

FOUNDING PARTNERS AND DONORS



Toronto
Community
Housing



2024

INVESTING IN OUR DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS





About the Scholarship

The Investing in Our Diversity (IIOD) Scholarships are awarded each year to Toronto 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 the late Kevin Lee, former Executive Director of Scadding Court Community Centre. Toronto Community Housing became a partner in 2006.



At-a-glance



scholarship recipients in
2024



Recipients will attend

8

different colleges or universities across Ontario



AREAS OF STUDY

- Artificial Intelligence
- Business
- Business Technology
- Children, Childhood and Youth
- Classical Studies
- Commerce
- Computer Engineering
- Engineering
- Health Studies
- Humanities
- Kinesiology
- Law
- Life Science
- Medical Science
- Neuroscience
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Psychology
- Social Science and Criminal Justice
- Social Work
- Spatial Analysis



I aspire to...

Study business to pursue a human resources career

Combat discrimination and homophobia against Indigenous communities

Work in the healthcare sector

Advocate for marginalized individuals

Investigate social determinants of health disparities

Work in cybersecurity

Help others live their best lives in a sustainable way

Advocate for inclusive urban planning

Pursue a degree in law

Help youth and vulnerable communities and leave a positive impact

Make healthcare more accessible

Become a child and youth worker and empower the younger generation

Show young people they can succeed no matter where they're from

Be a business leader and entrepreneur

Be a member of law enforcement in Toronto

Leave a lasting impact on young people

Work as a nurse

Embody love and selflessness in my path to becoming a doctor

Be a part of numerous patients' healthcare journeys

Expand my impact in the Toronto Metropolitan University community

Join Engineers Without Borders

Support youth mental health and wellbeing

Help youth and vulnerable communities and leave a positive impact

Get my CPA and work in the private sector

Become a doctor to serve underserved communities

Become a lawyer in hopes of giving back to the community

Become a professor, playwright, novelist, and musician

Be a writer

Become a sports physiotherapist

Bridge the gap between men's and women's soccer

Specialize as a sports nutritionist

Promote mental wellbeing for marginalized populations

Combat Islamophobia and hate

Greetings from TCHC

On behalf of all of us at Toronto Community Housing (TCHC), I want to congratulate each of the recipients of the 2024 Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship.

For more than 20 years, this scholarship has recognized leadership in diversity, equity and anti-racism initiatives, as well as academic excellence. We're proud to support our students who have been so active in standing up against racism and breaking down barriers in their own communities.

I want to thank our donors for their generosity, support and commitment to the students and the scholarship program. Since 2003, our donors, including founding partners Blaney McMurtry LLP and Scadding Court Community Centre, have helped to ensure that as many students as possible are recognized for their tremendous contributions to their communities in the form of a scholarship.

I extend my gratitude to the families, friends, and mentors of the students. You've been in their corner from the beginning and have guided them throughout their journeys. You have played a pivotal role in their success.

My heartfelt congratulations once again to our 2024 scholarship recipients. We are all cheering for you in your next steps as you pursue your academic goals.

SEAN BAIRD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Toronto Community Housing Corporation

Toronto
Community
Housing



Greetings from SCCC

I'm excited to congratulate the 2024 recipients of the Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship!

Our former Executive Director, the late Kevin Lee, was a tireless advocate for equity and inclusion, widely recognized for his innovative thinking. His vision shaped Scadding Court as an organization and continues to shape our work today. Kevin, along with Bill McMurtry, played an integral role in the establishment of the Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship which continues to have a lasting impact on the lives of young people in our community and across the city. In his memory, the Scadding Court Anti-Racism Scholarship has been renamed the Kevin Lee Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship.

This year we are recognizing the incredible achievements of young community leaders, peer supporters and advocates for social justice and equity. 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 of these youth and their future goals and success. Thank you to the families, teachers, and community members who have helped along the way. And thank you to Toronto Community Housing for growing the scholarship to support more youth across the city.

HERMAN ELLI
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.”

Blaney’s 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 FLEMING
DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP
FREDERICA FLEMING
DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP
ROBERT FLEMING
DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP**

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

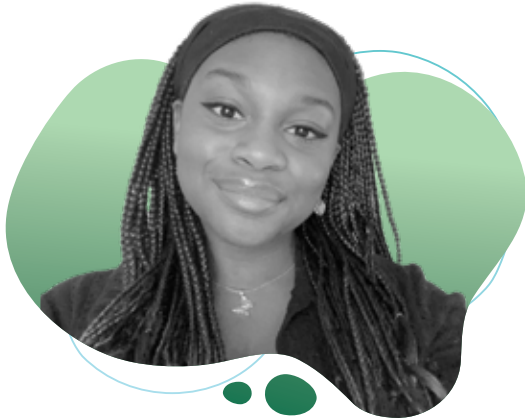
“Congratulations to our scholarship winners! I applaud your continued commitment to giving back to your communities, in addition to your academic excellence. Whether you pursue studies in health, education, social services, or technology, you will be playing a critical role in society – and influencing 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



ROMA SAFI
Toronto Metropolitan University
Psychology

Roma aids newcomers and refugees with English proficiency at Parkdale Project Read. She also volunteers at the Sexual Assault Survivors’ Support Line within her school’s student union and is a member of the Global Justice and Change Program. She is dedicated to cultural awareness and diversity initiatives. Pursuing a psychology degree at Toronto Metropolitan University, Roma plans to become a counsellor. She aims to address systemic barriers and promote mental wellbeing for marginalized populations through culturally sensitive services to create a more equitable society.



STECIE KIDIMBU

University of Toronto
Humanities

Stecie is an active volunteer and member of a board for ethnically inclusive uniforms. She is also a director of written content for KeepEarth, a student-led, youth-centric social justice organization. Stecie plans to study at the University of Toronto with a double major in English and Theatre. Her goal is to become a PhD English literature professor, playwright, novelist, and musician.



VALLI MUTHIAH

University of Toronto
Kinesiology & Physical Education

Valli is a graduate from St. Joseph's College School and has actively engaged in community initiatives from a young age. Valli developed leadership and communication skills while volunteering at Yonge Street Mission and participating in Cabbagetown festivals. Valli is committed to community service, and has used excellent computer skills to coach peers, demonstrating strong leadership in challenging environments. Now pursuing Kinesiology and Physical Education at the University of Toronto, Valli aspires to become a Sports Physiotherapist.

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.”

BLANEY MCMURTRY LLP

William R. McMurtry Memorial

Anti-Racism Scholarship

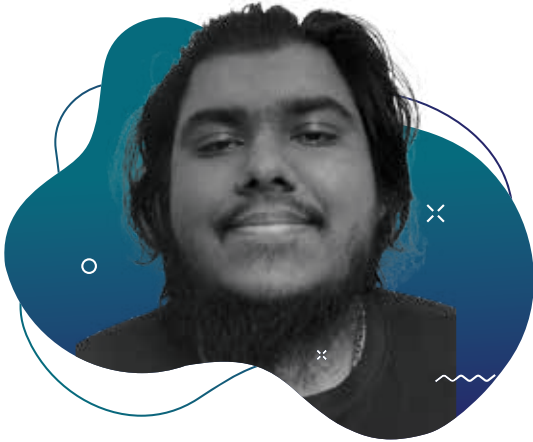
Blaney McMurtry Diversity Scholarship



ANDY PHAM DIN

George Brown College
Social Service Worker

Andy is an advocate for creativity in the Alexandra Park Community. He has helped create a youth basketball program, where he coaches weekly. He is also an active participant in the community’s art scene, creating a short film, a spoken word piece and also performing at monthly open mics. He soon begins his second year at George Brown College, studying Social Service Work. Andy has aspirations of working in youth development so that he can continue to uplift and support his community.



FAREED HACK

Toronto Metropolitan University
Commerce

Fareed has been a member of Christopher Ambanza’s Fork in the Road program, a Leader in Training program and worked as a summer camp counsellor at Scadding Court Community Centre for two years. He also ran an after-school badminton program for youth. Fareed has supported Scadding Court Community Centre and Alexandra Park Community Centre through various activities for over a decade, helping set up events, volunteering for COVID vaccines, and delivering items between the centres. Fareed currently attends Toronto Metropolitan University and is studying accounting and finance. He wants to get his CPA and eventually a private sector job.

BOLT FOUNDATION DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“We know that the construction industry is in need of talented, bright, and driven individuals to meet the growing demand for housing. That’s why the BOLT Foundation is excited to support the IOD Scholarship program and this year’s recipients. These young people are champions within their communities and we are eager to support the next generation of industry talent as they continue to advance in their education.”

JOANNE BIN

Special Advisor, BOLT Foundation
BOLT Foundation Diversity Scholarships



AMIRA ISLAM KHAN

Toronto Metropolitan University
Business Management

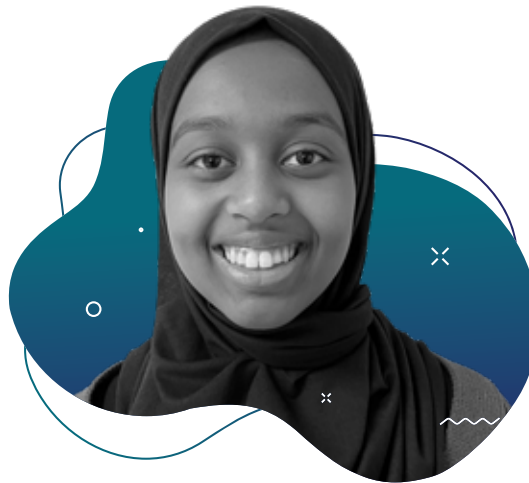
Amira is completing Grade 12 at Jarvis Collegiate Institute where she was the executive of the Muslim Student Association. She has worked at the Toronto Land Registry Office and is a member of the Regent Park Youth Council, focusing on community togetherness. The council focuses on emphasizing diversity and inclusion, while also giving back to the community through initiatives such as Ramadan Iftar nights and care packages for the homeless. Amira hopes to study business to pursue a human resources career.



MISHIKA KHURANA

Toronto Metropolitan University
Spatial Analysis

Mishika has been involved in initiatives focusing on sexual reproductive health rights advocacy, community development, and healthcare access for marginalized populations. Her Master’s in Spatial Analysis focuses on investigating social determinants of health disparities. Her career goals include advocating for inclusive urban planning, addressing healthcare disparities, and promoting community wellbeing through research and policy initiatives.



NAIMA SAMALE

Toronto Metropolitan University
Computer Engineering

Naima is passionate about inspiring change. She worked as a community researcher for her local mosque, investigating community issues such as barriers to education and solutions to support youth mental health and wellbeing. Furthermore, she volunteered at STEM Fellowship, publishing content aimed at increasing accessibility for marginalized youth. She is currently pursuing an undergraduate education in computer engineering at Toronto Metropolitan University, with the aspiration of a career in data science.

DENTONS DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“Dentons Canada is honoured to celebrate you and your wonderful successes. Your future looks bright. The future contributions we know you are capable of making will undoubtedly benefit the lives of our many communities as you promote social justice, diversity, equity and accessibility. We are so proud to support you as you build your promising careers! Congratulations on your graduation and keep excelling.”

MICHAEL SCHAFLER,
Partner, Dentons Canada LLP
Dentons Diversity Scholarships



HAMDI ABDO

York University
Law - Juris Doctor (JD) Program

Hamdi Abdo holds a Master’s and a Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) degree from McMaster University. Hamdi is pursuing a Juris Doctor (JD) degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. While at Osgoode, Hamdi served as a Student Ambassador, was the Diversity Officer for the Health Law Association, and held positions in the Black Law Student Association as Secretary and Vice President (2024-2025). Additionally, Hamdi contributed to the Peer Support Centre and volunteered at the Community Legal Clinic of York Region. Outside of school, he enjoys volunteering in the community, reading, and photography.

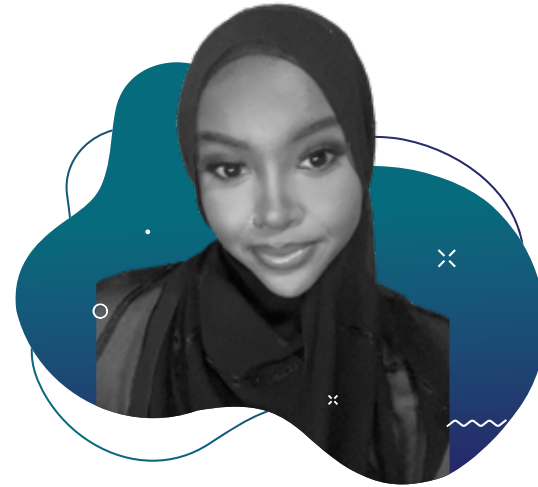
CLARK TCHC DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“Congratulations to the IIODS students of 2024 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



AYAN AHMED

York University
Social Work

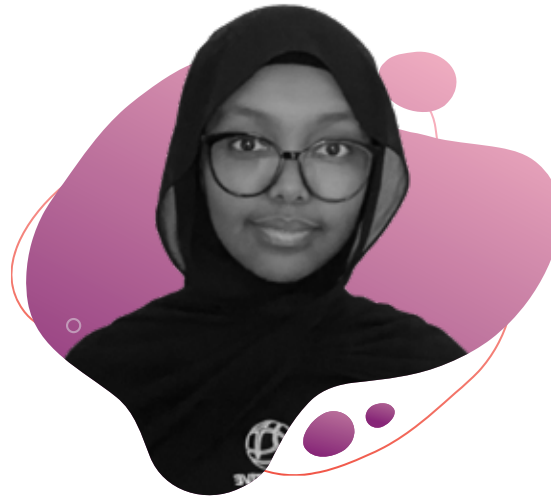
Born and raised in the Rexdale neighbourhood in Toronto, Ayan is passionate about community involvement. She volunteers her time to help run the Trust 15 Youth Outreach Program, supporting local students to dream big. Now, she plans to attend York University to study social work. She aims to create more programs like Trust 15, showing young people they can succeed, no matter where they're from. Ayan wants to make a difference by helping others and building a stronger community. With determination and compassion, she aims to be a positive force for change in Rexdale and beyond.



JOYCE OJUGBELI

York University
Neuroscience

Joyce has participated in science challenges, pre-med club, and other STEM activities. Currently, she is a member of the Adventures in Science initiative hosted by the University of Toronto. After high school, Joyce's goal is to pursue medicine and become a doctor, contributing to the transformation of lives. For Joyce, becoming a doctor is her way of adding value to society through her guiding principles of love and selflessness.



MARYAMA KAMALADIN HUSSEIN

University of Toronto Scarborough
Life Sciences

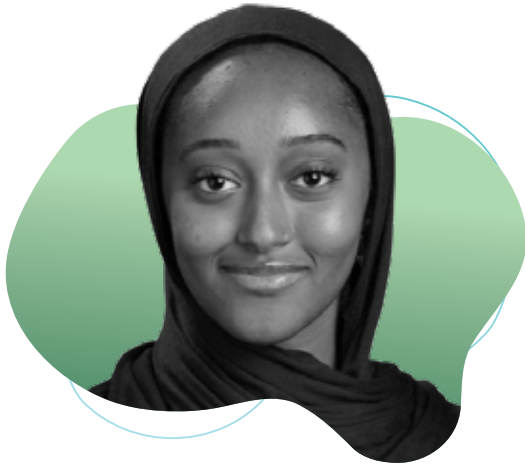
Driven by a passion for impact, Maryama, a Grade 12 student at Newtonbrook Secondary School, led various personal, community, and board-wide initiatives fostering inclusivity and empowerment, notably through Black Student Association (BSA) and organizing the TDSB KYW Black Youth Empowerment Conference. She spearheaded a STEAM research publication and volunteers with local organizations like Neighbourlink, dedicated to fighting food insecurity and isolation in her community. Maryama's commitment to service and science drives her to pursue further studies at the Life Sciences program at the University of Toronto.



SABRIN ABUKAR

Toronto Metropolitan University
Social Work

Sabrin is a Grade 12 student at Jarvis Collegiate Institute whose 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 worked at MLSE Launchpad as a Leader In Training. This scholarship will significantly change the outlook of both her education and access to financial resources.



SALIHAT MOHAMED AHMED

Toronto Metropolitan University
Biomedical Sciences

Salihat is involved in her school’s International Council, Equity Council, and Food Council. On the Food Council, Salihat helps target food insecurity in her community and helps serve breakfast at her school’s kitchen each week. Salihat has aided in provincial elections in her community and volunteered at a local pharmacy and a food bank.



SINDIA VIJAYARAJAN

Toronto Metropolitan University
Law Practice Program

Through Pro Bono Students Canada, Sindia worked with The Battista Smith Migration Law Group on their LGBTQ+ Immigration and Refugee Project, working closely with these communities. Sindia conducted research regarding discrimination and homophobia against Indigenous communities and the Transgender community in China. After completing the Law Practice Program, Sindia will be eligible to be called to the Bar once she passes her licensing exams. Sindia hopes to continue this work so that she may make a positive impact for equity and social justice in Canada.

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

CEO, Joe Pace & Sons Contracting Inc.
Joe Pace & Sons Diversity Scholarship



ARTHIKA VENUKUMAR

York University
Social Work

Arthika is an active leader in her community, working with racialized youth and demonstrating an ability beyond her years. She’s an active leader with the student government and parent council in her high school. She began a STEM-centered initiative in her community called INSPIRE Kids and is a long-serving volunteer of the Malvern Family Resource Centre.



HADI MAHMOOD

**McMaster
Engineering**

Hadi has lived in Rivertowne for the past 13 years. He volunteers as an instructor for website design at the Yonge Street Mission’s Computer Literacy Centre in Regent Park and was a youth facilitator at Visions of Science’s STEM club in his community. Hadi plans to attend McMaster University for Engineering, joining impactful organizations such as Engineers Without Borders, in hopes of connecting with other passionate peers about his work.



SAMIR ABDELLA

**Toronto Metropolitan University
Business Management**

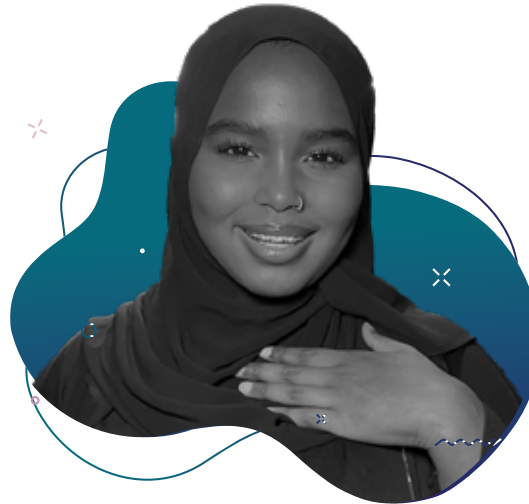
Samir is a two-year member of the Black Business Students’ Association, supporting Black youth at Toronto Metropolitan University with representation, mentorship and helping to create events. He is heavily involved with youth community work in Regent Park where he has worked as a coordinator with Healing As One and Neighbourhood Information Post. He plans on studying business management with his focus on human resources. His career goals are to continuously develop his skills and expertise while making a meaningful impact in his community.



LAVONTA THOMAS

George Brown College
Business Administration

Lavonta aspired to plan a charity run and volunteer at his local food bank but was unable to participate during his high school years due to COVID restrictions and his continued caution to protect vulnerable members of his family. Lavonta plans to attend George Brown for business administration or marketing. He believes this scholarship will make this possible. Lavonta's dream is to start his own company and make a positive impact in the world as a business leader and entrepreneur.



SHUKRI RASHID AHMED

York University
Children, Childhood and Youth

Shukri has actively engaged in various school and community projects, including leadership roles in group projects and mentoring programs like Success Beyond Limits. Currently enrolled at York University, she is pursuing a degree in Child and Youth Work to address the challenges faced by marginalized youth in her community. She aspires to become a Child and Youth Worker and her goal is to make a meaningful impact in marginalized areas, particularly in uplifting and empowering the younger generation.

SCADDING COURT ANTI-RACISM SCHOLARSHIP KEVIN LEE INVESTING IN OUR DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“On behalf of Scadding Court Community Centre, I am excited to congratulate the 2024 recipients of the Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship. It’s a joy to recognize your hard work, and to celebrate your future.”

HERMAN ELLIS

Executive Director,
Scadding Court Community Centre
Scadding Court Anti-Racism Scholarship
Kevin Lee Investing in Our Diversity
Scholarship



AMAL ABDULLAHI

York University
Classical Studies

Amal is a resident of Alexandra Park Community. She has volunteered at community events such as the Eid event and has been an active worker at Scadding Court Community Centre. She has worked as an afterschool children attendant, a receptionist and a peer leader in a mental health initiative called HeART Works. Amal aspires to be a writer one day.



MUHAMMAD SHAZIB ALEEM

Humber College
Social Science, Criminal Justice

Muhammad has been involved in the community as a kids ball hockey instructor and a community ambassador for the Youth Program for Alexandra Park Neighbourhood Learning Centre. He has also been a volunteer for the Senior Digital Literacy program at Alexandra Park Community Centre. He wants to become a part of law enforcement in Toronto and be able to give back to his community in a way that allows him to protect and serve.

SINAI HEALTH DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“Congratulations to all of the IIODS recipients! You have shown your determination to succeed, and we are honoured to be part of your journey. The career paths you have chosen will have a positive impact. We wish you every success for the future!”

DR. GARY NEWTON

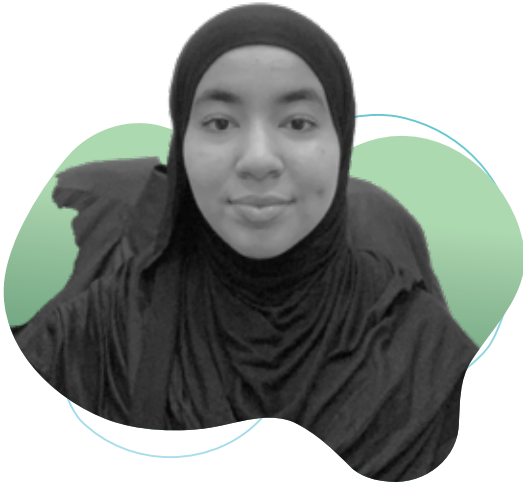
President & CEO, Sinai Health
Sinai Health Diversity Scholarships



EMILY PHUONG UYEN LE

University of Toronto
Life Sciences

Emily is a member of her school’s peer tutoring club and STEM club. In the latter, she enjoys creating intriguing experiments. Emily plans to major in physiology to prepare for a master’s degree program in occupational therapy. Her goal is to be a part of numerous patients’ healthcare journeys as they work towards taking care of their bodies, creating a happier life for themselves.



KHADIJA RFIFI

York University
Direct Entry Nursing

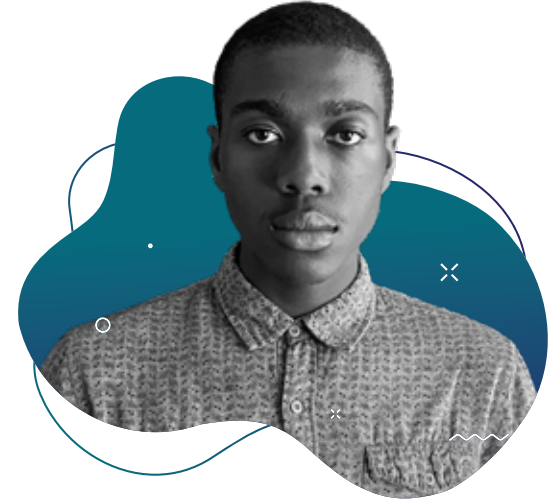
Khadija is a member her school’s Muslim Student Association, Black Student Association, and serves as a peer mentor. She has also extended her involvement to diverse community initiatives, including with the Toronto Police Service, TCHC, Yonge Street Mission, and local masjids. Khadija intends to pursue a Nursing (BScN) degree in university. She is planning to attend York University for her post-secondary education, attracted by their exceptional nursing program.



MASOOM HAKIMI

Western University
Medical Sciences

Masoom’s most notable initiatives include addressing Islamophobia at his high school, contributing to an assembly to combat hate and holding several charity drives for those affected by natural disasters and war. He plans to attend Western University as a major in medical sciences and is interested in the health industry. His interests lie specifically in helping youth and vulnerable communities, and he aspires to leave a positive impact on this world.



OMARIAN TASHAWN ZION HUSSAIN

Western University
Health Studies

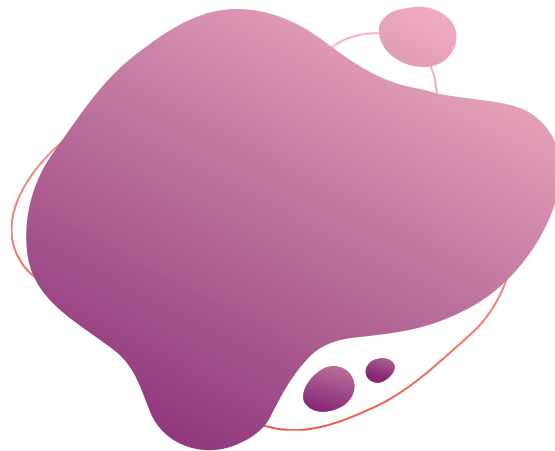
Omarian is the executive of his school’s track and field, tutoring and science clubs. He has written a federal grant requesting funding for underprivileged immigrant tutees in his school community. Omarian has volunteered nearly 100 hours to a summer camp within his neighbourhood, where he watched over three dozen children whose parents worked 9-to-5 jobs and had limited options. He is a part of The Next Surgeon program where, under the chiefs of cardiac and neurosurgery at both Sunnybrook and Toronto General Hospitals, he learns about physiology, first-aid, emergency procedures and toxicology.



WAEYS IBRAHIM

University of Toronto
Life Sciences

Waeys has been actively involved in various school and community projects and initiatives, including facilitating discussions on systemic racism, organizing multicultural festivals, and researching Indigenous issues. He is currently attending the University of Toronto for postsecondary education, majoring in life sciences. His career goal is to become a compassionate physician, specializing in oncology, to contribute to cancer research and healthcare equity. Through medical school, he aims to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to provide quality care to underserved communities.



ZAINAB MEHEBOOB ALI

Toronto Metropolitan University
Biomedical Sciences

Zainab's involvement in community programs have allowed her to network with professionals at St. Michael's Hospital, TCHC, University of Toronto, and University Health Network. She has taken on different positions in programs for IBPOC youth, such as The Next Surgeon and Access STEM. From communications to surgical, these programs have provided her with ample skills and resources to drive her passion in creating accessible opportunities for youth. Zainab has been accepted to Toronto Metropolitan University for Biomedical Sciences, where she hopes to engage in research, and then pursue a career as a physician assistant.



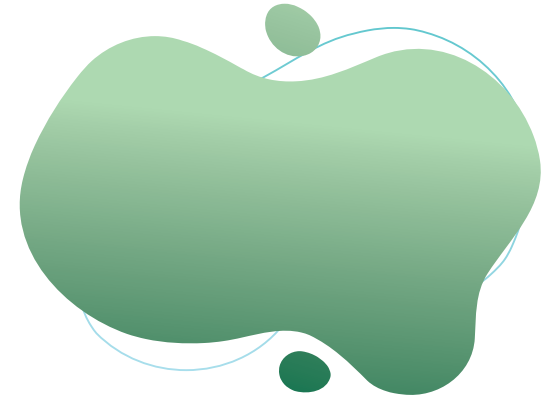
HARRY A. NEWMAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

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 reflect on 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



HANNAH DEREJE

University of Toronto
Psychological and Health Science

Hannah has been involved in community projects promoting mental health and brainstorming solutions to climate change. Her past titles include Co-leader in her high school Jack chapter, high school lab assistant in the Lassonde School of Engineering, K2i Academy, and climate researcher in Let’s Talk Science, a climate lab. Hannah attends the University of Toronto Scarborough for psychological and health science. She is in her first year and hopes to major in population health and double minor in biology and psychology. Hannah wants to work in the healthcare sector.

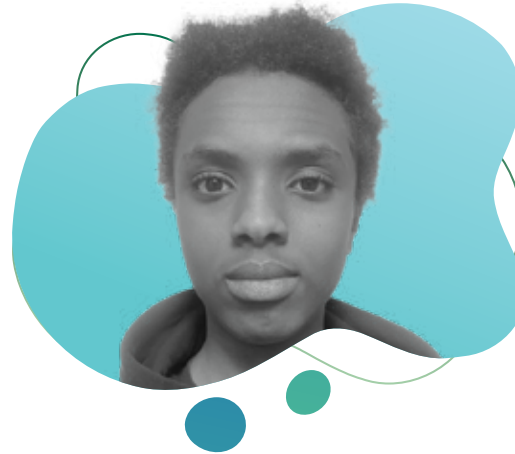
JAY YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP JOANN LAI WEALTHSIMPLE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

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
Jay Young Scholarship
Joann Lai Wealthsimple Foundation
Scholarship



JABRIL AHMED OMAR

Toronto Metropolitan University
Business Technology Management

Jabril’s natural leadership has resulted in both his academic success and strong community footprint. He is involved in several extracurricular activities such as the Tech Club and as a Regent Park Youth Council Member where he assists in inviting guest speakers. He was a Youth Community Worker for the YouthWorx program. He is inspired by his father, who works in cybersecurity despite facing adversity as a Black immigrant. This scholarship would significantly change the outlook of his education through access to financial resources.



MONISHA MANIKANDAN

York University
Management in Artificial Intelligence

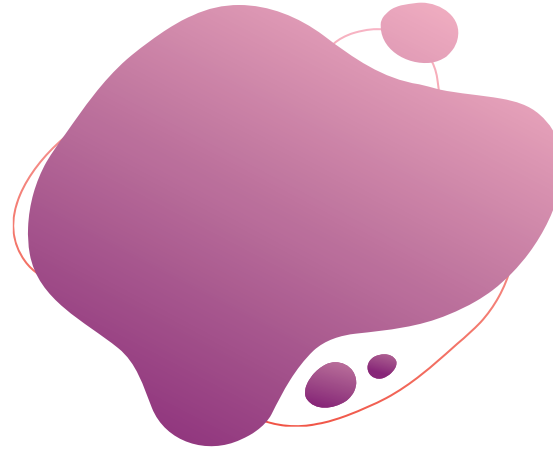
Monisha is actively involved in projects centered around promoting diversity and inclusion, organizing workshops focused on gender empowerment, racial equality and religious tolerance. Monisha has shown resilience and compassion in advocating for marginalized individuals. She is attending York University to study artificial intelligence (AI), hoping to develop technologies that address societal inequalities. Monisha’s ultimate career goal is to become a data scientist in AI, leveraging her experiences and education to drive positive change in communities.

YARDI CANADA DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MESSAGE FROM THE DONOR

“Thank you to all applicants for the Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship program, and congratulations to the scholarship recipients! Programs like IIODS are crucial because they empower exceptional young minds to reach their full potential. As the world keeps evolving, innovative, diverse, and forward-thinking minds are more important than ever. We, at Yardi Canada, wish all the scholarship recipients the very best of luck and success in their future academic endeavours.”

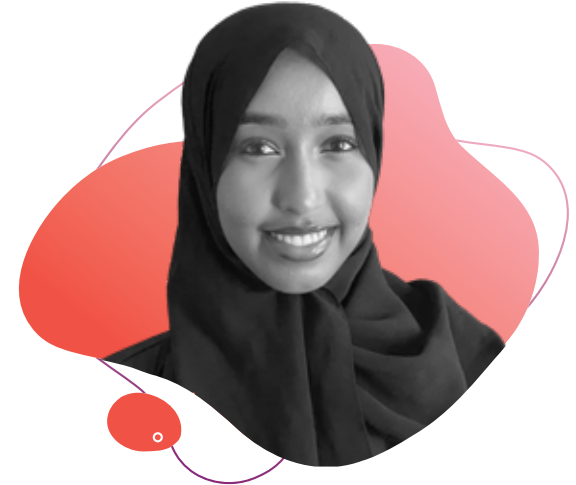
PETER ALTOBELLI
Vice President & General Manager,
Canada Sales
Yardi Canada Ltd.
Yardi Canada Diversity Scholarships



HAITHM ABDRABO

**Toronto Metropolitan University
*Business Technology***

Haithm is an actively engaged community leader, participant, and volunteer. He has taken part in multiple community initiatives including a community garden, lifeguarding, as well as having facilitated youth programs with The Neighbourhood Organization. Haithm is currently in his first year at Toronto Metropolitan University and is pursuing his business degree in hopes of being able to give back to communities by contributing positively to community organizations and initiatives, especially to those who face barriers throughout their pathway. He wants to make a lasting impact on young individuals.



RADWA ABUKAR HASSAN

**York University
*Kinesiology***

Radwa is a 21-year-old East African Muslim woman from Jane and Finch. Pursuing a Kinesiology degree at York University, she aspires to specialize as a sports nutritionist. Passionate about women’s soccer, she aims to bridge the gap between men’s and women’s soccer. Raised by her resilient single mother, her mother’s unwavering support has shaped Radwa’s journey. Beyond studies, she enjoys soccer, swimming, clothing design, and sewing, driven by personal growth and community impact.



KARSHELL MCAFEE

George Brown College
Social Service Worker

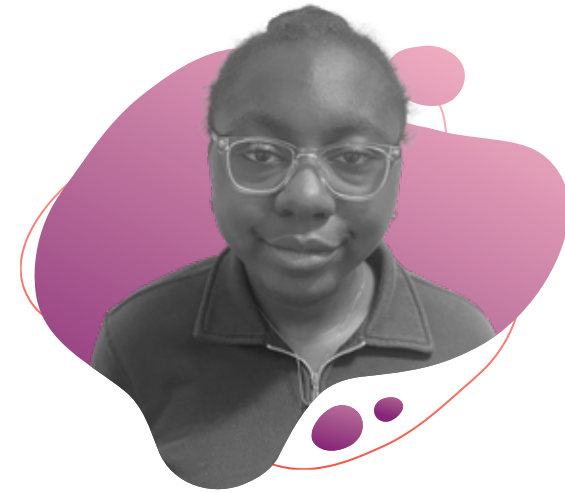
Karshell has been involved in her community since the age of 15 as a peer leader, Survey Analyzer, Youth Consultant and Advisor for Central Toronto Youth Services and Children's Aid Society of Toronto. She loves working with her community and is passionate about helping others live a healthy and sustainable life. Karshell's plan is to do the two-year Social Work diploma course and work towards getting her master's degree in social work from Toronto Metropolitan University's bridging program while working with different organizations to broaden her experience and knowledge of community support.



SABRINA MOHAMED

Toronto Metropolitan University
Business Management

Sabrina is dedicated to academic excellence and promoting diversity. As a Black Student Association executive, she created a safe space for Black-identifying students and allies, led workshops at TDSB's Black Brilliance Conferences and fostered positive police-community relations through charity basketball games. Sabrina has also advocated for and established a prayer space for daily and Friday prayers in high school as a Muslim Student Association executive. She aims to study law and business at Toronto Metropolitan University, aspiring to become a lawyer in hopes of giving back to her community.



TYRA-JOELLE NDATCHI

University of Ottawa
Health Sciences

Tyra-Joelle has been a part of the Black Student Association and Interact Club at her school, which helps organize events that support the community. She wants to get into the medical field to help the most vulnerable populations, and this scholarship is helping her towards that dream. Pediatrics has always interested Tyra-Joelle and she is looking to pursue this as her specialization.

Thank you to our 2024 IIOD Scholarship Donors

FOUNDING PARTNERS AND DONORS



DONORS



Wealthsimple Foundation



Ed and Fran Clark | Anne Fleming

Thank you and acknowledgments

The IIODS team is led by Arsema Berhane, Director of Programs and Partnerships (Acting) and Racquel Nelson, Manager, Community Economic Development and Social Procurement at Toronto Community Housing (TCHC).

The team works closely with Rebecca Keenan, Director of Operations, Human Resources and Administration 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

Arsema Berhane Director, Programs and Partnerships (Acting), TCHC

Racquel Nelson Manager, Community Economic Development and Social Procurement, TCHC

Fiona Griffith Supervisor, Program Supports & Implementation, TCHC

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

Phillip Auguste Program Coordinator, Programs and Partnerships, TCHC

Stacy Golding Community Service Coordinator, East Region, TCHC

Ameera Mcintosh Community Service Coordinator, West Region, TCHC

Nkechi Ukome Community Service Coordinator, West Region, TCHC

Ameer Shash Clerk, TCHC

2024 IIODS PANELISTS:

Adibah Anwarzi

Imman Ibrahim

Nabil Ibrahim

Amal Hirole

Jason Chin

Neil Webb

Ameera Mcintosh

Jermal Humphrey

Nkechi Ukome

Antoinette Julien

Jerome Leach

Phillip Auguste

Charmaine Browne

Karla Bravo

Raamla Adan

Diandra Greaves

Kelly Dehoop

Sarah Moxley

Emily Naddaf

Kristopher Sousa

Sarah Zerihun

Farrah McInnis

Levi Warrack

Stacy Golding

Gabriella Yarde

Michelle Adams

Gail Johnson

Mike Morgan



To request this document in an accessible format or for a translated version,
please contact: 416-981-5500 | help@torontohousing.ca

