

Rotary Club hosts basketballer, philanthropist Williams

By RALPH THOMPSON

The Rotary Club of Westmount hosted Trevor Williams, a highly accomplished basketball player and founder of the Westmount-headquartered Trevor Williams Kids Foundation, for a virtual presentation February 8.

Williams started life in Little Burgundy, and he credits a number of people for his successes and believes that his interactions with a neighbour and member of the Little Burgundy sports association, Mr. Butt, inspired him to work and train hard in hockey, baseball and basketball.

“I tip my hat to Mr. Butt and his family for providing a safe haven for the young men and young women within that community.”

Basketball career

Williams went on to play basketball alongside Avery Johnson in Louisiana and gained a scholarship to St. Peter's College in New Jersey. He returned to Montreal in 1989 to play for the Concordia University Stingers.

He was picked up by Canada's national basketball team and played against the original American “Dream Team” in the

1992 Tournament of the Americas.

But his heart was in his hometown and seeing the lack of sports facilities, he started the Trevor Williams Basketball Academy in 1993. The academy started with 11 kids and has grown to 700 participants today. It subsidizes 50 percent of the kids who attend and employs 60 to 70 students every summer.

Williams described how sports teach how to persevere, communicate, get along with people, win and lose, and pass all this along to the next generation.

Foundation for troubled kids

In 2002, Williams was noticing that some of the kids were not returning to the summer camps. He learned that they had got themselves into trouble. That's when he instituted the Trevor Williams Kids Foundation to help troubled inner-city youth in the city of Montreal.

Using sports, education and mentoring, the foundation helps youth gain confidence in themselves so that they can make better life choices in the future. “The foundation is an academic tool for personal enhancement, to teach life skills and to become a leader. It goes hand in hand with the basketball camp,” said Williams.

Williams is no stranger to Westmounters. He coaches basketball at Dawson College and has instructed at Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School (ECS) and Westmount High School. The foundation is headquartered here.

The principal source of fundraising for his foundation is an annual gala at Bâton Rouge on Mountain St. downtown but donations can be made in numerous ways at twkf.com.

See p. 1 for photo.



PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.