

TVO series focuses on Falls kids

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What can six kids from Niagara Falls accomplish in three days? They can transform the damaged, graffiti-covered play area at Crimson Park into a welcoming, nautical-themed playground. The park's revitalization is part of *Giver*, a new TV series co-produced by TVO and Sinking Ship Entertainment that engages kids across Ontario to volunteer their time to build local playgrounds in their communities.

A free preview screening of the Niagara Falls episode of *Giver* will take place in Welland on Saturday May 26 at 2 p.m. at the Seaway Mall.

The Niagara Falls episode was filmed in July 2011 and will premiere on TVO Tuesday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. A team of six children ranging in age from seven to 13 joined the *Giver* team to design a playground inspired by the Maid of the Mist. The kids had a chance to try operating a Bobcat and an auger to help in the construction of the playground's ship structure. They also helped create a crow's nest climber and treasure hunt.

Crimson Park was first flagged for revitalization in 2010 when 12-year-old Crimson Drive resident Andrea Mancuso wrote a letter to Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati asking him to help fix the unsafe park. When TVO and Sinking Ship Entertainment put the call out to Ontario municipalities in need of safe, fun parks, Niagara Falls was one of 13 communities selected from more than 60 submissions. Andrea is one of the six kids featured in the episode.

"If you have something wrong with your community, don't be afraid to speak up, because if you do then good things like this happen," said Andrea.

"*Giver* shows what kids can do when given the chance to make a difference," said Patricia Ellingson, TVO's Creative Head of Children's Media. "This series is about 'kid power,' working as a team, civic engagement and the importance of helping to make your community the best it can be. *Giver* proves that when given the opportunity, kids can do amazing things."

Saturday's screening takes place at the mall's Youth Innovations Youth Centre. Seaway Mall is located at 800 Niagara Street N. in Welland.

Giver airs on TVO Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. with repeat airings Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m. Episodes are also available for online viewing at <http://www.tvokids.com/shows/giver/>.

TVO can be found on channel 2 on most cable providers.

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