

CHILD HEROES™

YOUNG ROLE MODEL HERO

JOVAN WARD



Jovan's mission is all about preventing child abuse

"Imagine the results if we all give love, receive love and feel loved."

~ Jovan's story ~ next page

JOVAN WARD CROWNED MISS TEEN WORLD CANADA

Taking a Stand for Children

AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

Fifteen year old Miss Mission is now Miss Teen World Canada after surpassing over 20 other contestants from across the country to win the crown last week.

Jovan Ward, a grade 10 graduate from Hatzic Secondary, impressed judges with her eloquence, poise and passion throughout the 5 day event held in Langley and Vancouver.

Jovan is an advocate against child abuse and neglect. She was once a victim of child abuse herself, and dreams of ending child abuse throughout Canada.

"Imagine the results if we all give love, receive love and feel loved," said Jovan in an interview with Black Press prior to the competition. *"That's my goal. To make every child and youth in B.C. and in Canada feel loved. Because everybody should have that. It shouldn't be a privilege, it should be a right."*

Each contestant wrote a speech, interviewed with the judges, chose a charity and modelled a gown to portray their onstage presence. Jovan decided on Covenant House Vancouver, a shelter for abused and neglected youth, as the charity she would represent.

"I've had a lot of children coming up to me and share their stories with me, and it's heartbreaking," she said. This was the 1st time the District of Mission chose to send a representative to Miss Teen World Canada.

I would like to see the program they have open in Mission. There's nothing here like that for youth. Days before the event began July 2, Jovan said it would be a dream come true to win. Now that she has won, Jovan may eventually set her sights on Miss World.

"If I could win this title, I could be 'a changing voice' against child abuse and neglect, she said. For now, Jovan will use the doors opened through Miss Teen World Canada to speak to children in schools across the country about child abuse.

Mission, British Columbia, July 10th. 2007

