

# INNER CITY YOUTH SCORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

*University of Winnipeg, Inner City Jr. Wesmen, Pizza Hotline launch employment program*

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**WINNIPEG, MB** – The Inner City Jr. Wesmen program, together with the Pizza Hotline Café 22 are pleased to announce an employment partnership for inner city youth.

Bob Axworthy, coach and program director of Inner City Jr. Wesmen along with Pizza Hotline franchise owner Jerry Cianflone have developed an innovative program that will result in employment recommendations and, ultimately, jobs for inner city youth. Members of the program will earn the employment recommendation and will be required to go through traditional employment application and screening processes.

The initial pilot of the program has been successful with 15 young people already employed at Pizza Hotlines' new store at 383 Broadway. The newest members of the Pizza Hotline team assume their starting line up roles when the store has its grand opening this week.

"This partnership with the Inner-City Jr. Wesmen is very much a win-win. This initiative fits with our company's desire to give back to the community and help tackle the problems of the inner city, plus the program provides us with employees that have learned the most fundamental traits we are looking for – being on time, working hard, and having respect for others," said Pizza Hotline owner Cianflone.

"The partnership with Pizza Hotline gives our program members a leg up on getting that all-important first job. Work experience gives these kids a meaningful opportunity to break out of the poverty cycle. They are gaining essential skills and a first foothold in the workforce. We are grateful for our partnership with Pizza Hotline," said Inner City Jr. Wesmen coach Axworthy.

The Inner City Jr. Wesmen program now offers opportunities of sports, education and employment – a large combination that it hopes will help change the lives of inner city youth.

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