



Toronto
Community
Housing

Investing in Our Diversity Scholarships

October 2020

Founding partners and donors



Celebrating the next generation of leaders

Congratulations to all 59 recipients of the 2020 Investing in Our Diversity Scholarships. You have demonstrated extraordinary commitments to academic excellence and community service. You have volunteered many hours of your time to help improve the lives of people in communities across Toronto.

The events of the past several months — from a global pandemic to advocacy for a more just and inclusive society — show that an individual's effort and ingenuity can go a long way to make our world a better place for everyone. We are also reminded of the importance of continued investment in young people.

I would like to say a special thank you to donors for your generous support for this year's scholarship program. I would also like to thank the families, friends and mentors of all our scholarship recipients. You are an important part of their success.

On behalf of everyone at Toronto Community Housing, I wish all recipients every success in their academic journey.



Toronto
Community
Housing

Kevin Marshman
President and Chief Executive Officer
Toronto Community Housing

In 2001, Scadding Court Community Centre, led by Kevin Lee, wanted to take action to support youth who show commitment and leadership in community building, neighbourhood safety projects, anti-racism, and advocacy for diversity. Along with founding partner Blaney McMurtry, and shortly after other partners such as Toronto Community Housing came aboard, the Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship was born. Much has changed since 2001, but the Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship continues.

I'm honoured to have witnessed from the beginning the direct impacts these youth have had on their communities, and to see how alumni have continued to grow and give back.

More than ever, it's so important to recognize and elevate these young people who are making a difference, but who can be overlooked. Providing an equal opportunity for young people to develop new skills, explore their interests, achieve their goals, and enhance their pride in their community work can make neighbourhoods safer, healthier, and stronger.

Scadding Court congratulates all of the very deserving youth on their success and incredible achievements. It's a joy to celebrate you.



Herman Ellis
Acting Executive Director
Scadding Court Community Centre

Blaney McMurtry is very proud to be one of the original co-founders of the IIODS program, which was conceived by our late partner, William (Bill) McMurtry, and Kevin Lee, Executive Director of Scadding Court Community Centre.

Our partner, Ian Epstein, worked with Bill McMurtry and recalls Bill as a champion of diversity long before it became mainstream. Ian says “Bill’s commitment to the disadvantaged and under-served, his passion for Toronto and his desire to be a voice for those so often overlooked, motivated him to create a program that encouraged young people to focus on anti-racism and diversity. Our firm shares these values and we are very honoured to carry them forward and continue what Bill started.” He adds “Bill’s spirit lives on through this program and we are very proud of that.”

Blaneys’ partner, Jack Siegel, has been part of Scadding Court’s scholarship award committee from the beginning. He says “Over the years, IIODS grew from a handful of awards to Scadding area students, to a city-wide program that helps 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.”



Ian Epstein and Jack Siegel, Partners, Blaney McMurtry LLP
William R. McMurtry Memorial Anti-Racism Scholarship
Blaney McMurtry Diversity Scholarship

HARRY A NEWMAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP



We at the Newman Foundation are honoured 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 school 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



Faduma Mohamed: Education, York University

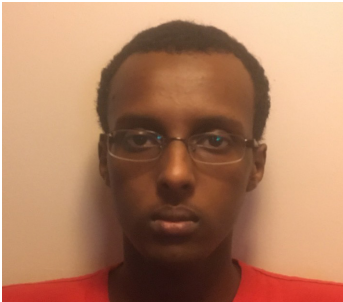
Faduma is a writer and advocate for people living with autism. She's also a recipient of the Pam McConnell Award from the City of Toronto for her artistic and charitable pursuits. Faduma's dream career is to become a teacher.

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



All of us at Blaney McMurtry are very happy to congratulate each recipient of this year's Investing in Our Diversity Scholarship. It is your ambition, your hard work, and your dedication that have led you here, and those are the very things that will see to your future success. 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.

Ian Epstein and Jack Siegel, Partners, Blaney McMurtry LLP



Hassan Sheikhmohamed: Aerospace Engineering, Ryerson University

Hassan has always been fascinated by drones. He's a keen follower of NASA's space projects and his dream is to pursue a career in space systems engineering.

Patrick Krishnan: Business Administration, York University

Patrick is inspired by his mother's hard work to provide for him and the rest of his family. His career goal is to become a successful accountant and support his parents financially.

SINAI HEALTH SYSTEM DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to all of the IIODS recipients! You have already achieved so much through your hard work and determination to succeed. Especially now, stay strong and hold on to your dreams whatever challenges come your way. You have all chosen fields of study that will have a positive impact and we wish you the best as you start the next stage of your education.

Dr. Gary Newton, President & CEO, Sinai Health System



Aakifah Mohamed Fuard: Chemistry, Ryerson University

Aakifah is passionate about helping youth overcome adversity through her volunteer work with local organizations. She is inspired by the work of American civil rights icon Malcolm X.



Eberechukwu Akadinma: Global Health, York University

Eberechukwu is passionate about community healthcare and has dedicated most of her volunteer time helping children with developmental disabilities.



Muna Abdalla: Nursing, Ryerson University

Muna volunteers with the Rexdale women's centre and the Youth in Policing Initiative. Her career goals are to become a registered nurse and launch a charity to help families in Africa.



Noor Saied: Life Sciences, University of Toronto

Noor's dream is to help the less privileged. This is why she created a group for young women to overcome mental health and identity issues.



Roofaidah Haque: Life Sciences, University of Toronto

Roofaidah volunteers with the Regent Park Revitalization Youth Ambassadors where she helps low-income families find new homes during revitalization. Roofaidah's career goal is to become a surgeon.



Sirad Shegow: Medical Physics, Ryerson University

Sirad's career goal is to become a radiation therapist. She's inspired by her father who immigrated to Canada to build a better life for Sirad and her siblings.



Stefano Umeya: Life and Health Sciences, University of Toronto

Stefano is passionate about promoting diversity. His career goal is to pursue a professional career in health sciences so that he can help people live a quality life.



Trishauna Charles: Health Science, Trent University

Trishauna is inspired by her mother who encourages her to pursue postsecondary education. Her dream career is to become a nurse-midwife and care for pregnant women.

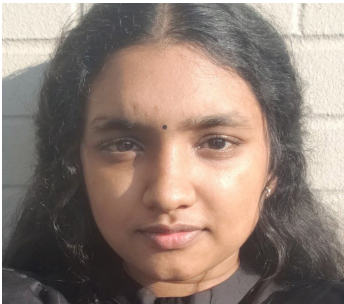
Sara Ebenezer: Health Sciences, University of Ottawa

Sara is an advocate for newcomers and low-income students. Her dream career is to become a doctor. Sara has big dreams for the future, and she hopes to make a difference in the world.

CLARK TCHC DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the IIODS students of 2020 on the first step towards achieving your goals. Dream big and work hard! Best wishes for your future achievements.

W. Edmund Clark



Abithana Janarthanan: Life Sciences, University of Toronto

Abithana's dream is to become a psychiatrist someday. She's inspired by her parents' unwavering love for her and the stories of people she comes across in her community and high school.



Aphason Aberham: Specialist Program in Mathematics, University of Toronto

Aphason's dream is to become a college or university professor and to use his influence to build schools in Ethiopia.



Aisha Mudie: CCIT & Political Science, University of Toronto

Aisha's dream is to become a successful entrepreneur and to own a consulting agency that promotes sustainable and ethical businesses.



Joshua Page: Child and Youth Work, George Brown College

Joshua is an active youth leader and he volunteers for different community programs in the Jane and Finch neighbourhood. His career goal is to become a youth outreach worker.



Omar Abdelgawad: Political Governance, Ryerson University

Omar is passionate about volunteering to help build healthy communities. He enjoys helping children with their homework, providing hot meals to the homeless and helping seniors with various tasks.



Venesha Cardwell: Health & Human Services, Tyndale University

Venesha is an advocate for people experiencing homelessness and vulnerable pregnant women in need of care. Upon graduation, Venesha hopes to become a child and youth counsellor.



Wing Tse: International Development of Psychology, University of Guelph

Wing's exposure to mental health trauma inspired him to launch an organization that supports youth with unmet needs. Wing's dream is to become Chief Fire Officer for Toronto Fire Services.

Ilhaan Abdulle: Office Administration-Health Services, Sheridan College

Ilhaan is passionate about helping young people of Somali heritage connect to and support each other. Her dreams are to become a medical professional and to make a difference in the world.

Ilyaas Abdulle: Tool Making, Sheridan College

Ilyaas's dream is to own an auto-mechanic business. He's inspired by boxing legend Muhammad Ali's quote "Don't count the days, make the days count."

Nya Bowen: Social Work and Women's Studies, University of Windsor

Nya is an advocate for Gender & Sexuality education. She is inspired by civil rights activists like Charles Roach and Malala Yousafzai. Nya's dream is to open a homeless shelter for women.

EVERETT AND FREDERICA FLEMING DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS



Congratulations to our scholarship winners who, in addition to demonstrating academic excellence and community engagement, have had to cope with a challenging end to their final year of high school. I wish them all the best as they begin their postsecondary journey, and commend them on their continued commitment to learning and growing. While we don't know what lies ahead, we will need the arts and creative thinkers more than ever. I am thrilled to support our winners as they take their next important steps.

Anne Fleming



Omar Mahamoud: Bachelor of Arts, University of British Columbia

Omar is inspired by great thinkers like Malcolm X and Nelson Mandela to pursue his dream of working for the United Nations.



Sage Christopher-Bankasingh: Creative Industries, Ryerson University

Sage has been an active youth leader since she was 15 years old. She is grateful for the IIOD scholarship for supporting her postsecondary education. Her dream career is to become a journalist.

Rodney Osei-Nuako: Animation, Seneca College

Rodney is an artist and a youth advocate for community safety. He was actively involved in grassroots efforts to address violence in his community.

TCHC PRESIDENT'S DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP



Congratulations to all the Investing in Our Diversity Scholarships recipients for their extraordinary commitments to academic excellence and community service.

Kevin Marshman, President and Chief Executive Officer, TCHC



Kiaunna Spence Bennett: Social Work, Ryerson University

Kiaunna is a youth leader well known for her social advocacy programs with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto and the Racialized Student Collective at Ryerson University.

DENTONS DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Today we celebrate you and your many accomplishments as you continue your academic journey. Your drive and ambition will positively influence the lives of our communities and our country as you advocate for social justice and inclusion. We couldn't be more proud to support you as you build your promising careers. Congratulations on your graduation and best of luck on a bright future!

Michael Schafler, Partner, Dentons Canada LLP



Stephen Mensah: Criminology and Political Governance, Ryerson University

Stephen is the Education Lead for the City of Toronto Youth Cabinet. He works closely with other young people and government officials to help marginalized youth in the city.



Sami Islam: Journalism, Law and Legal Studies, Carleton University

Sami has worked as a camp counsellor for TCHC's Rookie League summer camp. After completing his undergraduate degree, Sami would like to go to an Ivy League school in the United States to study law.

Khadro Abdulle: Criminology, University of Toronto

Khadro's dream is to work for the United Nations. She hopes to use her skills and knowledge to advocate for gender equality in Africa and to develop programs for women who do not have access to education.

Photos from last year's scholarship presentation ceremony.





YARDI CANADA DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the recipients of this year's Investing in Our Diversity Scholarships. We hope is that these scholarships continue to open doors for those that have received it. From all of us here at Yardi Canada, we wish you the best of luck as you all embark on a new year in your studies.

Peter Altobelli, Vice President of Sales & General Manager, Yardi Canada Ltd.



Ashna Parabatie: Geography and Planning, University of Toronto

Ashna is an active young community leader who's committed to using her creativity to help people overcome mental health issues.



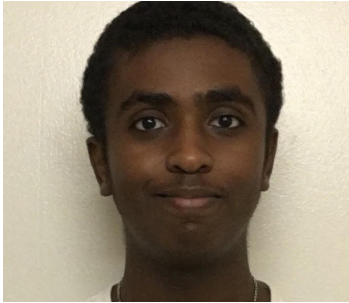
Ayesha Abbasi: Accounting, York University

Ayesha's dream is to work for a major accounting firm someday. She's inspired by her mother's encouragement to believe in herself.



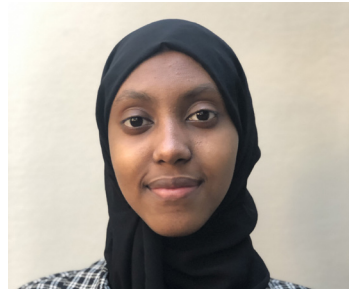
Faduma Hagi: Information Technology, York University

Faduma's career goal is to use information technology to champion civil rights and environmental issues. She is inspired by American civil rights activist Malcolm X to stand up for justice and equality.



Hanad Mohamud: Electrical Engineering, Ryerson University

Hanad is inspired by his dad who helped him to learn while growing up. His future goals are to become an engineer and to use his skills and knowledge to teach other people.



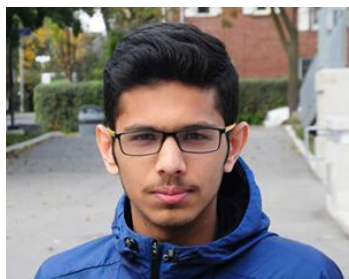
Huda Hagi: Undeclared Engineering, University of Toronto

Huda's dream is to become an engineer and to use Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to promote an inclusive community for young people from low-income families.



Mariam Majeed: Management and Organizational Studies, University of Western Ontario

Mariam's volunteer experience inspired her to pursue postsecondary education in Business. Her dream is to become a CEO and be able to give back to under-resourced communities.



Muhammad-Hassan Majeed: Information Technology, York University

Muhammad is inspired by his mother's hard work and sacrifices for him and his siblings. His dreams are to get a great job after school, and be able to support his family financially.



Raisa Chowdhury: Urban and Regional Planning, Ryerson University

Raisa is a vibrant Outreach Ambassador for TCHC. Her future goals are to become a professional planner and also complete a master's degree in architecture/urban design.



Shanique Wallace: Community Development, Humber College

Although challenged by her learning disability, Shanique's dreams are to become an advocate for children's rights to education, and establish private schools for orphans in Canada, Jamaica and Nigeria.



Simon Bermudez: Computer Programmer Analyst, George Brown College

Simon is inspired by his parents who are his role models. His career goals are to complete his degree and pursue a master's and doctorate degrees in quantum computing.



Syed MD Ifran (Samir) Hague: Computer Engineering, University of Waterloo

Syed is inspired by his parents, immigrants and self-made entrepreneurs. His career goals include working for big tech companies and creating innovations that help his community.



Zunaira Khalique: Architectural Technology, George Brown College

Zunaira is inspired by famous architect E. J. Lennox. Zunaira's dream is to become a successful architect and help improve Toronto's aging infrastructure.

Gabriel Negussie: Business Management, Ryerson University

Gabriel is passionate about community development. He believes strongly in giving back. His dream is to become a successful manager of people and businesses.

Kanwal Jamal: Computer Science, University of Waterloo

Kanwal is an active youth volunteer with several organizations like Habitat for Humanity and Visions of Science STEM Club. Kanwal's career goal is to become a software developer and work for Google.

TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to all of this year's Diversity Scholarship winners! The last few months have been challenging in so many ways, and similar obstacles will need to be faced as you continue to take the next steps in your education journey. Your persistence in facing this adversity as well as the commitment and influence you have already shown speaks to your incredible potential as the leaders of tomorrow. All of you should be very proud, and we applaud your achievement and wish you all the best on the road ahead.

Marco Calabretta-Duval, Executive Vice-President & Chief Operating Officer, Pattison Sign Company



Asad Ahmed: Information Technology, York University

Asad is passionate about learning and teaching others. He has volunteered with several organizations including Pathways to Education, Success Beyond Limits and the Talim-ul-Islam Community Centre. Asad draws inspiration from programs like TED TALKS which host individuals who are making significant changes in the world.



Julie Sharp: Journalism, Ryerson University

Julie draws inspiration from her community. She wants to help change the narrative about her community. Her career goal is to become a TV host and use her platform to tell stories that will inspire many people.



Nana Adu-Poku: Education, York University

Nana is a coach at Layup Youth Basketball, an NGO that provides free basketball training and mentorship to youth in priority neighbourhoods. He is inspired by people who succeed despite their adversities.



Natalie Chattaroon: Social Work, Humber College

Natalie organizes workshops in photography, leadership and self-care for young people in her community. She's inspired by TCHC's YouthWorx program that helps youth stay productive in the summer.



Samuel Ayisi: Education, Trent University

Samuel enjoys volunteering his time as a tutor and a sports camp director. His career goal is to become a high school teacher and use his knowledge to help students excel in school.



Sarah Ali: Social Work, York University

Sarah is a first-generation student in her family. She is inspired by her mother, who raised her and her siblings as a single-parent. Sarah's dream is to launch a mental health counselling services for racialized women.

Aaliyah Wright: Early Childhood Education, George Brown College

Aaliyah was inspired by her elementary teacher Mrs. Zameck to pursue a career in teaching. She now uses the Baha'i teachings to help young people understand how they can make impacts in their community.

Asia Mohamed: Psycholinguistics and Biology, University of Toronto

Asia is passionate about using her influence to create an inclusive social-cultural space for Muslim women to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. Asia's dream is to establish a speech pathology clinic.

Michael Acheampong: Physiotherapy (MSc), York University

Michael is inspired to become a healthcare professional because he saw first-hand some of the health challenges faced by people living in his community. One of his future goals is to establish an organization that will address the root cause of diseases such as diabetes, obesity and coronary heart disease in low-income communities.

Mohammed Ali: Early Childhood Education, George Brown College

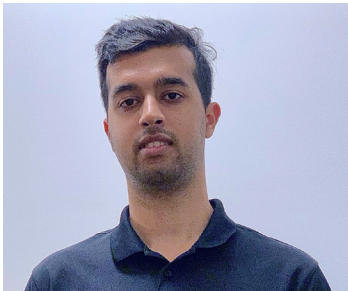
Mohammed is an advocate for helping young people improve their engagement with police officers. He founded Know Your Rights network to provide youth with resources on community policing.

SCCC DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS



Scadding Court congratulates all of the very deserving youth on their success and incredible achievements. It's a joy to celebrate you.

Herman Ellis, Acting Executive Director, Scadding Court Community Centre



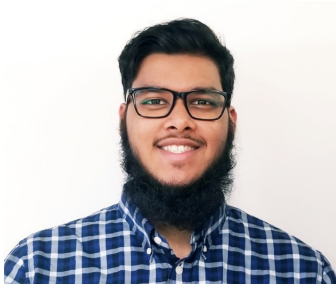
Aakas Aleem: Business Technology Management, Ryerson University

Aakas is inspired by his family and friends to be a responsible citizen and uses his skills to take care of others. He is passionate about helping out at various community events such as fundraising for Syrian refugees.



Apinayaa Puspanathan: Kinesiology, York University

Apinayaa has volunteered for several organizations like the Canadian National Exhibition. Her dream career is to become an occupational therapist.



Ishaq Ali: Business Technology Management, Ryerson University

Ishaq serves as a board member and on several working groups including Alexandra Park's Social Development Plan Committee. His dream career is to become an information technology specialist.



Tanin Tafader: Electrical Engineering, Ryerson University

Tanin serves as a youth ambassador for the charity organization Youth2Give. Tanin's career goal is to become a software engineer.

Obaid-Ullah Aleem: Business Technology Management, Ryerson University

Obaid-Ullah is a passionate advocate for housing and youth empowerment. He is inspired by his parents and high-school teachers to be the best he can be. Obaid-Ullah hopes to become a renowned business leader.

Valentino Cheng: Financial Mathematics, Wilfrid Laurier University

Valentino enjoys volunteering at different local community centres to support youth-focused programs. His future goal is to become a successful business and finance professional.

We thank our donors and partners for their generous support

Founding partners and donors



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