

From the Office of the President of the OneTouch Project, Inc.



1545 Woodward Ave #203, Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Former Coaches, Donors, and Friends,

AN UPDATE ON 1TOUCH PROJECT

We all became associated with 1Touch Project, because we believed in its mission. The sad purpose of this letter is to inform you that we, the Board of Directors of 1Touch Project, have come to believe that, due to the many complaints and controversies surrounding our acknowledged founder, Stephen Nicholls, it is no longer possible to further the mission while associated with Mr Nicholls, or by using the name 1Touch. We want to explain how we came to this conclusion and discuss how those who want to continue the important work, of Learning and teaching blind people to defend ourselves, can do so.

First, it is important to understand that all of us were recruited to the board by Mr Nicholls. We were strongly supportive of him at that time. Of course we had seen the letters of resignation from the previous president Cecelia Rice, Past president and those of Christy Ray and Ricky Jones, who had been the staff of 1 Touch project, which were all highly critical of him. As troubling as the allegations against Mr. Nichols were, we still believed that the 1 Touch organization was highly important and viable. We hoped the charges would prove to be as groundless as Mr. Nichols assured us they were. As new board members, we were overwhelmed by the state of the organization, which had next to no money, and records that were challenging to say the least. At the same time we felt that we had to investigate the allegations against our director. These charges were serious. They included allegations of improper behavior towards women, intoxication during 1Touch events, and other unprofessional and abusive behaviors. No organization can survive even the appearance of such impropriety.

We felt that many of these allegations were seemingly credible, but were difficult to substantiate. The deeper we looked the more accusations we found. Equally troubling, is the number of coaches who told us that, due to his conduct, they were unwilling to remain part of any organization that Mr Nicholls was a part of. Mr Nicholls dismissed all of this as untrue and/or unimportant. At the same time, we were trying to resolve the problem of several expenditure items of 1Touch Project funds made by Stephen Nicholls, which we believed to have been improper. To this date we have been unable to get Mr Nicholls to agree to a settlement on this matter.

Early in 2020 Mr Nicholls, citing various personal difficulties, asked us as the Board to relieve him from his responsibilities as director. As such, in March 2020, we removed him as Executive Director and eliminated that position since there were no funds to support it. We also removed him from the Board of Directors. In spite of all this, he continues to claim that he "is 1 Touch". Let us state clearly; Stephen Nichols did found the 1 Touch Project organization. Since March 2020, he has had no input to 1 Touch Project. He is not on the board. He is not the director. He is not a coach.

By virtue of his founding of 1touch Project which has been so important to us all, he has inspired loyalty from many of us and it is with regret that we share statements of fact with you. Believing that further association with Mr Nicholls would place our work and our reputations in jeopardy, it would be remiss of us if we kept these facts from you.

As things stand, all 1Touch Project activities remain suspended due to the pandemic. There are currently no certified coaches, as it has been more than a year since anyone has paid dues. For a time, we hoped that we

could continue the mission through the 1 Touch Project organization. At this time, we are trying to resolve the last of the obligations that Stephen Nicholls left us with so that our supporters, students and former instructors won't lose faith in the mission. For all these reasons, we no longer believe it possible to continue under the banner of 1Touch Project, but principally due to the association with Stephen Henry Nicholls.

The question that remains is, under these circumstances is how do we continue our mission? We are sure that you all remember Christy Ray. Who was the last Administrative Assistant for 1Touch Project, and Ricky Jones, who was the previous CFO. Some time back they created a new Non-profit organization called "Strive 4 You". Initially it had nothing to do with self-defense. It comprised two separate programs, one dealing with "Adaptive Sports.", and the other with "Training and advocacy". Recently they created an advisory committee to establish a "safety and self-defense" Program Called "Safety Education Empowerment and Defense" (SEED). Although "Strive 4 You" is a cross disability organization, the committee is made up of 10 People, all of whom are former 1Touch Project coaches, 8 are blind. Also, several members of this group are highly ranked Martial artists from various styles. The committee also has a number of former board members and officers of 1Touch Project, as such this new program is blind friendly. While it has been announced the program is still in development. It promises to be a more rigorous and in-depth Program than 1Touch project; with more training opportunities, support and mentoring for students and instructors alike. If you want to know more and we encourage you to do so, you can find out more here.

<http://www.strive4you.org/seed>

We are trying to be good stewards of the Mission we all share. These have been hard decisions for us to make and certainly difficult for you to read. For further information, please contact us at boardofdirectors@1touchproject.org. We would end this letter by saying that we value all of you and your support in this matter.

For and on behalf of,
The Board of Directors, OneTouch Project Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Handschu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Handschu
Board President