

FOUNDING PARTNERS AND DONORS



Toronto
Community
Housing



2022 INVESTING IN OUR DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS





About the Scholarship

The Investing in Our Diversity Scholarships (IIOD) are awarded each year to Toronto Community Housing youth based on academic excellence, financial eligibility and volunteer involvement in community leadership, anti-racism or diversity initiatives. The scholarships promote youth empowerment, diversity and community safety in Toronto.

Students receive up to \$4,000 to pursue postsecondary studies or professional training.

The Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship Program was founded in 2001 by the late Bill McMurtry, Founding Partner, Blaney McMurtry LLP, and Kevin Lee, former Executive Director of Scadding Court Community Centre. Toronto Community Housing became a partner in 2006.



At-a-glance



54
scholarship
recipients in
2022



Recipients will attend
16
different colleges or
universities across Canada
and the United States



AREAS OF STUDY

Applied Economics
Architecture
Arts
Audio Production
Automotive Tech
Biology
Biomedical Sciences
Biotechnology
Business Administration
Business and Finance
Business Technology Management
Civil Engineering
Commerce
Computer Engineering
Computer Science
Construction Engineering
Digital Business Management
Education
Electrical Engineering Technician
Environmental Studies
Health Administration
Health Studies
Human Biology, Environmental Science,
and Studio Arts
Human Geography, City Studies and GIS
Human Resources
Information Systems and Design
Kinesiology
Life Sciences
Mathematical Physics
Mechanical Engineering
Nursing
Practical Nursing
Psychological and Health Sciences
Public Health
Public Policy and Administration
Social Sciences
Social Work
Software Engineering
Tourism and Hospitality Management
Women's and Gender Studies

Research leading discoveries in anthropology

Come up with sustainable ideas that help the environment

Create software solutions that impact the world for the better

Conduct research as a professor

Help people access essential services and meet their needs as they age

Help kids and adults with autism or speech delay

Be an electrician and entrepreneur

Help people who are ill

Become a Software Developer

Become an Early Childhood Educator in the Toronto District School Board

Become a social worker within secondary schools to work closely with youth and support their development

I aspire to...

Create solutions to address world problems

Support my neighbours and ensure fairness in the legal system

Work with Doctors Without Borders

Help people access essential services and meet their needs as they age

Facilitate inclusive and progressive environments where they're needed most

Be a therapist for children and adolescents

Have the opportunity to create a scholarship like IIODS

Start my own business

Become a Child and Youth Care worker in a school or community-based youth center

Defend the rights and freedom of the people of the Jane and Finch community

Make a change in my community and leave an impact on society

Become a high school French immersion teacher

Aid and support underprivileged groups

Drive innovation and build a better world for future generations

Pursue a career in neuroscience

Combine my interests in community-based research and the social determinants of health with a career in medicine

Provide legal assistance for marginalized communities

Greetings from TCHC

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all of the recipients of the 2022 Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship.

The scholarship program offers a unique opportunity to recognize your leadership in diversity, equity and anti-racism, academic excellence and tremendous future potential. I know that our entire program team is proud to support each of you as you continue on your academic journey and eventually, towards achieving your career goals.

I would like to thank our donors for their commitment to this program. Since 2003, our donors, including founding partners Blaney McMurtry LLP and Scadding Court Community Centre, have ensured so many young people in our communities are able to achieve their full potential.

I also want to extend my gratitude to the friends, families, and mentors of all our recipients for being pillars of support and encouragement. You play an invaluable role in the success of these amazing students.

I extend my very best wishes to our scholarship recipients. All of us at Toronto Community Housing are cheering for you as you take the next steps in the pursuit of your dreams.

Jag Sharma
President and Chief Executive Officer
Toronto Community Housing Corporation



Greetings from SCCC

On behalf of Scadding Court Community Centre, I extend my deep congratulations to the 2022 recipients of the Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship. It's a joy to recognize your hard work, and to celebrate you.

The achievements of these young people are incredible. They are community leaders, peer supporters, and advocates for social justice and equity, lifting each other up as they give and grow. It's a privilege and an honour to award their contributions and invest in their goals.

Thank you to the generous donors for supporting the ambitions and continued success of these youth. Thank you to the families, teachers, and community members who have helped along the way. Thank you to scholarship founders Kevin Lee and Bill McMurtry, without whose vision this wouldn't have been possible. And thank you to Toronto Community Housing for growing the scholarship to support more youth across the City.

Sincerely,

Herman Ellis Jr
Executive Director
Scadding Court Community Centre



Greetings from Blaney McMurtry LLP

Our partner, Larry Reimer, worked with Bill McMurtry and recalls Bill as a champion of diversity long before it became mainstream. Larry says, “Bill loved Toronto and was determined to see a day when injustices were corrected and racism in our city was a thing of the past. Bill spoke with passion and led with decency, fairness and respect. He had incredible faith in the leadership abilities of young people, and this motivated him to create this scholarship program to encourage them to focus on anti-racism and diversity.”

Larry adds, “We strive to do our own part to carry Bill’s spirit and values forward. We are proud of this program and its deserving recipients who have gone on to lead, both in our community and elsewhere.”

Blaneys’ partner, Jack Siegel, has been part of Scadding Court’s scholarship award committee from the beginning. He says, “We are so proud to have helped IIODS get off the ground, almost 20 years ago, with a handful of awards to Scadding Court area students, growing into a city-wide program that continues to help hundreds of students to achieve their dreams. We are delighted to help ensure that this continues to make a real difference for many years to come.”

Larry Reimer and Jack Siegel
Partners Blaney McMurtry LLP



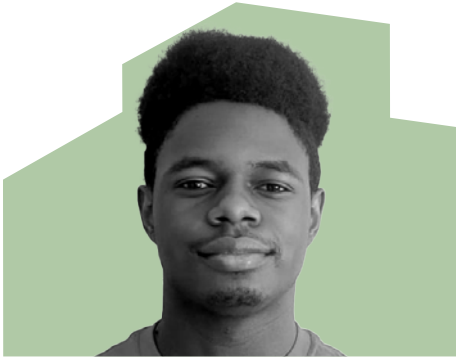
EVERETT, FREDERICA, ROBERT FLEMING DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“Congratulations to our scholarship winners! I applaud your continued commitment to giving back to your communities, in addition to your academic excellence. Whether you pursue studies in health, education, social services, or technology, you will be playing a critical role in society - and influencing the next generation of change-makers. Wishing you every success as you take your next important steps!”

ANNE FLEMING

Everett Fleming Diversity Scholarship
Frederica Fleming Diversity Scholarship
Robert Fleming Diversity Scholarship



SHAMOY ANTONIO THOMPSON

Harris Institute
Audio Production

Shamoy plans to become a sound engineer for films, TV shows, video games and more.

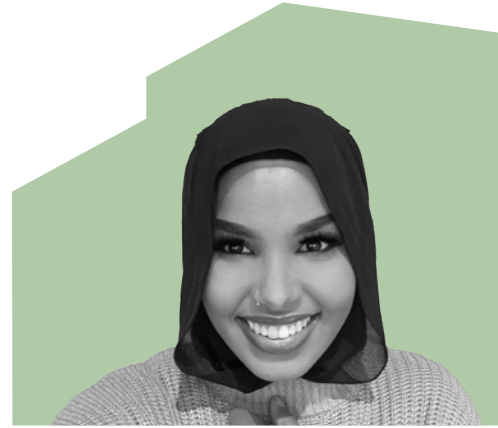
Shamoy has been involved with the 37Kids program, a community project that aims to raise awareness of gun violence through social media.



ZEINAB OMAR

University of British Columbia
Major in Women's and Gender Studies;
Double Minor in Psychology and Biomedical Ethics

Zeinab graduated from Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute in June 2020, and now attends the University of British Columbia. Zeinab hopes to further her career within the mental health sector in regards to women and trans women of colour. She was an athlete for over ten years and has a passion for social justice and equity as seen through her extracurricular activities, such as volunteering at the Womens and Trans Centre.



NAIMA HUSSEIN AHMED

George Brown College
Health Administration

DENTONS DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“Dentons Canada is so proud to celebrate your excellent accomplishments! We are honoured to support you and your academic future, as you grow your promising careers. Your contributions will undoubtedly benefit our many communities as you promote social justice, inclusion, equity and diversity. Congratulations and we look forward to following your brilliant journey.”

MICHAEL SCHAFLER
Partner, Dentons Canada LLP
Dentons Diversity Scholarships



RAYAN FARUQUE
Carleton University
Public Policy and Administration

Rayan Faruque is a Queer Bengali Muslim raised in a single-parent immigrant household. As a result of his intersectional identities, Rayan understands the importance of community-building centered on equity, diversity, and inclusion. He pursued an undergraduate degree in Kinesiology from the University of Toronto to learn more about the social determinants of health and how they impacted vulnerable and marginalized communities. During this time, Rayan developed equity-centered programming as a Diversity & Equity program leader, co-founded a student organization to increase access to equitable mental healthcare, and contributed to diversity initiatives to increase student recruitment amongst racialized and indigenous communities in Ontario. When he starts at Carleton in September 2022, he hopes to address the effects of environmental racism on community health by implementing multisectoral policy approaches that focus on, and reshape, the social determinants of health in marginalized communities.



UROOJ ALI

University of Waterloo
Environmental Studies (Geography and Aviation)

Urooj is studying and working towards her commercial pilot’s license at Waterloo Wellington Flight Centre. As a speaker at various events, schools, and conferences, she raises awareness of women in aviation. She started a program called Neptune’s Young Optimists which supports children from less fortunate communities so that they have an equal opportunity for a successful future. She started her journey in aviation by joining the Royal Canadian Air Cadets at the age of 12 and successfully completed the Glider Pilot Scholarship and Power Pilot Scholarship. Currently, she is a civilian volunteer with the organization. Urooj is also a Junior Board member of the Northern Lights Aero Foundation, where she currently serves as co-treasurer.



TAYSHAUNA MASON-WAUCHOPE

Seneca Campus at York University
Biotechnology

In school, Tayshauna was never taught about anti-racism and diversity – but even still, she made sure that wherever she was, everyone was treated with the respect they deserved. Her career goal is to become a forensic anthropologist. Tayshauna gets her inspiration from her mother, who has multiple degrees and has worked hard to do everything she can for her family. Receiving this scholarship will help ease the amount of debt Tayshauna might have otherwise experienced during her education.

SINAI HEALTH DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“Congratulations to all of the IIODS recipients! You have already achieved so much by your hard work and determination to succeed. Stay strong and hold on to your dreams in this challenging time. You have all chosen fields of study that will have a positive impact, and we wish you the best in your future studies.”

DR. GARY NEWTON
President & CEO, Sinai Health
Sinai Health Diversity Scholarships



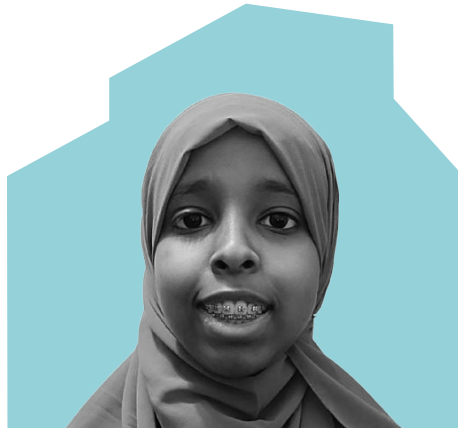
TESAM AHMED
Toronto Metropolitan University
Biomedical Sciences

Passionate about all things STEM and public health, Tesam is pursuing a Biomedical Sciences degree at Toronto Metropolitan University. She is involved in many initiatives that aim to promote equity and diversity in STEM, and she loves meeting new people who share similar interests. Tesam plans to pursue a graduate degree in Immunology after graduation.



SIHAM ABIFATAX ABUKAR
Toronto Metropolitan University
Public Health

Growing up, Siham witnessed the adversities her mother faced as a Black immigrant in Canada, and it’s this history that inspired Siham to pursue a career in health. Siham is a Grade 12 student at Jarvis Collegiate Institute, and her leadership has resulted in both her academic success and strong community footprint. She is involved in several extracurricular activities such as the Jarvis Eco-Club, and her self-run virtual tutoring program. She has also worked at MLSE Launchpad as a Leader in Training. This scholarship will significantly change Siham’s educational experience, and her access to financial resources.



SUWEYDA IBRAHIM

York University
Health Studies

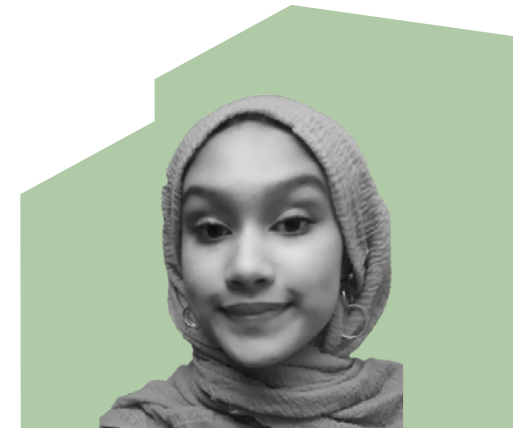
Suweyda has always been passionate about helping others. She chose to pursue Health Studies because of this passion. She hopes to pave the way for the next generation by being an ambassador for youth and speaking out about injustice. As an active member of her community, she saw first-hand how inspiring it was to have a role model who looked like her, and she made it her goal to pay it forward and stay involved in programs and platforms that inspire and educate our youth.



KHALIA ALEXIA JOSEPH-SAMUELS

Brock University
Bachelor of Kinesiology

Khalia is passionate about promoting Black Canadian History and supporting community-building to counter anti-Black racism in all aspects of her life. She has led various school and community assemblies and participates in Black Lives Matter protests and mobilizing activities. She is a camp counsellor at Adinkra Farm and a contributing member and dancer at Ubuntu Drum and Dance Theatre. She is training to be a physiotherapist and health practitioner to support racialized people through culturally relevant holistic health practices. Khalia enjoys reading, painting, working out, rugby, travelling, and trying new foods.



MAIESHA KANIEZE

University of Toronto
Life Sciences - Immunology

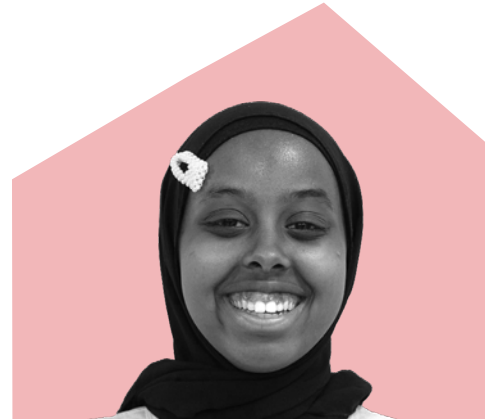
Maiesha Kanieze is a determined social justice and mental health advocate. She promotes youth development and diversity in her community as Program Coordinator for DearFutureMe, Youth Representative for the Youth Experts Toronto chapter, and Executive in Danforth CTI's Mental Health Committee and HeforShe club. Through emphatic leadership in these initiatives, she tackles issues surrounding gender inequality and mental health stigma among diverse communities. Maiesha plans to obtain a Bachelor of Science, then attend its medical school to become an immunologist. She is committed to helping establish equitable and attainable healthcare for minorities and marginalized communities worldwide.



JULIET MANDRITA MAZUMDER

University of Toronto
Life Science

Juliet moved to Canada from Bangladesh in February 2018. Since then, she has been involved with the Christ Church as a Sunday School assistant, the Catholic Crosscultural Service as a tutor, and Good Neighbours as an assistant in the Cooking Club and food bank. Throughout her four years of volunteer work, she has developed deep connections with individuals of different ages and backgrounds, gaining a new perspective and respect for others' life experiences. Her own life experiences have inspired her interest in medicine. Juliet has decided that she wants to do more than simply volunteer at the church, tutoring centres, and food bank in her spare time; she wants to make helping others a profession. She plans to double major in Neuroscience and Human Biology, before pursuing a master's degree in Medicine.



ZAHRA SAID OMAR

University of Toronto - Scarborough Campus
Psychological and Health Sciences

Zahra is involved with a program called Shoot for Peace, which focuses on making connections through the art of photography. She has participated in multiple photo exhibits broadcasting the community of Regent Park, and educating people about photography. Her career goal is to produce a film based on the gaps in the Canadian Healthcare system that arise through discrimination and other hardships people go through every single day. She enjoys communicating with others through networking and casual conversations. She has participated in 45 second pitches to convince an audience about multiple topics. She also participated in an art show through a community program.

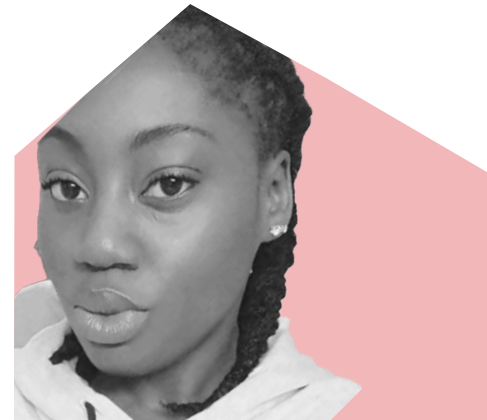
CLARK TCHC DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

Congratulations to the IIODS students of 2022 on the first step towards achieving your goals. Dream big, work hard and do the right thing! Best wishes for your future achievements.”

ED AND FRAN CLARK

Clark TCHC Diversity Scholarships



FLESTICIAH POKUAH AMOAH

Toronto Metropolitan University
Bachelors of Social Work

The youngest of six children, Flesticiah is the first person in her family to graduate from high school and obtain a college diploma. She graduated from her Social Service Worker (SSW) program with honours and currently attends Toronto Metropolitan University. Flesticiah has been involved in many community projects, including The Community Healing Project, community outreach, harm reduction, counselling, and the educational workshops. She plans to complete her Bachelor of Social Work before applying for her Masters in Social Work. Flesticiah’s career goals include becoming a licenced physiotherapist who practices from an anti-oppressive lens. Her studies are highly impactful, as they will allow her to obtain the necessary credentials to make a positive change on a macro level. She also wants to break the cycle of poverty.



MARIAH MAKYLA CONLEY

George Brown or Centennial College
Social Service or Children & Women’s Assault Advocate

Mariah has been involved in numerous leadership programs, as both a participant and program leader. She is currently in training for the Community Healing Project, which helps communities decrease violence and bring attention to mental health. She plans to become a therapist for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Mariah wants to help others in her community and, eventually, beyond.



MICHAEL LYONS-COOMBS

Humber College
Social Work

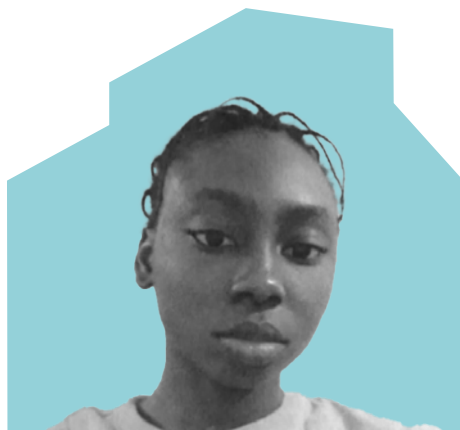
Michael has always wanted to improve the lives of others. It’s something he feels he is meant to do – and he enjoys it. Having lived in and worked for TCHC, he knows what some of our communities are lacking, and he is committed to elevating these communities in a positive way. Michael led the initiative to have the Community Youth Space renovated, and has organized programs such as gift card giveaways and community events.



CARMEL HUTCHINSON

George Brown College
Social Service Worker

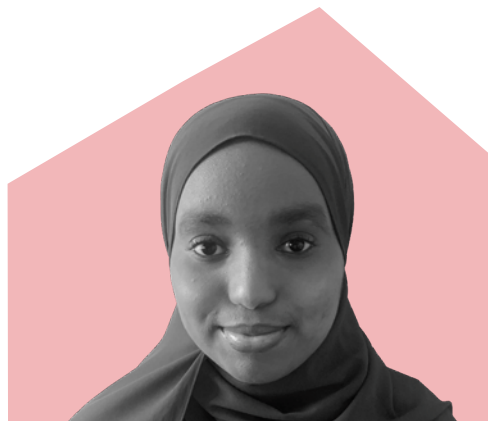
Carmel Hutchinson is an active member in the harm reduction community. She is passionate about mental health advocacy work, and plans to attend George Brown College to complete the rest of her Social Service Worker diploma program. She hopes this will give her the additional educational backing to better serve those she works with. As well as furthering her endeavors in mental health, her career goals are to work in the Shelter, Support & Housing Administration. She has worked in mental health and addictions doing peer support and harm reduction for the past six years.



ADEOLA MARY OLADIMEJI

University of Toronto
Social Sciences (Law)

Adeola is a student advocate who has been involved in many school activities, including the Black Brilliance Club, where she planned meetings and created workshops as a student executive/leader and facilitator. Adeola was also the server and student leader in the Downsview Breakfast Club, where she served food to the school community and helped set the food display. She has made it her goal to be the best lawyer in the world and help as many people as she can.



AISHA SAYIDALI SHEGOW

Toronto Metropolitan University
Social Work

Aisha Shegow is a Grade 12 student at Jarvis Collegiate Institute and her leadership has led to both her academic success and a strong community presence. She has been involved in several after-school activities like the Jarvis Eco Club and her voluntary tutoring lessons. She worked at Saint John’s Thrift Store as a volunteer. She was inspired by her dad to become a Social Worker due to his adversities as a Black immigrant. This scholarship will significantly change the outlook of both her education and access to financial resources.



MYURI SRIKUGAN

University of Toronto
Human Biology, Environmental Science, and Studio Arts

Myuri has been a Board Director for the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (UTSC) Women’s and Trans Centre, and an Outreach Member for the UTSC Department of Athletics & Recreation. Myuri also plans to study Videography and Visual Arts at the University of Toronto, and this scholarship will help pay her tuition.



RAMZI MOHAMED

Toronto Metropolitan University
Biology

Ramzi has been involved in leadership roles throughout high school and university. In high school, Ramzi was President of the Young Male Leadership group, which was created to help young men understand the importance of character education and maximize their ability to become leaders in their community. Through Ramzi’s contributions, the group created a Food Pantry that provided students with non-perishable food items. Ramzi’s involvement in the Toronto Metropolitan University Stem Cell club created awareness and encouraged others to become stem cell donors. Currently, Ramzi is in his second year of a Bachelor of Science degree.



SABRINA MOHAMED AHMED

Seneca Campus at York University
Social Service Worker

Raised by a single mother in TCHC, Sabrina saw that school was important for community involvement. She has participated in the Smile Mentoring Program, mentoring 20 to 30 new students to help them make the most of their college experience by connecting them with a senior student mentor in their program area. Sabrina plans to complete her two-year Social Service Worker (Immigration and Refugee) diploma at Seneca College. This program will prepare Sabrina for success as a social service provider working with immigrants and refugees from diverse backgrounds. In addition, she aspires to become a settlement worker, housing worker, and school settlement worker. This financial assistance will significantly help Sabrina with her school expenses.

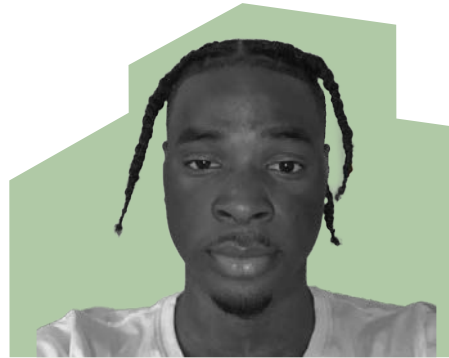
YARDI CANADA DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

Thank you to those who applied to IIODS and congratulations to the scholarship recipients. Programs like these provide an opportunity for youth, who have gone above and beyond in their academic accomplishments to continue to grow and flourish. The world continues to be in need of innovative, diverse and forward-thinking minds. We, at Yardi Canada, wish you the very best of luck and success in your post-secondary educational endeavours.”

PETER ALTOBELLI

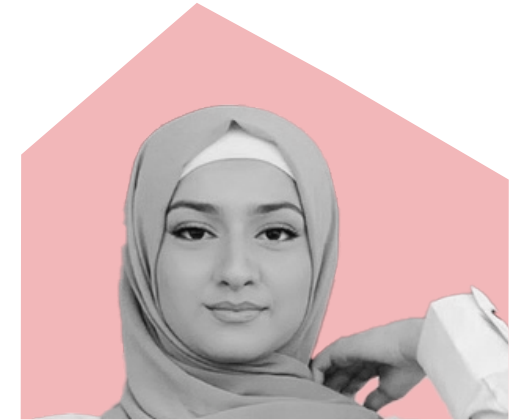
Vice President & General Manager,
Canada, Sales, Yardi Canada Ltd.
Yardi Canada Diversity Scholarships



KAZEEM ABIODUN

Seneca College
Practical Nursing

As a young man from the Neptune community, Kazeem has been an advocate for his community and many others around him. He has participated in the 37Kids Project, the Revite Ambassador Project, the TNG peer mentor Motiv8 project, and The Community Healing Project. It's his goal to become a Registered Nurse and help those in need. This financial aid will help Kazeem to continue his education.



RAIMA ABSARA

University of Toronto
Computer Science

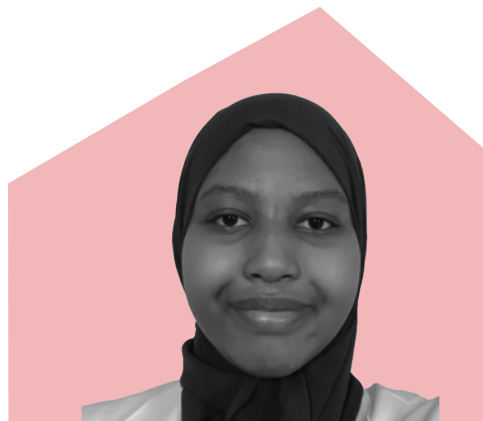
Raima is a Bangladeshi-Canadian Hijabi living in Regent Park. When she faced racism at her predominantly white high school, she started the Ontario Equity Project, which aims to dismantle racism in schools. She has volunteered with several projects within her community, including DearFutureMe, Taste of Regent Park and the Cabbagetown Festival. She has also worked at the Youth Enrichment Academy. She plans to work in tech, making her the first woman in her family to attend university. Passionate about education and social justice, Raima is empowered by the idea of representing Women of Colour in STEM, a male-dominated field.



MARIAM AHMED

York University
Human Resources

Mariam is a young Black Muslim female who has lived in TCHC for as long as she can remember. Her immigrant parents fled their homes in Somalia to give their family of seven a better life. From a young age, Mariam has had a love for her community, and says the Lawrence Heights community made her the woman she is today. She attended Flemington Public School and John Polanyi Collegiate Institute. Mariam has volunteered and worked within Lawrence Heights for more than five years, participating in initiatives such as the OCAYA summer camp, the TDSB English/ Arabic program, Hope & Hustle Heights, and Pathways to Education. This scholarship will help Mariam significantly with her school tuition. In the future, she plans to start her own business workshop to teach the youth in the community how to build credit, and what it takes to start your own business.



NURA ALI

Toronto Metropolitan University
Business Technology Management

Earlier this year, Nura joined Project Life Bank, a youth-led organization dedicated to educating Canadian youth about blood donation through social media. As a media director, Nura used tailored campaign content to successfully promote fundraising events and improve outreach and engagement with individuals aged 17-24 as the target audience. Being a part of this organization gave Nura a sense of responsibility to help those without resources and expertise obtain what they need. Nura’s goal is to utilize the resources provided, broaden her network and gain the skills and experience for success in her career path. As a result of her participation in various extracurricular activities, Nura has gained valuable learning experience. For example, being a member of the Rexdale Youth Council gave her the opportunity to learn about and advocate for youth issues.



HOOR E. JANNAT

University of Toronto
Information Systems and Design

Hoor worked as a South-South Cooperation and Partnerships Junior Professional Consultant with UN WFP Zimbabwe to contribute to solving global hunger. She is also the Regional President for the Fellowship Program at the Mosaic Institute, where she is committed to addressing systemic oppression through youth dialogue in her local community and across Canada. Hoor led the Girl From Challenge global movement with UN Special Advisor Elizabeth Nyamayaro, helping women in her local and global community challenge biases. She aspires to dedicate her career to human rights.



ETHAN MCMEHEN

University of Waterloo
Software Engineering

Ethan is involved in the Chaminade Peer Tutoring Club and Chaplaincy Club. Ethan's career goal is to develop an augmented and virtual reality tool to help improve the education and healthcare sectors. Ethan plays competitive soccer for Sporting F.C. in Toronto and is working to make the University of Waterloo Men's Soccer team. Ethan enjoys hiking and nature photography.



TASNUVA SAYED

Toronto Metropolitan University
Computer Science

Growing up, Tasnuva attended computer classes in Regent Park, and developed an interest in technology, which blossomed into a passion for STEM. As a Bengali Muslim woman, she hopes to bring diversity into this male-dominated field. Tasnuva plans to study Computer Science while working on extra-curricular technology projects, in order to pursue a career in software engineering. Through the opportunities she has been given as a Toronto Community Housing resident, Tasnuva has learned the importance of diversity and equity. She has implemented these values into a grassroots project and her mentorship to promote equity for racialized youth.



SAMIR HUSSEIN AWLIJO

Toronto Metropolitan University or University of Toronto
Business Technology Management

Samir went from receiving after-school tutoring, to becoming a tutor himself. He has also participated in school-organized protests, worked on his student council, and put in over 100 hours as a volunteer. Samir aspires to attend Toronto Metropolitan University or the University of Toronto to study Business Technology, but he’s keeping an open mind to different opportunities. One day, Samir would like to start business ventures of his own. In the meantime, Samir hopes to learn the skills to land a job as a project analyst or an app developer. Samir is an ambitious student who comes from a non-traditional background. He’s been through tough times, but he is determined to navigate a better path in life. It’s Samir’s discipline and daily habits that help him stay true to his vision of a successful life.

HARRY A. NEWMAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

We at the Newman Foundation are honored to be helping you achieve some of your goals and dreams. The Foundation was set up to help people and we believe in higher education. The skills, the learning, the growing and the people who you will meet at postsecondary will hopefully enhance your life and open doors to helping others. Congratulations on your achievements; when we read the bios we are wonderfully pleased to ponder the quality of people who win the Investing in Our Diversity Scholarships. Most important – congratulations to you!”

DOUG LOWRY

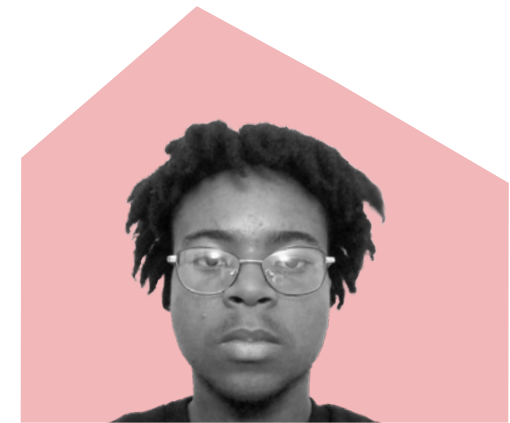
Chairman,
Toronto (Central) Lions Club
Harry A. Newman Memorial
Foundation Diversity Scholarship



GABRIELLE OFORI

Toronto Metropolitan University
Nursing

Gabrielle is a first-generation Ghanaian Canadian, and a post-secondary student. She currently attends Toronto Metropolitan University, and has dedicated herself to a wide range of endeavors and meaningful community work. This includes volunteering at her local church and working as a camp director for marginalized children at Unity Day Camp, where she undertook her responsibilities with diligence and dedication. Her communication, leadership, clinical experience, and interpersonal skills attest to her confidence and competence to work as a pediatric nurse in the future. She enjoys going to the gym, listening to music, attending church, and socializing with her friends.



SHADYN ROGER THOMPSON

Centennial College
Automotive Tech

Throughout his high school years, Shadyn volunteered and signed up for school clubs whenever he could – and he put his all into them. He spent a summer as a volunteer counselor taking care of young children in the Birchmount community, and he has spent this past year as a member of his school’s Black Student Association, helping to create the slogan Pop culture is Black culture™. Shadyn has been accepted and to Centennial College for post-secondary as either an auto body repairman or an automotive service technician. Eventually, with the skills he learns, Shadyn would like to run his own business.

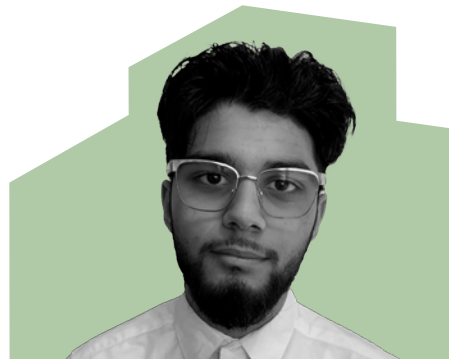
2022 INVESTING IN OUR DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

WILLIAM R. MCMURTRY MEMORIAL ANTI-RACISM SCHOLARSHIP BLANEY MCMURTRY DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“All of us at Blaney McMurtry are very happy to congratulate each recipient of this year’s Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship. Each of you has shown the kind of ambition, hard work, and dedication that will lead to your future success, in university and well beyond. As leaders of our land in the years to come, your rejection of racism and commitment to a diverse society will continue to make Canada a better place for all of us. We are so very proud to be able to enhance the opportunities that you deserve and look forward to seeing you continue to make your dreams come true.”

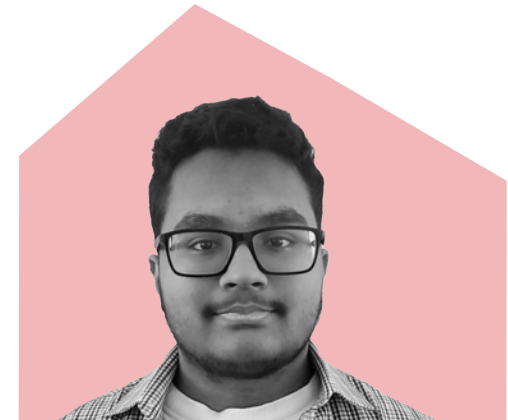
LARRY REIMER AND JACK SIEGEL
Partners, Blaney McMurtry LLP
William R. McMurtry Memorial
Anti-Racism Scholarship
Blaney McMurtry Diversity Scholarship



Kabir Sheikh

York University
Bachelor of Business Administration

Kabir has attended Harbord Collegiate Institute for the past 4 years. Since the ninth grade, he has been involved in his school government starting as the year one rep, and in the following years becoming the year two rep, Vice President, and now the President. Kabir hopes to become a Marketing Research Analyst. He loves to challenge himself, and is always learning something new. He is a well-rounded individual who strives for greatness, but also enjoys the ride along the way.



Wafee Rahman

Toronto Metropolitan University
Computer Engineering

Wafee is currently attending Harbord Collegiate Institute in his final year of high school. He has been involved in numerous projects led by Scadding Court Community Centre, such as SCCC Summer Camp 2021, and more recently the HeARTworks program. He has demonstrated key leadership for the youth in the Alexandra Park community through his endeavors in community involvement. Wafee plans to pursue a career as a hardware systems designer.

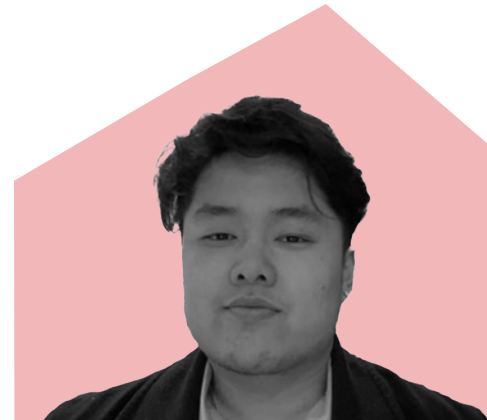
SCCC DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

On behalf of Scadding Court Community Centre, I extend my deep congratulations to the 2022 recipients of the Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship. It's a joy to recognize your hard work, and to celebrate you."

HERMAN ELLIS

**Executive Director,
Scadding Court Community Centre
SCCC Diversity Scholarship**



BJORN BORG LESCANO

Humber College
Digital Business Management

Bjorn's career goal is to become a Marketing Manager or Creative Director. He enjoys business and art through mediums like videography, Photoshop, and various campaigns. Bjorn has been involved with multiple initiatives in his community, including Made in Alexandra Park, HeARTwork program, Tridel's Inclusion and Equal Opportunity Initiatives, and the Scadding Court Basketball Program. He enjoys being involved in his community in as many ways as possible.



HAMZA HASSAN HUSSEIN

Toronto Metropolitan University
Computer Science

For a long time, Hamza’s goal has been to help his family become financially free, and to not see them worry when the first of the month comes around. He plans to accept this offer, excel in school, and apply to internships to further his resume. This would increase Hamza’s starting salary out of university, allowing him and his family financial stability.



RIDDA AHMED

York University
Nursing

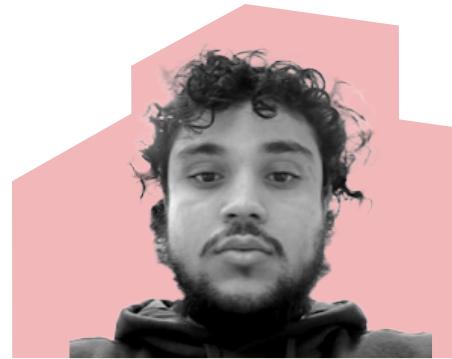
TRIDEL DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

Tridel is a proud supporter of the Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship program and the opportunities these scholarships provide to youth across the City. As city builders, we recognize the importance of providing opportunities to those in the communities where we build, so collectively we can reach our shared potential and success. Congratulations to the talented, amazing youth who are this year’s recipients. We look forward to seeing all you have yet to accomplish in your education, and beyond.”

DANIELLE FEIDLER

Senior Vice President of Brand Experience,
Tridel
Tridel Diversity Scholarships



KHATAB KAKAR

Toronto Metropolitan University
Civil Engineering

Khatab calls Lawrence Heights home, and he lives in a single-parent household with his three siblings. He enjoys sports, videography and reading. He volunteers as a coach for the Lawrence Heights soccer team, and runs a program called the Resiliency Movement project. As a Muslim student from an immigrant household who suffers from a permanent learning disability, Khatab realized that there was a pressing need for support for people like himself. His program offers assistance to vulnerable youth in his community who are exposed to hardships as Lawrence Heights residents, but also offers activities that highlight their strengths as a diverse community. Khatab believes that these programs help his community realize that when they unite as one, they can reach their true potential, no matter how they identify.



MEGAN SHINE BARRIENTOS

Carleton University
Architecture

Megan is a 25-year-old Filipina Canadian. She graduated with distinction from Toronto Metropolitan University and received her Bachelor’s Degree in Interior Design along with six academic awards. She is now pursuing her degree in Architecture and Design, learning to combine Philippine design with emerging fabrication technology in Canada. Throughout 2021-2022, Megan has presented her research project of preserving the heritage and diversity of Toronto’s Chinatown in exhibitions and conferences. She has also participated in workshops to improve the design of retail stores by becoming inclusive to a diverse community. Additionally, Megan plans to collaborate with Black Architects & Interior Design Association to promote the Architecture and Design industry to secondary BIPOC students.



ABDESSAMED REZIG

University of Toronto
Mechanical Engineering

Abdessamed was a camp counselor in Camp Tigerway, an experience that brought students of different ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and gender together through playing games. His career goal is to use his degree to improve the way we shape the world. Abdessamed is very passionate about helping to better the environment around him, and he enjoys playing sports and creating art pieces. He’s very approachable and loves to have fun.



SHAKAI MURDOCK-THOMAS

Centennial College
Electrical Engineering Technician

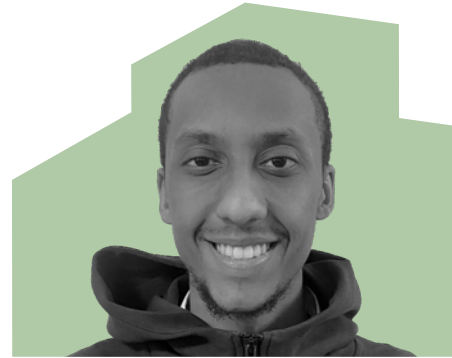
Shakai is a student of Centennial College’s Electrical Engineering Program. He enjoys cooking, guitar, and video games.



SAIMA ISLAM

University of Toronto
Human Geography, City Studies and GIS

Growing up in Regent Park, a low-income and highly racialized community, Saima saw how a lack of representation in planning can negatively affect communities like hers. She has made it her career goal to create plans that benefit marginalized groups for their uniqueness, rather than further disadvantaging them. Saima is involved with Peer Leaders at her school, as well as the White Ribbon Campaign with the club No Means No. In February 2020, working with TCHC, Saima helped to put together a major community project, the Revitalization Youth Ambassador forum.



MAHIR JABIR AHMED

George Brown College
Construction Engineering

Mahir was born and raised in the Lawrence Heights community. He takes great pride in building a healthy community, and has been taking initiatives such as starting a youth tutoring program, mentoring through basketball, and engaging in numerous workshops on diversity, anti-hate and mental health. Mahir is determined to be a part of the solution to stopping violence in low socio-economic communities. This scholarship will help relieve the financial challenges Mahir faces during his post-secondary studies. His career goal is to become a partner at an engineering firm and increase the representation of marginalized minorities in STEM.

Wealthsimple Foundation Diversity Scholarships

Mubnii Morshed Diversity Scholarship

Scheherazade Hasan Diversity Scholarship

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“The whole team at Wealthsimple Foundation is so excited to support and celebrate these deserving students. Dream big! We need more bright and brilliant minds like yours to build a better future for everyone in Canada. We hope your ambitions are boundless and know your opportunities will be limitless. Congratulations on your success so far and we can’t wait to see what your future holds.”

LEEN LI

CEO, Wealthsimple Foundation

Wealthsimple Foundation Diversity Scholarships

Mubnii Morshed Diversity Scholarship

Scheherazade Hasan Diversity Scholarship

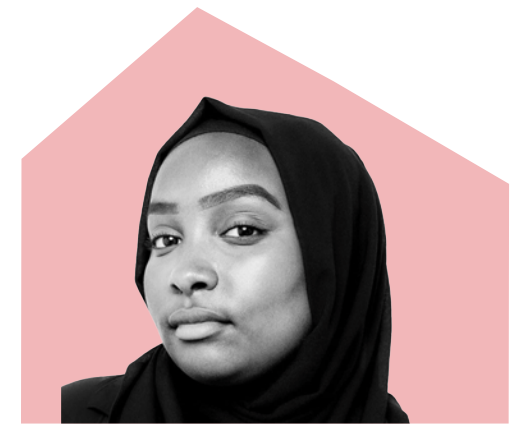


YASIR HASSAN MUSSE

York University

Bachelor of Commerce

Yasir has been a Toronto Community Housing resident his whole life. He is currently taking a gap year, which he is spending working in order to pay for school. Throughout this time, he has been involved in various initiatives to impact and improve his community, including the Visions of Science program, where children throughout the community are taught science in fun and engaging ways. He was also a part of the Syme-Woolner community basketball program and the Youth to Educate program, where he helped young people develop leadership and basketball skills. Yasir would like to be employed in the business or finance sector.



ALIYA AHMED

University of Toronto

Bachelor of Commerce

Aliya prides herself on being a strong and reliable member of her academic and personal community. She is a member of Jarvis Collegiate’s Credible Finance Club, as well as their Peer Leadership Club. Outside of school, she is an active member of the Nusra Relief Association, a non-profit organization, and Shoot For Peace Photography Club. Her career goals are to provide sustainable opportunities for visible minorities. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and fitness.



AYOMIDE OLUWASEUN MARTINS

DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University
Business and Finance

Oluwaseun was selected as one of eight leaders in his community to attend a six-month leadership program called the Taking the Lead Project. Oluwaseun completed the 24-week workshop series from March to September, 2021. After completing the program, he had the opportunity to initiate, develop, facilitate and budget his own pilot program based on the needs of his community. This experience helped Oluwaseun to grow as a leader and learn about the many ways he can bring his community together. He hopes to use his Business and Finance degree to raise awareness about financial literacy in his community.



KIDUS LEUL

Queen's University
Applied Economics

Kidus currently works as the Head Equity Ambassador with Queens Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment. One of his major responsibilities is running webinars for high school students from various equity-deserving backgrounds on relevant topics such as navigating the post-secondary application process, Ontario Student Assistance Program/scholarships and bursaries, and accessing academic supports, while also sharing what post-secondary life is like for students from similar backgrounds. Kidus also serves on the Queen's Black Academic Society, a group that runs many events, culminating with their annual conference, where they seek to not only educate but also create a fun space for BIPOC students. Currently, he plans to pursue a career in the Capital Markets, or possibly continue his education at law school. Beyond his professional/extracurricular involvement and academic and career goals, he loves to play sports and is a trivia fan.

JOE PACE & SONS DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“Congratulations on your achievements! The last few years have no doubt been a challenge and they have prepared you for the next chapter. The past crafted who you are, the present is yours to enjoy, and the future is time to turn your dreams into your memories. Be proud of your triumphs, learn from your setbacks and be your best in your future adventures.”

FILIPPO PACE

COO

Joe Pace & Sons Contracting Inc.

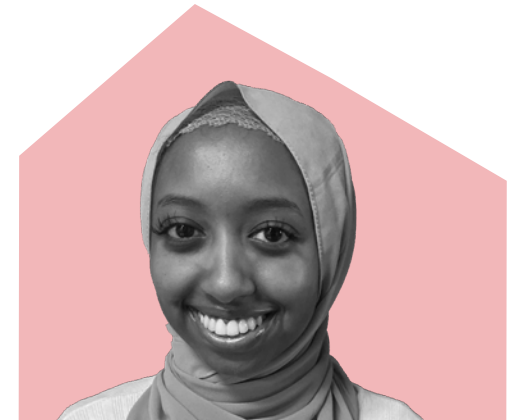
Joe Pace & Sons Diversity Scholarships



SADE DARAJAT

Toronto Metropolitan University or
York University
Nursing

Sade has been an avid member of the Falstaff community for most of her life, and in the past few years, her efforts to reach out to the youth in the community have expanded. Having always loved working with children, she plans to become a Pediatric Nurse. She hopes to one day start a program for youth much like the ones she attended growing up, where youth can come and be themselves.



EBTISAN GUREY

York University
Social Work

Ebtisan embodies compassion and empathy. She has volunteered at her school’s annual Multicultural event, written letters to seniors, joined the first Anti-Black course in Toronto District School Board, participated in extracurricular leadership activities, and helped out at her community mosque. Once Ebtisan realized she had a passion for helping others, she decided that she wanted to continue on this path. She applied to a Social Work program because she recognized the importance of community, and how there are multiple factors that affect a person’s wellbeing. Her career goal is to help people, especially in communities that are often overlooked, like hers.



HASSAN ISMAIL

University Of Waterloo
Mathematical Physics

Hassan is currently involved in a school project with the Faculty of Physics at the University of Waterloo, where he is in the early phases of designing and building a unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) drone from scratch, involving students and professors alike. Hassan is a mathematical physics student with a passion for research, and he hopes to pursue a career in defence. Hassan enjoys a number of non-academic hobbies, such as bird-watching, weightlifting, and building and tinkering.



ABIGAIL OTU

University of Ottawa
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Abigail has worked with the Power to Girls Foundation by volunteering, providing mentorship, facilitating workshops, and developing programs and workshops. She has also volunteered at different health care facilities within the community, including Humber River Hospital. She plans to become a nurse and then attain her master's degree, which would make her a nurse practitioner. Outside of nursing, she enjoys helping others, travel, having fun, and making the most out of life.



EMMA ANNALISA STERN

York University
Bachelor of Education: Consecutive J/I

Emma is an activist and future educator. She applied to the scholarship to help fund her upcoming journey at Teachers College. Throughout her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, Emma created TikTok content about being a member of the LGBTQ+ community, and raised awareness of everyday biases her fellow community members experience in the education system. She worked full time in media for several months before realizing that her true calling was education, and social media was one tool she had been using for this purpose. Since then, she has been building a portfolio of work in local schools and communities.

THE BAY DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“Congratulations to this year’s IIODS recipients and to our The Bay Diversity Scholarship student! May your dreams become realized as you take this next, exciting step to turn your career ambitions into reality. Your friends at The Bay and Hudson’s Bay will be cheering you on. All the best on a bright journey ahead!”

FELICIA LEKAN-SALAMI

DVP, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
The Bay
The Bay Diversity Scholarship



SARUSHA MAHENDRAN

George Brown College
Tourism and Hospitality Management

Sarusha Mahendran is a Grade 12 Specialized High Skills Major student at Jarvis Collegiate Institute. Sarusha has been involved in her community, including volunteering at the International Languages program, Right 2 Play, and many other programs. Sarusha’s post-secondary education plan is to study hospitality and tourism and then move into an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration. Her career goal is to work at a hotel in downtown Toronto.

TORONTO EAST ROTARY CLUB DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

I know the many challenges that students have to afford tuition and as someone who grew up in a single parent family I received assistance with my tuition. We all need to keep playing it forward and I know one day you'll play it forward in your turn. Best wishes for your future success and happiness.”

BRIAN SMITH

Toronto East Rotary Club Diversity Scholarship



MAGGIE ZHAO

**University of Ottawa
*Nursing***

From a young age, Maggie has enjoyed helping others. As a high school student, she participated in many activities, including setting up memorable events for seniors and helping them with technology, to serving her school community with a nutritious breakfast every morning. As the executive of her school's Breakfast Club, she organized health and educational campaigns to teach students about the importance of adequate nutrition, and physical and mental health. Being the healthiest she can be, she hopes to help future generations develop a healthy lifestyle where medication can be used less frequently, while also providing the best treatment possible when necessary.

Thank you and Acknowledgments

The IIODS team is led by Likwa Nkala, Natricia Drummond and Toshania Williams.

The team works closely with Rebecca Keenan of the Scadding Court Community Centre.

Scadding Court Community Centre is a founding partner of the IIODS program.

IIODS ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

Nadia Gouveia, Chief Operating Officer (Acting), TCHC

Likwa Nkala, Director, Programs and Partnerships (Acting)

Natricia Drummond, Manager, Program Development and Evaluation, TCHC

Toshania Williams, Supervisor, Program Supports & Implementation, TCHC

Rebecca Keenan, Director of Operations, HR & Administration Scadding Court Community Centre

Samantha Murray, Community Service Coordinator, Central Region, TCHC

Stacy Golding, Community Service Coordinator, East Region, TCHC

Cleverene Frazer, Community Service Coordinator, West Region, TCHC

Thangarajah Vigneswaran, Clerk, TCHC

2022 IIODS PANELISTS:

Aly Hirji

Enisone Kadiri

Rudhra Persad

Kiaunna Bennett

Nichola Bynoe

Laticia Pagnello

Samantha Murray

Stacy Golding

Cleverene Frazer

Toshania Williams

Rebecca Keenan

Thank you to our 2022 IIODS Scholarship Donors

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THE BAY



Ed and Fran Clark

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