
EEBC SUMMER 2020 REPORT

A message from our founder

Dear East End Boys Club Supporters,

A few months ago, we faced the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the changes it would bring to our lives. The EEBC teaches young men the importance of commitment and perseverance in the face of adversity, which is why, following Spring Break and the closure of BC schools, we moved our meetings completely online with record attendance. To date, our weekly meetings are averaging between 40 to 60 people and we are continuing to evolve and discover new programming opportunities for our members.

The freedom and convenience of the internet has blessed us with a remarkable series of guest speakers for our Vancouver and Delta meetings. These speakers and guests include undisputed World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Lennox Lewis, Founder and CEO of O2E Brands, Brian Scudamore, Hollywood celebrity and actor Neal McDonough, executive coach and philanthropist Darren Jacklin, business strategist Jill Sinclair and many more!



These meetings and our other new programming have kept our members engaged and socially connected. Due to popular demand, both our weekly online basketball and boxing programs are now evolving by adding additional in-person, outdoor workouts, in accordance with the BC government's provincial restart plan. The extended break for students allowed the EEBC to add additional academic support and tutoring programs for students needing to catch up with classes. With schools being closed, many members did not know how to acquire the support they needed to catch up on outstanding assignments. After speaking with teachers and administrators, students in need were paired with EEBC tutors to catch up with schoolwork, and to develop better organization and communication skills. Our young people were encouraged to complete their assignments and to connect with their teachers in a way that demonstrated their willingness to improve themselves.

Among the impactful programs we have established since going online, is our Breakout Group Sessions and One-to-One Mentorship Program. Every week, each mentor meets with a subgroup of our members where they are encouraged to share what is on their minds. These meetings set the groundwork for our EEBC Mentorship Program, where a mentor is coupled with a compatible mentee to enhance the mentee's social and emotional growth. Mentors are encouraged to offer guidance, friendship and support through shared activities and consistent communication. We are so proud of our team of incredible mentors, who range from world champion athletes, to schoolteachers, to former EEBC Alumni, to realtors and business leaders. Every one of our mentors demonstrates admirable leadership qualities and are strong role models for our youth. They set goals with their mentees and check-in with them throughout the week to foster accountability.

It has been amazing to see our team innovate and succeed in such a short period of time. We have decided that even when our routines return to normal, we will continue with many of these new online programs but, as always, we'll continue to grow and evolve based on the changing needs of those we serve. On behalf of our entire community, thank you for everything that you are doing to support the East End Boys Club through these uncertain times.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Crescenzo". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jim Crescenzo
 Founder and Executive Director of the East End Boys Club Society



In Loving Memory

We will deeply miss our dear EEBC volunteer, Sylvia Giovinazzo, who passed away on May 4th 2020, after a short battle with cancer. She was very involved with helping our boys and was an essential part of the Lega Femminile of the Confratellanza Italo-Canadese, a non-profit club that donates to many local charities. We extend our deepest condolences to Sylvia's family who was the joy of her life. We also welcome Rocco, Sylvia's grandson to our EEBC family.

Nick Volkow sadly passed away in June 2020, after a diagnosis of glioblastoma, an aggressive cancer. His illness did not stop him from serving the EEBC as a guest speaker and long-time supporter. During his 25 years of civil service as a Burnaby Councilman, he was a highly principled man and always passionately fought for the interest of his community. We will all miss him very much and are grateful for having had his mentorship over so many years.

Both families have dedicated donations in memory of Sylvia and Nick, to deserving EEBC graduates for post-secondary education.



Sylvia Giovinazzo
1939 - 2020



Nick Volkow
1953 - 2020

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EEBC Appears in the News

THE PROVINCE AND VANCOUVER SUN

Last month journalist Ed Willes, a writer for the Province and the Vancouver Sun approached the EEBC and asked do a story on our programs and their impact on our community. We invited Ed to interview many of our mentors and suggested he participate in one of our online zoom meetings. After the meeting, Ed was so moved by the courage and level of engagement of our boys, that he expressed his desire to join our organization as a future mentor.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE STORY!](#)

From Speaker to Mentor

JILL SINCLAIR JOINS THE TEAM

Jill Sinclair is a keynote, TED Talk speaker, author and executive coach who gets her clients past their success blockers with proven business strategies. She is the Founder of Hustler Sophisticate Speaker Series and Business Boot Camps. Jill's presentation was so moving that a number of our alumni reached out to her requesting professional coaching advice, to which Jill generously offered to coach them free of charge. She was truly impressed by how well our members responded and offered to become an EEBC mentor. Welcome to the family Jill.



The Province and the Vancouver Sun wrote a beautiful article on the EEBC and our amazing mentors and programs.



Jill Sinclair came to EEBC as a guest speaker, and left asking how to give back even more!

Tutoring and Academic Support TESTIMONIALS

During COVID-19, EEBC mentors and tutors connected with the teachers and counsellors of those members who were struggling academically. Together, we developed academic plans to address each member's specific needs. The EEBC is working to empower our members and teach them to be proactive with their own education and development. Here are some testimonials:

"I am writing to you today to extend a "Parental Thank-You". November 2014, my husband had a heart attack at work, as a result he had 4 bypasses and stayed in the hospital for over 20 days due to an infection. We are all good now. After some reflecting and some pretty intense conversations with my son, Nico, I am forever grateful for having Mr. C and for the East End Boys Club – being part of Templeton School. We are very proud to have this association. I want you to know that Mr. C's idea of The East End Boys Club works!"

Lisa Pinoni



"The BEST support that I could have ever received!! You are part of my family. You've pushed me to reach the stars and I have reached one of my goals – I legitimately graduated. The East End Boys Club has provided great guidance and support in a time where I was just so overwhelmed and thought that I couldn't do it. Your encouraging words, daily check-ins and showing me that you believed in me made all the difference. On my last CLC assignment (after several days of hard work) I got 95/100!"

I am so proud to be part of the East End Boys Club! Mr. C – you and your TEAM have shown that there are great people in the world that truly care about others. I want to be one of those people who will help others discover what they are capable of, if they believe in themselves. So honoured to be part of the East End Boys Club!"

Nico Pinoni
Templeton Graduate 2020

Immigrant Youth Engagement, Pilot Project

EVERY MONDAY, 12:00PM - 1:30PM

The EEBC is proud to be collaborating with the Youth Engagement Pilot Project which targets 14-20 year old Filipino-Canadian immigrant youth whose school attendance and engagement have been impacted since the Covid-19 pandemic. Filipino-Canadian youth struggling with long-term family reunification processes will also be eligible to attend the program. This outreach will be completed at John Oliver, Tupper and David Thompson Secondary Schools in Vancouver. The pilot program will run for four weeks in July with three sessions per week, resulting in a total of 12 sessions from July 2nd - 31st. On a weekly basis two sessions will be delivered in person with the counselling and coaching team and one session will be online with the EEBC Program. Once the new approaches are proven to be successful with the first cohort, the intent is to expand the program so more youth can benefit from it.

EEBC Alumni Brotherhood

ONCE A MONTH, EVENINGS

Growth doesn't end after graduation, in fact life often presents new and more challenging obstacles for our EEBC Alumni. Our Alumni have been inspired to keep the principals and values they've learned from our programs alive, by creating an EEBC alumni group. Led by EEBC grads Levente Mihalik, Matt Kennedy and Ali Chaudhry, the group meets once a month to discuss setting and achieving their goals, as well as reminding each other to show gratitude for those who have helped them in their journeys. Our alumni also continue to join our weekly meetings, where they take part with our younger members.



SANDRA ALMEIDA (B.A) has 25 years of experience working with over-targeted youth populations facing multiple complex barriers such as physical and mental health, LGBTQ2S+ issues, trauma, domestic violence, poverty, substance use, and gang involvement in Canada and Latin America. She has extensive hands-on experience in crisis intervention, conflict resolution, mediation, life skills coaching, and integrated case management approach coordinating multi-disciplinary teams. Sandra has expertise assessing clients' needs, identifying, engaging and connecting resources, establishing partnerships and referrals as well as developing and implementing youth and family support groups.

MARY KAM (MSc. Registered Clinical Counsellor) has been in the social services field for more than 25 years, providing both direct clinical counselling services and management support. Mary has delivered more than 100 workshops throughout the years. She has developed different programs for immigrants and vulnerable populations, with a belief that every human being has their rights and potential to strive. Mary was the co-investigator for the "Multicultural Youth Entry Project" where she worked with a psychologist to establish a youth model for multicultural immigrant youth. She has published an article "CBT - Does it work well with the Chinese population in Vancouver?" in Visions BC's Mental Health and Addictions Journal. Mary has been a guest on different radio stations in Vancouver, and has done presentations at both national and international conferences. She is the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Leadership Award recipient.

East End Boys Club Meetings

EVERY WEDNESDAY, FROM 3:00PM - 6:00PM

At the onset of the pandemic, we knew that it was vitally important to remain connected to our members and keep them socially and physically active. Thanks to mentor Pranav Menon, our weekly meetings made a smooth transition to online video conferencing. These new restrictions to online meetings ironically opened up so many avenues of opportunity for the EEBC and its members. The pandemic has given us access to some amazing guest speakers from all walks of life. Each guest has personally touched and inspired the group with their stories and positive messages. In just a few weeks, the EEBC has been joined by World Heavyweight Champion Lennox Lewis, Hollywood actor Neal McDonough and world class Motivational Coach Darren Jacklin. It has been a wonderful start to our online programming! Other recent speakers include:

- Brian Scudamore - O2E Brands CEO
- Aleks Paunovic - Hollywood Actor/Champion Boxer
- Scotty Olson - Olympian/Champion Boxer

Leadership Breakout Sessions

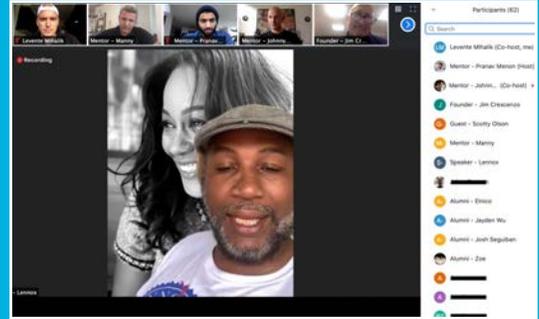
EVERY WEDNESDAY, FROM 4:30PM - 6:00PM

The EEBC hosts weekly breakout sessions where members are encouraged to be more open and speak freely with a subgroup of members and mentors. These sessions have led to improved relationships and have set a standard for accountability and commitment.

Delta Boys Club Meetings

EVERY FRIDAY, FROM 2:00PM - 5:00PM

EEBC founder Jim Crescenzo, has been working with teachers Bryce Murray and Grant Jamieson from Sands Secondary School and Rick Mesich, from Seaquam Secondary. Delta students participate in EEBC online programs and have their own Leadership Meetings from 2-5 p.m. on Friday afternoons. This has been a rewarding experience and participation continues to grow.



LENNOX LEWIS offered to speak to our group for 15 mins, which quickly turned into an hour-long conversation after he saw how much he engaged and inspired our on-line group of more than 60 participants.



NEAL MCDONOUGH spoke to our group for several hours. This meeting was easily one of our most profound to date. He was so moved that he insisted on returning soon!



Some of our mentors during a routine breakout session.

Young Moviemakers Film Classes

MONDAY - FRIDAY

The EEBC and Young Moviemakers collaborated to offer a completely remote film education program. EEBC members and YM instructors meet several times a week to create short video projects; guided every step of the way. So far, 18 films have been created by our members, and we are impressed by the innovation these films display. The films can be viewed here:

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO!](#)

Stage-Play Development

ON-GOING

In this new play Kevin Bennet will research themes and stories all the way from ancient Greek theatre, to Shakespeare looking for common threads in the stories of EEBC guest speakers and members. We will specifically focus on the themes of revenge, violence, and transformation through forgiveness. In this process we will consolidate the ideas from the past and present to create a new story that digs to the very roots of storytelling, community, empathy and creating change through learning about others' experiences. The format will be simple, just like ancient theatre storytelling and the Boy's Club meetings themselves, we will start with a circle of chairs in an empty room, as if we are going to sit down for a discussion or a meeting. From here, the play will emerge and evolve and be an immersive, interactive experience that uses the imagination and ideas of the audience. This will allow a deeper connection to the action and an understanding that human issues and needs are universal. The audience will be able to share how the play connects to their own life. We will create a new community with each performance, allowing our audiences, to connect with others and express how these stories impact them.



All the films created by the EEBC members can be watched online.



First in-person production meeting with LEVENTE MIHALIK, KEVIN BENNET, MICHAEL FERA, JIMMY CRESCENZO and ALI CHAUDHRY.



KEVIN BENNET (bottom left) interviews a guest during one of our production sessions.

Funky Boxing with Jerry Trimble

EVERY TUESDAY, 3:00PM - 4:00PM

At the beginning of the pandemic, mentor and world champion Jerry Trimble launched his Funky Boxing online classes to great success and it quickly became one of our most popular programs. Participation continues to grow to the point where we have now added additional outdoor sessions.

EEBC Outdoor Boxing Classes

SUNDAYS, WEATHER PERMITTING

Our EEBC outdoor boxing classes are like no other! Hosted by two world champions Jerry Trimble and Manny Sobral who take our EEBC members on the ultimate cardio boxing and kickboxing workout. Sun shining, music blasting and burning up to 900 calories per hour, this class not only gives our EEBC members strength and cardio benefits, but also a powerful shot of confidence and pride. Our first class had over 40 participants which included members, mentors and curious onlookers who asked to join in, all this while adhering to the province's social distancing and safety precautions.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO!](#)



EEBC Outdoor Boxing Classes hosted by PKA and PKC World Kickboxing Champion JERRY TRIMBLE and IBO World Boxing Champion and Olympian MANNY SOBRAL!



Over 40 people participated in our inaugural EEBC outdoor boxing class! Members were all provided with transportation and food after the class at Kitsilano Beach.

Basketball Workouts with Clay Crellin

EVERY MONDAY, 5:00PM - 6:00PM

EEBC members began joining professional basketball player Clay Crellin for weekly at-home workouts. The program has evolved to now include outdoor sessions as well. Clay has been teaching basketball theory and strategies from a player's and coach's perspective. He works with members on diet, nutrition and lifestyle for successful basketball performance.

Mindfulness for Youth

EVERY THURSDAY, 2 - 3PM & FRIDAY, 11 - 12PM

Research in neuroscience has shown that mindfulness provides numerous benefits for adolescents: stress reduction, minimized anxiety, and in some cases it eases symptoms of depression. Our EEBC mentor Jerry Trimble has been leading our Mindfulness for Youth sessions online with great results!

Grocery Assistance

ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS

Every day, a substantial number of Canadian public school students go to school hungry. Under normal circumstances, the EEBC supplies their members with food during meeting sessions and workshops. During COVID-19, the EEBC has re-allocated these funds to purchase grocery gift cards in order to assist members and their families with buying food and other essentials.

Post-Secondary Trades Planning

EVERY MONDAY, 12:00PM - 1:30PM

Wendy Gilmour has been working with members who are interested in pursuing the trades. She provides guidance and facilitates on-line guest speaker presentations on a variety of topics related to the trades industries.



CLAY CRELLIN seen here standing with one-third of the EEBC basketball group. In-person sessions are limited to groups of 6 to adhere to provincial social distancing guidelines.



JERRY "GOLDEN BOY" TRIMBLE is the PKA and PKC World Kickboxing Champion and current film and TV actor. He runs both our Mindfulness and Funky Boxing programs. Here he is leading a mindfulness session.

Mentorship Program - Building Character & Integrity

EVERY MONDAY, FROM 3:00PM – 4:30PM

The school closures have allowed our mentors more time to meet in smaller groups with EEBC members. Our initial goal was to launch our Building Character and Integrity sessions. These sessions quickly evolved into something more: The EEBC Mentorship Program. We have organized our members into subunits and partnered them each with a personal mentor. These mentors help our members set goals and provide emotional and social support throughout the week. The mentors help keep them focused and surrounded by positive influences on a regular basis. The program is enhancing our member's emotional and mental health and is providing the necessary guidance, friendship and support that they need to lead successful, happy lives. Our mentors use the framework of Character Counts, The Six Pillars of Character, which include the following themes:

Our mentors use the framework of *Character Counts, The Six Pillars of Character*, which include the following themes:

Trustworthiness:

- Honesty
- Reliability
- Loyalty
- Integrity

Respect:

- The Golden Rule (Treat others as you would like to be treated.)
- Tolerance and Acceptance
- Non-Violence
- Courtesy

Responsibility:

- Duty
- Accountability
- Pursuit of excellence
- Self-Control

Fairness:

- Justice
- Respecting the law
- Openness

Caring:

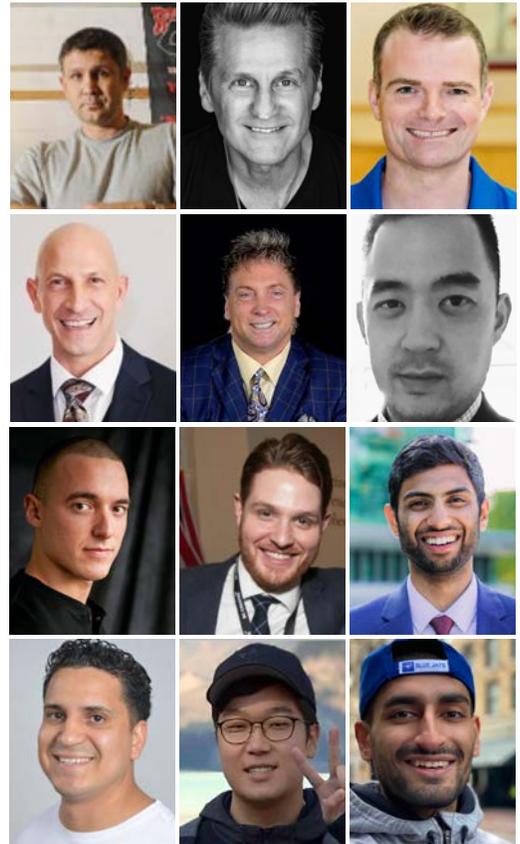
- Concern for others
- Being Compassionate

Charity:

- Get involved in a cause that you feel strongly about

Citizenship:

- Love for your country
- Social responsibility
- Respect the law



The incredible leaders of our EEBC Mentorship program range from World Champion Athletes, to school teachers, to former EEBC Alumni, to business leaders and realtors all at the top 10% of their respective industries.

MEET OUR MENTORS



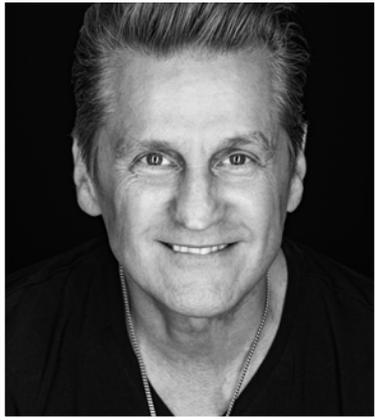
Manny Sobral is a former Canadian Boxing and IBO Super Welterweight World Champion who also represented Canada at the 1988 Olympic Summer Games. He holds a Masters Degree in Counselling Education and is a former student of Jim Crescenzo's at Templeton Secondary. Manny now teaches for the Vancouver School Board, where he works with highly at-risk students in their SUMMIT program.

Manny Sobral

Throughout my career as a professional boxer, from training out of Las Vegas to working here in Vancouver, I have had opportunities to work with a variety of youth organizations.

In 2000, I reconnected with one of the most influential people in my life: my Grade 8 Drama teacher, Mr. Crescenzo. One day, he asked me to come and speak to the young men about my career path. Since that day, I have volunteered my time, mentoring and leading his youth to better themselves and live more fruitful, healthier lifestyles. The East End Boys Club offers something unique. Mr. C has built an atmosphere for mentors to develop unbelievable relationships and connections with each member.

One youth that I have been working with is a timid young man who is visibly different from his peers and bullied in many social circles. The East End Boys Club provides him with a safe space to feel welcomed and part of something - a family. Since joining the program, this young man has gained confidence, is setting goals and is finally being honest with what he believes in and what his passions are. It is truly a unique and valuable organization that I'm proud to be a part of.



Jerry "Golden Boy" Trimble is the former PKA and PKC World Kickboxing Champion of the world and was inducted into the World Kickboxing Hall of Fame in 2019. He is currently a film and TV actor with a resume that includes over 60 projects such as "Charlie's Angels", "Green Hornet" and "Heat", where he played alongside Al Pacino and Robert De Niro. Jerry also works as a Motivational Youth Speaker who empowers teens to get out of their comfort zone, discover their gifts and go after their dreams. Jerry uses his real-life experiences as proof that if an insecure, fearful, bullied teen like he was, can make his dreams come true, anyone can.

Jerry Trimble

In 2010, I moved to Vancouver to continue my acting career. After arriving, I soon heard about a man named Jimmy Crescenzo and the work he was doing with youth at Templeton Secondary.

I reached out to Jimmy and he invited me to share my story and teach my workshops at one of his East End Boys Club meetings. After working with Jimmy and his youth, I knew right away that the East End Boys Club was a perfect fit for me. We had the same passion and motivation for our work with youth. It was a no brainer.

Never underestimate the power of planting a seed. We are all gardeners in life, planting seeds of hope, compassion and inspiration so that the world grows to be a beautiful, hopeful and loving place.

Thank You, Jimmy Crescenzo for all that you do for our youth, I'm grateful for you and to be a part of this empowering organization.



John Patricelli has been instrumental in helping build and sustain programs at Templeton and John Oliver Secondary schools. He is an admirable mentor who is honest about his own personal adversities. Now, as a successful businessman and realtor who is in the top 10% of his industry, John's actions speak louder than his words. John is the recipient of the Realtor's Care Award for 2018, one of only 14,000 realtor's receive this award annually. He is also the Lead Facilitator for Camp Choice and gives his time to help individuals in substance recovery programs.

John Patricelli

Visiting the East End Boys Club for the first-time lit a spark that helped me discover how fulfilling it was to work with young people. Witnessing the mindset changes that take place at the East End Boys Club brought me so much hope that no matter what, young people can change the course of their path and our communities.

When I was a young man, I made many bad choices and because of that, I am able to relate my own experiences and the lessons learned, to help these young men see the possibilities that they may not have considered.

Today, I encourage others in my position, who have risen above their challenges and succeeded, to speak to our boys. Each presenter has the potential of planting a seed in the mind of a young man to follow a better path. If we can influence one individual, it will be enough to make all the effort worthwhile.



Phil Moore has been a realtor with RE/MAX Central Burnaby for over 30 years and has served as the Immediate Past President of the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver for the last 8 years. He was instrumental in the creation of Camp Choice BC and currently serves as its Vice President. In 2020, he won the REBGV President's Club Award, which recognizes the top 1% out of 14,000 realtors and was also elected by 138,000 realtors to the position of Director at Large for his national association of realtors. Phil also served 8 years as a policeman for the Vancouver Police Department and is a father of 3 and grandfather of 5.

Phil Moore

After working for 20 years selling real estate, I began to feel the need to give back to my community. I have since been involved with many non-profit organizations and helped create the popular youth at-risk program called Camp Choice BC, where I currently serve as Vice President.

With all this experience I have gained working with non-profit organizations, I'd like to highlight what the East End Boys Club does that is exceptional: the passion their mentors have to make a difference. The commitment level of the mentors in the East End Boys Club is predominant in their engagement with the youth. They connect with members consistently and thoroughly and always go above and beyond the expectations of the program.

The personal touch that the East End Boys Club offers youth is unprecedented from other organizations. The group really leads by example and the philosophy of mentorship and guidance plays a huge role in the development of confident, capable, productive young men. I am so happy to be a part of that.



Gin is an Enterprise Content Management (ECM) expert with a Bachelor of Finance from UBC's Sauder School of Business.

Gin Cheng

My work with the East End Boys Club and other youth began in 2017 at Camp Choice-BC and I have come to know quite a few of the members in the last 3 years. Furthermore, I grew up in the East End and think back to those days very fondly. I also believe, that growing up in the East End, I was a few bad decisions away from causing some profound negative impacts on my life.

During the past year, my role as a mentor has been life changing. I have learned about the youth, I have learned about myself, and maybe most importantly, I have learned how much a positive mentor can impact a young person's life. This program and these young people make me focus on possibilities instead of limitations.

Mark Curtin



Mark Curtin is a North Vancouver firefighter with 11 years of service. His wife is a high school teacher and together they have two children, ages 10 and 12.

One of my missions in life is to give back. During my early childhood days, and throughout my teenage years, I am grateful to have had a few impactful mentors that helped shape my destiny. I was raised by a single parent; I did not meet my father until I was 15 years old. In high school, I slept on a couch, struggled academically, and started getting into trouble. If it were not for the guidance, support, and love of my mentors, I would not be where I am today.

I have been involved with the East End Boys Club for approximately one year now. I was initially introduced to the club as a guest speaker, sharing my personal story on perseverance, overcoming challenges, integrity, and what it means to act like a man. The experience of speaking to the group was profound. The coordinators and youth left an impactful impression on me. By the behaviour and actions of these young men and how they were conducting themselves through handshakes, mannerisms, engagement and attentiveness, I knew something special was going on with this club.

I reached out to Jimmy Crescenzo and asked how I could serve. I look forward to continuing to serve and support this amazing organization.



Pranav is an alumni from UBC's Engineering program. Passionate about entrepreneurship, he has left his mark at UBC. He created a campus-wide peer driven entrepreneurship service to support early stage entrepreneurs, worked at Microdermics (a medical device venture), and works with UBC engineers and researchers to build companies that bring green technologies out into the world. His purpose in life is to impact the communities around him.

Pranav Menon

On April 24th, 2019 - I met one of our members at the Courage to Come Back Awards while he was there representing the East End Boys Club. He looked me in the eye, shook my hand with a solid firm grip and said hello. All I could think of at the time was, "Wow. Here's a man that commands attention!"

Ever since that memorable handshake, for over a year now, I have been inspired to volunteer my time to the East End Boys Club to coach and train young men just like him to be men of integrity, purpose and to create something incredible with their lives.

As someone who is deeply passionate about men's work and spends a lot of time creating spaces for men to be vulnerable, authentically share and be accountable to one other, I'm inspired to do the same for the young men at the East End Boys Club.



Levente is an international award-winning filmmaker, Vancouver School Board teacher and co-founder of the award-winning Young Moviemakers Film Programs. He is an alumni of UBC's Education Program and a former student of Jim Crescenzo's Theatre, Film and East End Boys Club programs. He is a recipient of the UBC Outstanding Practicum Award for Inspiring Educators and was recently honoured as one of "BC's most enterprising young business leaders" in the 2019 BC Business 30 Under 30 list.

Levente Mihalik

The best way for me to explain why I work with the East End Boys Club is to share a story of one of our former members:

At 15, an otherwise good kid made a bad decision to break a car windshield in his school's parking lot. That car's windshield turned out to belong to the school district's superintendent, who happened to be visiting that day.

The student was facing expulsion, but Jimmy Crescenzo decided to make a deal with the school administrators. He would keep an eye on the young man if the student promised to commit to his Theatre, Film and East End Boys Club programs. The student kept his promise, got involved in the programs and quickly learned valuable skills that opened many doors for industry opportunities and future career paths.

One weekend, that same student got a phone call to join his friends at a house party but declined the offer due to a previous commitment of having a project to complete for Mr. C. Tragically, a fight broke out at that house party and many of the student's friends were seriously injured, including a young man whose teeth were cut out and another who had his hand severed from a machete attack.

The lesson of the story is the importance of keeping youth engaged in long term, constructive commitments. The twist of the story is that the young student was me.

Following graduation, I continued to stay close to Jimmy and his programs and it launched me into a career in the film industry and in education. I was able to attend a post-secondary school and a extremely generous East End Boys Club donor paid for over \$60,000 in tuition fees.

The only way I can show my gratitude is by giving back to the program that gave me so much!



Matt is an international award-winning filmmaker, actor and co-founder of the award-winning Young Moviemakers Film Programs. He is also a resident artist with the Film Department at Mulgrave School in West Vancouver and the Director of the BC Zoom Film Festival. He is an alumni of UBC's Theatre Program and a former student of Jim Crescenzo's Theatre, Film and East End Boys Club programs.

Matt Kennedy

The East End Boys Club has had a major impact on me growing up in East Vancouver and graduating from Templeton Secondary in 2006. Since graduating, I have maintained a close relationship with Templeton, Jim Crescenzo and the East End Boys Club as a way to connect with my community and its members on a deeper, more intimate level.

Education needs to go far beyond the classroom walls and reach into the lives of young people. That's what these programs do. They reach every aspect of your life, affecting how you study to how you eat, to who you spend your time with. They present you with all levels of success, in any way you want to define it.

What I learned in the program is what I try to give back: a sense of belonging, self-worth and commitment to action. The simple structure of the program with a heavy emphasis on leadership, commitment, vulnerability, creativity and a positive mindset are important cornerstones for developing happy, inspired, successful young people and the East End Boys Club does that better than anything I've ever been a part of.



Hugo Aparicio is a Plant Operator and Quality Control Technician for LafargeHolcim Ltd and a former student of Jim Crescenzo's Theatre, Film and East End Boys Club programs.



Jun is a teacher for the Burnaby School District and an award-winning filmmaker. He has a deep connection with community outreach as his parents served over 10 years as missionaries.

Hugo Aparicio

I first met Jim Crescenzo as my drama teacher in grade 9 and as a guy who appreciates comedy, Mr. C's humour and energy easily made him one of my favourite teachers. After I got involved with his theatre and film programs I noticed that the work I was creating was being recognized and winning awards around the country. That's when I knew I had stumbled onto something special.

After graduation, I pursued a career in the trades and completed a specialized course in concrete quality control testing. At 24 years old I moved up north to Kitimat, BC to work on the Rio Tinto Alcan Aluminium Smelting plant. This opportunity unexpectedly led me to a salary that was well above average for guys my age and I quickly realized how rewarding working in the trades could be.

I have always loved the opportunities that the East End Boys Club offered youth and when I returned to Vancouver, I was thrilled to hear about their partnerships with BCIT and their trades programs. I believe the trades are an industry that doesn't slow down and is a fantastic option for young graduates who are looking for a career.

I've been blessed by the opportunities provided by the EEBC and its programs and I am so happy to be able to give back to the community that has given me so much.

Jun Kim

I decided to join the group of amazing mentors at East End Boys Club as a way of giving back. As a teacher, I wanted to do more than just teach in a classroom setting. The East End Boys Club provides me with that alternate environment and the opportunity to connect with these young adults in a special way. I hope to instill a positive outlook on life through collaboration, discussion, and communication with the young adults. My goal is to start up a new EEBC group at Burnaby South Secondary.



Ali is an actor who also works in the finance industry for the community centred credit union Vancity. He has coached basketball for his community and was also a coach at Camp Choice Summer Camps. Ali is a former student of Jim Crescenzo's Theatre, Film and East End Boys Club programs.

Ali Chaudhry

As I take a moment to reflect back on my time in the East End Boys Club, I get into a head space of gratitude. Before I joined, I was bullied, scared, insecure...

After I joined, I finally felt that I belonged. I was a part of something for the first time and it was a safe space where I could be myself. It gives me goosebumps to this day thinking about the changes I went through.

Since graduating, I have taken advantage of everything that I learned from the East End Boys Club. I know that there are other kids who are going through similar challenges and I owe it to them to do something with what I've gained. It is important for me to come back and help other young people discover their passions and find their self worth.

We will always struggle with challenges and obstacles in life, but what makes my experiences different now is knowing how to deal with them. From the mentors, speakers, and new friends at the East End Boys Club, I've learned how to approach adversity and take challenges head on. I don't know where I would be without the program. It has given me a fire that pushes me to become greater. This is why I care about the club and am proud to be a part of it.



Jill Sinclair is an Executive Coach, Author, TEDx/ International Keynote Speaker who gets her clients past their success blockers with proven business strategies. She's the founder of Hustler Sophisticate Speaker Series and Business Bootcamps and also founded the young adult initiative, Head Start with Jill.

Jill Sinclair

Giving back and helping youth is at the core of who I am, because I know firsthand the ravages of abuse and neglect from my childhood. I'm committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others and I am honoured to be a part of EEBC.

When I was asked to be a speaker with the EEBC, I was so honoured and recognized the importance and the responsibility that came with that. When the boys responded with such eagerness and responsiveness after my talk, I saw there was a need that I could fulfill. Seeing the great work that they have done with the boys and knowing that I had the opportunity to be a part and be a female role model for these young souls was something that my heart resonated with right away.

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