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Fifty iPads donated to San Romanoway youth by Gordon and Ruth Gooder Charitable Foundation

Children at Jane-Finch embrace tech to create music and movies



iPads

Staff photo/DAN PEARCE

Adenike Olaosebikan, left, and Michelle Pack work on iPads at the Cineplex multi-purpose room recently. The children have been making movies and sound tracks on the Gooder Foundation funded initiative.

North York Mirror

By [Fannie Sunshine](#)

While some youngsters were busy perfecting their “beats” on iPads inside the Cineplex multi-purpose room at 15 San Romanoway, others were focused on their trailers and movies.

Children from the Jane Street and Finch Avenue complex’s summer camp, breakfast and after-school program grabbed one of the 50 iPads funded by the Gordon and Ruth Gooder Charitable Foundation and demonstrated what they’ve been working on over the summer on Thursday, Aug. 20.

The tech devices were thanks to a grant application by the San Romanoway Revitalization Association (SRRA) last May to the Gooder Foundation, which requested \$50,000 for 50 iPads and an instructor to help teach the kids how to use them. For many of the children in the at-risk neighbourhood, this was their first time experiencing an iPad.

The kids used the iPads in two-hour sessions three days a week to create beats and movies using apps GarageBand and iMovie. Once the school year starts, the iPads will be utilized by elementary and middle-school students in the SRRA breakfast and after-school program, as well as participants in the Jane and Finch Boys and Girls Club.

“A lot of these kids are from single-parent households and none have iPads at home,” said Stephanie Payne, executive director of the SRRA, adding the children went on two trips to the Apple store at Fairview Mall to see how the gadgets work.

Claude Watson School for the Arts student Jacob Spence, who’s been helping his father, former director of education for the Toronto District School Board Chris Spence, with instructing the youngsters on how to use the iPads, said he’s always creating movies with his friends and even had an entry in his school’s film festival. “I think it’s great for the kids,” the 12-year-old said of the funding.

Michelle Pack, 10, said she created music using the piano, drums and violin. “It’s good, fun, interesting,” she said, adding she’s previously used an iPad to play games and do homework.

Adenike Olaosebikan inadvertently created a jazz piece along with hip hop, and also tried her hand at making “scary and happy movies,” she said. “I think (funding) is good because we’re learning something good,” said the 10-year-old.

Gordon Sproule, president of the Gordon and Ruth Gooder Charitable Foundation, said Gordon Gooder, who grew up in Toronto’s west end during The Great Depression and later found success as a roofing contractor, wanted to find ways to give back.

“We try to stick to his values,” said Sproule, who was on hand Thursday to see what the kids had worked on.

“This (funding) was a pretty easy decision to make and made a great deal of sense. We were more than happy to support these kids and even happier to see the outcome.”