**History of Sumokids in Western New York and Toronto Canada**

**Sumokids evolved from the North American Sumo Wrestling Federation and its President, Charles Bray. From May 29, 1995 the federation travelled to Buffalo, New York, on several occasions to put on demonstrations at elementary and secondary schools. The performances and demonstrations regarding the art of Sumo wrestling were well received and appreciated by the students. Quote from Mr. Willie Evans, Director of Physical Education for the Buffalo Public Schools noted the students indicated to him lasting impressions made by the gentlemen who demonstrated the art of Sumo wrestling in their respective schools.**

**If given the opportunity to involve the federation in our physical education program in the future, I would do so without hesitation. The Sumokids Initiative was developed over the course of 12 years. As a result of research in modern learning methodology the program grew to include elements beyond the sport of Sumo. Through a process of stealth education children essentially learned through play and gain the wide range of benefits provided to participants in the program. A framework of the Sumokids Initiative pilot program ran at High Gate Heights elementary school in Buffalo New York, throughout the 2005-06 school years. It served 34 students and was a great success.**

**The pilot program was extended in 2006-07 to include High gate Heights, Harriet Tubman elementary, St. Mary School for the Deaf, Salvation army community center, Langley community center, and Hennepin community center. While Sumokids endeavored to improve the lives of underprivileged youth, it also offered its program to children with different needs. It targeted not only the underprivileged but also focused on children with behavioral problems and learning disabilities. Some 235 kids went through the Sumokids program that school year. During the 2007-08 school years the program was again in High Gate Heights but also in the special needs school academy school 44.**

**The program was also in the Salvation Army, as well as the Horizons youth center, and the Japanese Canadian Cultural center in Toronto Canada. Due to limited resources the program served 90 youth. The years 2009-10 were at Gloria Park Community center, Salvation Army, Seneca Street Church after school program, and the Belle center after-school, and summer camp program, and the City of Buffalo Youth Program for trouble teens. The city of Buffalo provided funding to train the coaches.**

**The coaches were trained at the Belle center for the summer camp programs. From 2011 to 2015 the Sumokids Program was at the Belle center and Niagara fall community church. The widely acclaimed program has been successfully field-tested and proven since 2005 and is now ready for expansion. The Sumokids Foundation is looking for community partners who share the same social concern and who is willing to back an innovative and successful program that provides help to those with the greats needs. The Post-Program Survey and Erie County Youth Bureau, results based accountability Data/ outcomes collection sheet in available, and testimonials letters.**