

CHIPS 2005 WRAPPER

CHRONIC
ILLNESS
PEER
SUPPORT

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

MULTI-CULTURAL COLLABORATION Team unity formed following an introduction to new ideas.

During two nights in two different weeks, some members of reference committee took part in a program called purple soup.

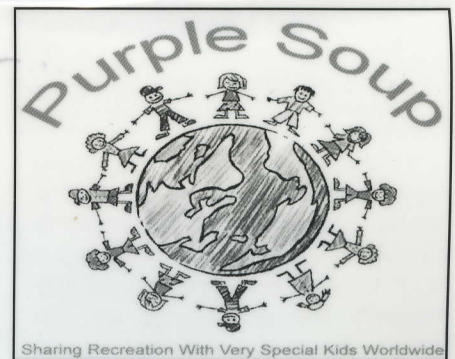
On the first night, many of us were hesitant and not sure of what to expect. We knew that the aim of the program was to teach us team building skills through activities but some of us had visions of over enthusiastic people I matching jumpsuits and head-set microphones. So it's no surprise that when the guys from Purple Soup seriously turned up in a minivan, some of us were very scared.

Before the first night of Purple Soup, many of us were tired and not in any mood for games. When we got to the South East

building we were met by a large group of American teenagers who far out numbered us and, we later learnt, were on a camper exchange program from the U.S. We were later introduced to the coordinators, Jai and Tim.

The rest of the night could not have been more fun! It was based on the Amazing Race so teams had to complete various exercises, some were quite physically demanding. Each person had to abide by the rules or risk a penalty. (The penalties were not fun, for example, carrying a "collapsed" team member around the building! Bodies are deceptively heavy!)

The founder, Tim was one of the nicest, most genuinely enthusiastic people ChIPS has had the pleasure of working with in a long



time. After pizza and some time to get to know our American counterparts it was time to leave.

The second night of chips brought a new set of Americans and a new set of challenges. (And of course, more pizza!) Every reference committee member who participated learnt games and skills they will be able to use many more times in the future. So from all of us I'd like to thank Tim and Jai! ■

Chantelle Baker