit from the conversations that stem from this passionate and informational presentation. Our curriculum becomes very concrete through this opportunity. So eye-opening. [Teacher, J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate](#)

Captivated the class and gave them an accurate sense of reality while engaging their interests. Real visuals, media and an interactive activity – overall, it was excellent as our facilitator spoke “with” students, not “at” students. The presentation was excellent and easy to follow. It was also engaging and it is always refreshing to have a speaker who knows how to speak to teenagers. [Teacher, J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate](#)

Amazing as always! Engaging and relates well to the students...Uses student friendly language and had our kids hooked while they also learned so much! [Teacher, J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate](#)

Connects to curriculum on Poverty and Differences between “haves” and “have nots”, worldwide and locally. Facilitator's knowledge and presentation style is phenomenal. She connected so well with the students that they were drawn in and engaged the entire time. [Teacher, J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate](#)

Great presentation that opened my eyes! I am inspired to never let my circumstances limit who and what I become. [Student, J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate](#)

Excellent presentation! It held the students' interest and put things into perspective how lucky they are and highlighted the need to help those less fortunate. [Principal, Lester B. Pearson PS, Ajax](#)

Our facilitator was amazingly engaging in her presentation of some hard facts to our students. They really listened to her, as she communicates very effectively with students in the middle school age range! Would have her back again anytime! [Teacher/Librarian, Lincoln Alexander PS](#)

Majority of the students in the next year will be moving out of their parental homes and the activity on choosing appropriate housing is so important. [Teacher, Maxwell Heights SS](#)

Great info and statistics. Not “sugar-coated”. Wow, very powerful. Great having them budget. [Teacher, Maxwell Heights SS](#)

Great presentation!!! The drug portion brought up some great conversations after the class. As well the choices we made as a class during the budget activity - the students afterwards were quite reflective on the 'wrong' choices they made. [Teacher, Maxwell Heights SS](#)

Awesome presenter who engages the kids. Students leave the presentation more knowledgeable and more empathetic towards our homeless youth. [Teacher, O'Neill CVI](#)

My students learned a lot and were inspired by the experience to do more. [Teacher, O'Neill CVI](#)

Fabulous presentation! Engaging speaker! We all learned a lot. [Student, O'Neill CVI](#)

Loved the interaction. Kept them engaged and made them realize the consequences of their choices. Excellent - the kids loved it! [Teacher, R. S. McLaughlin CVI](#)

Amazing presentation that engaged ALL students. Great mix of talking and involvement of students. Very applicable – knowledge and education-based. Student involvement/participation was HUGE. [Teacher, R. S. McLaughlin CVI](#)

As soon as the presentation started, students were hooked. Our facilitator had awesome energy and could speak to students in a manner they can understand. I have already recommended her and Covenant House resources to my colleagues. [Teacher, Sinclair SS](#)

Engaging speaker and keeps her audience focused through her clear and vivid images she creates while speaking. [Teacher, Sinclair SS](#)

Powerful...We all learned a lot of startling but important information. [Teacher, Whitby Shores PS](#)

PEEL

Great job! Our students were so impressed with how much information they were given and how much they learned. Even today, they're still raving about the presentation. [Teacher, Brampton Centennial SS](#)

Absolutely amazing! [Student, Brampton Centennial SS](#)

My students have many difficult home situations and openly voice why education is not important to them. I feel that this talk made a positive impact. Really value the opportunity to participate in this presentation. [Teacher, Central Peel SS](#)

Awesome! [Teacher, Central Peel SS](#)

Best presentation I have ever had! [Student, Central Peel SS](#)

Phenomenal...captivating...truly impactful. [Teacher, David Suzuki SS](#)

Very well informed and the students were very much engaged in the presentation. Students all had very positive feedback and many talked about the presentation with their families. [Teacher, David Suzuki SS](#)

Excellent presentation! Our youth were so engaged and got valuable information. An eye-opener. I am positive this made an impact on our youth. [Youth Worker, Eclipse Youth Centre](#)

Students have increased interest and awareness and even talked about volunteering. [Student, Gordon Graydon Memorial SS](#)

Wonderful...The facilitator handled difficult subjects and circumstances sensitively and concretely in an unassuming, practical and approachable manner. [Chaplaincy Leader, St. Edmund Campion CSS](#)

Had one student 3 years ago leave an abusive home and go to Covenant House. She graduated from high school at Covenant House (Thank You!). My class had a look in their eyes of interest and great appreciation. Our facilitator's delivery was "real" – it is the only way to teach our youth today. [Acting Religion Department Head, St. Joan of Arc CSS](#)

Good "reality check" as many students feel "not my problem". Covenant House - truly social justice in action. [Teacher, St. Joan of Arc CSS](#)

The presentation really moved me. I never imagined that people my age were on the street. I feel a strong need to help these youth and am motivated to get involved somehow. [Student, St. Joan of Arc CSS](#)

Awesome and really had our students engaged. [Child & Youth Worker, St. Nicholas CES](#)

Awesome and had student interest the entire time. Content was relevant and of interest to them. [Teacher, St. Nicholas CES](#)

My class has been RAVING about how awesome the session was... Our facilitator gave them lots of information and plenty to think about. [Teacher, Thomas L. Kennedy SS](#)

Great! Very informative, relevant and eye-opening. [Teachers, Thomas L. Kennedy SS](#)

Excellent presentation! [Teacher, Thomas L. Kennedy SS](#)

Very informative presentation. [Child & Youth Worker, Venerable Michael J. McGivney CES](#)

All of our students found the presentation excellent. [Teacher, The Woodlands School](#)

HALTON

Overall, it was absolutely excellent! Our facilitator was wonderful to work with - wonderful energy, great knowledge and an excellent rapport with my students. Thank you for providing this for our schools! It's an important message that everyone - regardless of age - needs to hear. [Teacher, Craig Kielburger SS](#)