



2021-2022 Annual Report

**Ending Inequity,
Transforming Lives**

www.foryouth.ca

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& Executive Director

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Shaneeza Nazseer Ally

Executive Director



Tamer Ibrahim

Board Chair

THIS PAST YEAR has been bittersweet. On one hand, it has been wonderful to be able to connect with youth in person once again. On the other hand, it would be an injustice not to acknowledge that for many Black, racialized and newcomer youth, life feels more precarious than ever before. We have all struggled to cope with the isolation, stressors, and uncertainties that the past two years in some way. However, the lack of connection to peers, mentors, and broader community during such a key developmental period in their lives has taken an immeasurable toll on youth. Enduring an unprecedented time of racial violence and social awakening without adequate space and resources to process what all this means for their lives, and the world around them, has left youth hungry for opportunities to do so at FYI.

One of FYI's core competencies is to walk alongside youth, and evolve as their needs do. Food insecurity among local youth and their families has increased dramatically. Similarly, has the need for mental health support and counselling from Black and racialized professionals. To respond to these needs, we raised funds and launched a weekly breakfast program at a local high school. We created safe and supportive spaces for candid conversations about race, culture, and identity both online and in-person. We've recruited a Black Social Worker to provide free counselling services and we've deepened our referral networks to support community members in crisis in partnership with our local FOCUS table.

Highlights of this past year include distributing nearly \$60,000 in scholarships to local youth for post-secondary application fees as well as to help alleviate the costs associated with enrolment in post-secondary education and employment training.

Secondly, the launch of FYI on Oakwood during a pandemic has been an adventure like no other. As we celebrate our return to a community we love and now have the capacity to serve more deeply, it has been a testament to the power of community partnerships and collaboration. We have had elected officials, funders, community members, tenant organizations, local youth groups, the local BIA, and community partners support us, advocate for us, and work together to bring meaningful and responsive programs and services to the community.

There is much work ahead of us as we seek to re-establish ourselves in the Oakwood-Vaughan and York South-Weston communities who are both enduring so much change today and, in the years, to come. We remain committed to improving educational, employment and justice outcomes for Black, racialized and newcomer youth, while combatting anti-Black racism and discrimination in the systems and structures that impact them the most. As youth will always remain at the centre of what we do; we will continue to meet youth where they are and listen deeply to understand how to show up as the advocates and allies they need to navigate and prepare for their future.

Shaneeza Nazseer Ally,
Executive Director

Tamer Ibrahim,
Board Chair

A Message from our Board Chair & Executive Director

About For Youth Initiative



Our Vision:

Ending the cycle of inequity

Our Mission:

Supporting Black, racialized and newcomer youth to navigate systemic barriers, plan for the future, and access the resources and mentorship they need to thrive

Our Values:

Equity - we promote equal access to life's opportunities

Respect - we treat each other with kindness, patience, and empathy

Inclusion - we welcome everyone; diversity is our strength

Collaboration - we work together, share, and learn from each other

Integrity - we demonstrate the courage to do what is right, not what is easy

FYI Core Competencies

Long-Term Youth Engagement

We successfully engage in long-term, trusting relationships with youth in our community; especially those whose access to opportunities are limited by racism, discrimination, poverty, geography, or social isolation.

Youth Leadership & Self-Advocacy

FYI was built for youth, by youth and with youth. We provide the skills, tools, and platforms for youth to identify, communicate, and meet their needs. Youth are sought for their input and hired for their expertise; they assume leadership positions and have decision making authority in program planning, recruitment, and governance.

Person-Centered Approach

Every young person's journey is unique, and their needs are too. Our case management model meets young people where they are and promotes self-reliance to identify their goals to get where they want to be.

Agile & Responsive

We are young, tech-savvy, and adaptable. We continually seek input and feedback and are responsive to the changing needs of youth.



Strategic Plan

Our [2019-2024 strategic plan](#) builds upon our impact from our previous strategic plan with a renewed, responsive, and refined focus on the sustainability of our organization to meet the priorities and needs of our youth communities.

FIGURE 2

Evolution of For Youth Initiative

Startup | 1995-2008

- Hyper-local focus on serving youth in Weston and Mount Dennis communities
- Implemented a broad range of programs in response to community need to fill void of local youth programming

Expansion and Capacity-Building | 2008-2016

- Renovated and established home for youth centre at Keele Community Hub
- Supported by multiple funders to provide mentorship, capacity building and administrative support to grassroots groups and youth-led initiatives
- Doubled in size due to increased focus on newcomer settlement and youth justice brought on by increased funding for those specific community needs

Focus and Sustainability | 2016-2024

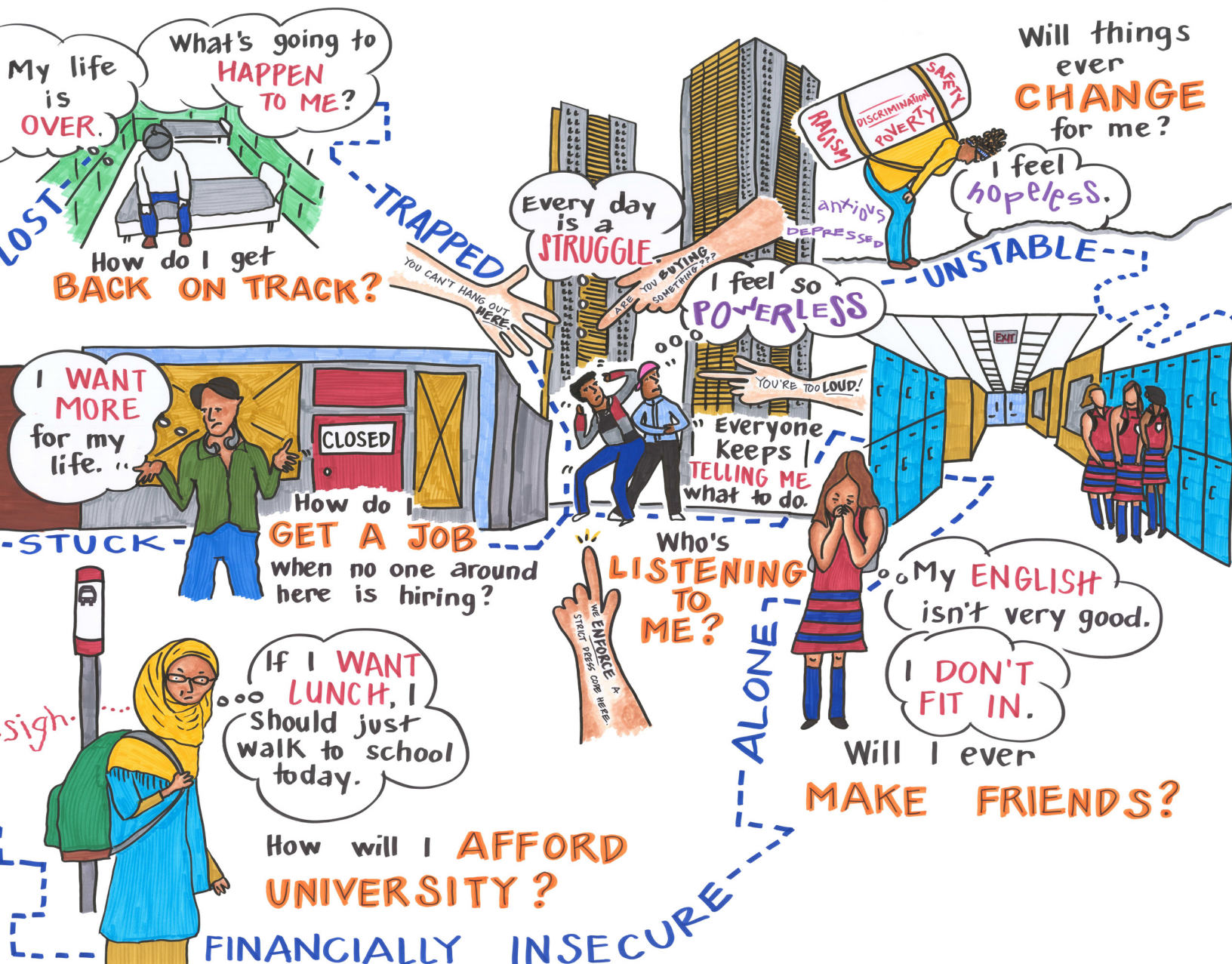
- Prioritized focus on improving youth education and employment outcomes as a means of addressing social and racial inequalities
- Revamped service delivery model to offer individualized in-house case management support and strengthen community partnerships for virtual and on-site program delivery
- Expanding culturally-relevant and trauma-informed programming and staff capacity to serve Black, racialized and newcomer youth
- Building internal capacity for evaluation, digital communications and fundraising for greater sustainability



Who We Serve

Every young person's journey is unique, and their needs are too. For Youth Initiative has developed a deep understanding of how to best support these needs for the diverse populations of young people in the York South-Weston area. We support primarily Black, racialized, and newcomer youth with responsive and inclusive programs and services

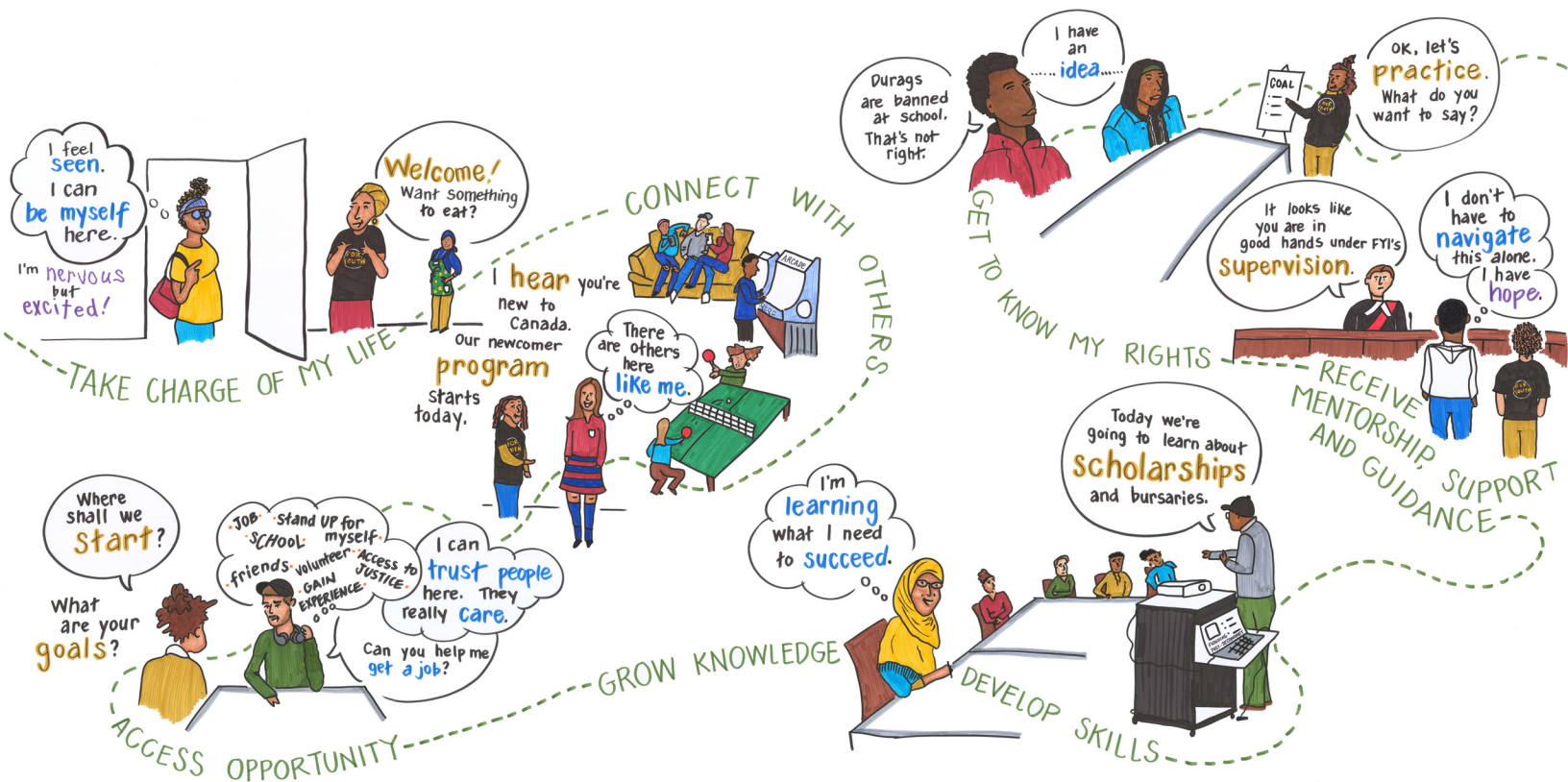
that meet individuals where they are and help them navigate the barriers to reaching their highest potential. Utilizing a person-centred approach, we build life-long relationships with our community of young people and are committed to acknowledging and understanding their unique experiences and stories.



What We Do

The FYI Model focuses on a young person as an individual, meeting them where they are and supporting them to get to where they want to be. Our programs are designed to support individual youth to identify and reach their personal goals, graduate high school, enrol in post-secondary education, gain employment, and achieve independence.

To reach these milestones we provide support via mentorship and resources in six key areas: educational attainment, workforce readiness, civic leadership, youth justice, newcomer settlement, and advocacy. Youth ages 12 to 29 can access these opportunities whether they are in or out of school, working or not.



Our Impact

655

TOTAL YOUTH ENGAGED

386

NEW CLIENTS ENGAGED

833

1:1 SESSIONS WITH CASE MANAGERS

205

GROUP PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

94%

CLIENTS IDENTIFY AS RACIALIZED

54%

CLIENTS IDENTIFY AS BLACK

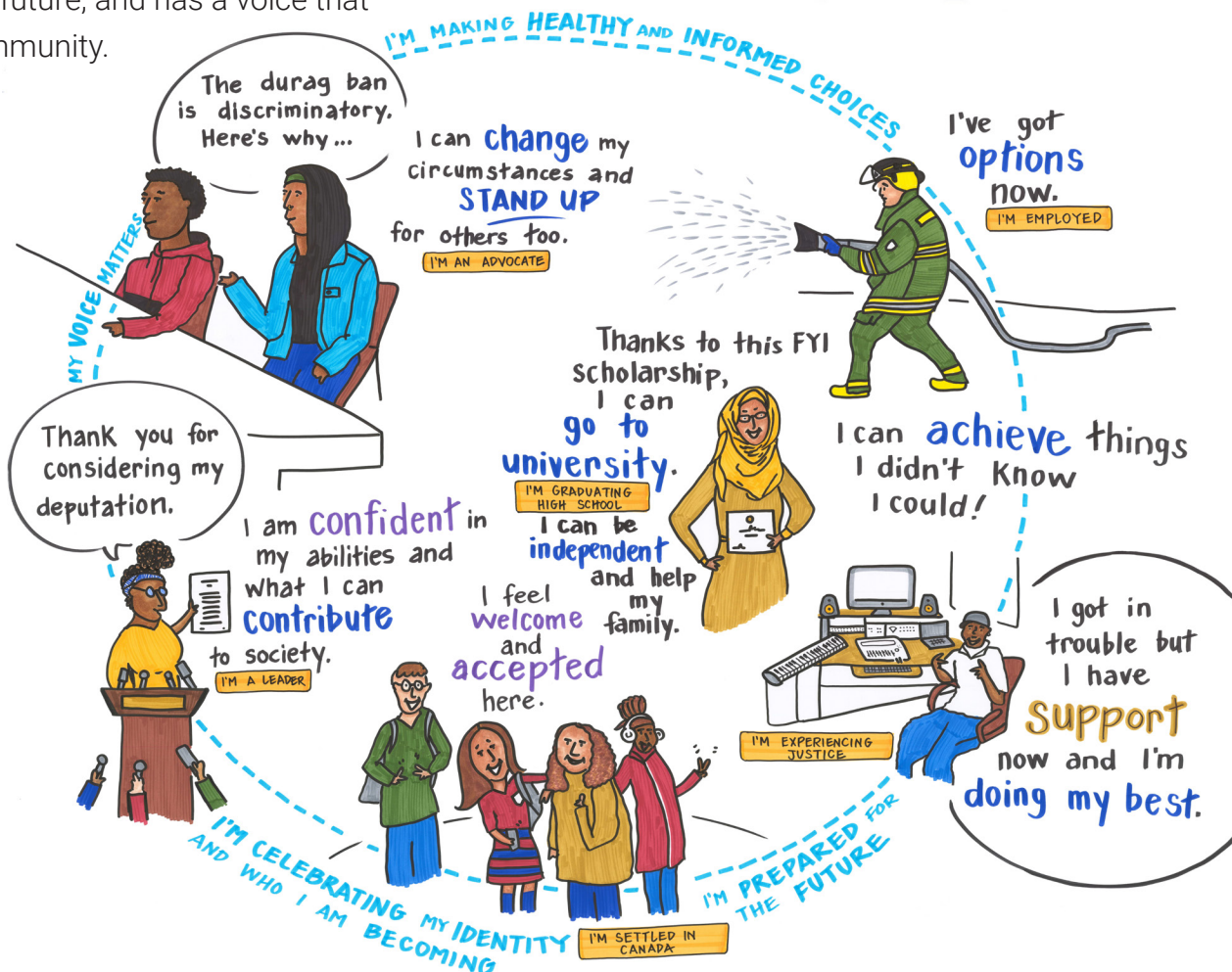
40%

CLIENTS IDENTIFY AS NEWCOMERS
(including International Students)

\$125,450

IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT DISTRIBUTED

We walk alongside the emerging leaders of tomorrow with the vision that each young person is equipped to make healthy and informed choices, is confident in their future, and has a voice that matters in their community.

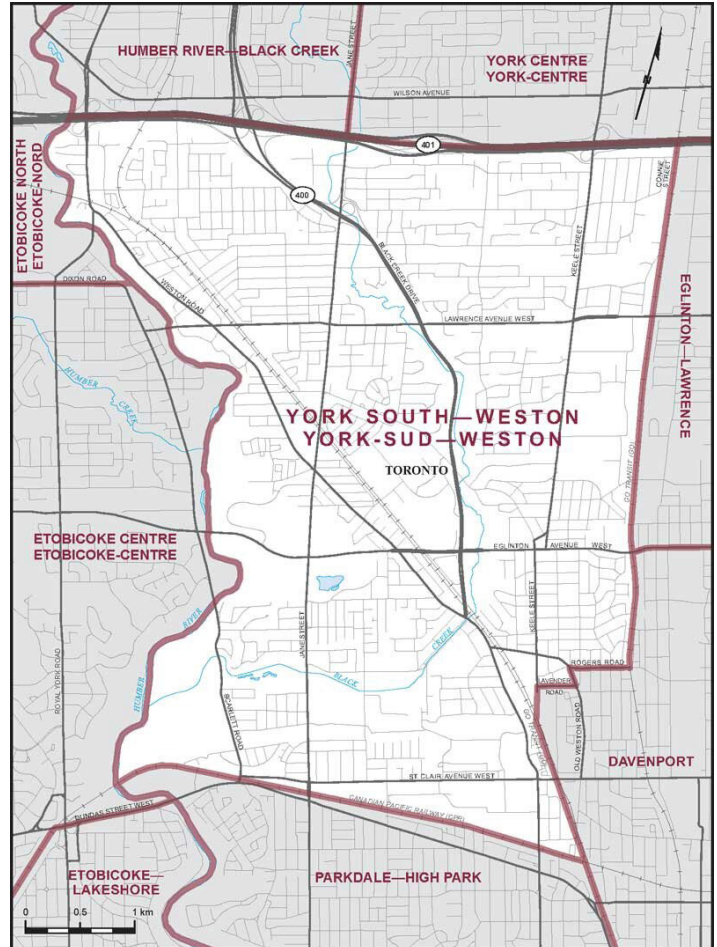


About York South-Weston & Oakwood Vaughan

For Youth Initiative has developed a deep understanding of how to best support the needs of the diverse populations of young people in the York South-Weston and Oakwood-Vaughan areas. We support primarily Black, racialized, and newcomer youth with responsive and inclusive programs and services that meet individuals where they are and help them navigate the barriers to reaching their highest potential.

York South-Weston and Oakwood-Vaughan are vibrant communities, rich in history and diversity. However, like many neighbourhoods along the fringes of Toronto, they are not without challenges. York South-Weston is comprised of six neighborhoods that the City of Toronto has identified as communities where funding and social services are needed to address significant social and economic issues.

The populations of York South-Weston and Oakwood-Vaughan are young. Many teenagers and young adults live, learn, and play here. Their attempts to establish themselves as they transition to adulthood are often frustrated by the barriers that persist in the area. Meagre local employment, and being disconnected from major transit hubs, jobs and post-secondary campuses pose obstacles for youth to fully participate in Toronto's prosperity.



York South-Weston

The graduation rate has decreased since in the York South-Weston area. A significant factor that causes this is the financial barriers that students face. Students in York South-Weston face financial hurdles when attending post-secondary, often not able to afford the appropriate materials and going into student debt.

- The most recent Toronto District School Board (TDSB) data from 2017 to 2018 shows high school graduation rates in York South-Weston are sitting at 76 per cent, slightly lower than the last batch of data collected in 2016, which cited a rate of 76.9 per cent for the area.
- Frontlines executive director, Stachen Frederick, says students who start off in elementary school in the area are often not given a proper educational foundation. Then, once they get to high school, are streamlined into applied programs rather than being given the opportunities to explore academic ones (Appia, 2022).
- Chris Tonks, TDSB trustee for York South-Weston, says, socioeconomic factors play a large role in securing a proper foundation for students and ensuring their success throughout their education path (Appia, 2022).

Oakwood-Vaughan

In September 2021, FYI celebrated the grand opening of its new site, FYI on Oakwood. This meant that FYI could now work towards addressing the unique systemic and geographic barriers that reduce Oakwood Vaughan youths' access to programs and services.

The FYI team also conducted an ongoing needs assessment through administering a survey to youth in Oakwood-Vaughan. The purpose of this survey was to further increase understanding of the needs of the youth in the area. The survey demonstrated that the greatest areas of need for support cited by local youth were employment, high school & post-secondary education, and transportation.

Furthermore, 16% of youth expressed that they either did not or only sometimes have regular access to healthy food where they live.

Youth in the Oakwood community identified the following needs:

- Places to safely gather and socialize
- Places to access healthy food
- Recreational programs (such as cooking, dance, art, financial literacy, and coding)
- Educational counselling
- Mental health supports
- Employment support services and career counselling



Supporting Academic Success & High School Graduation

FYI supports high school aged youth to achieve academic goals, graduate high school, and provide a foundation for future success.

Virtual Tutoring & Back to School

FYI successfully pivoted to offer onsite daily tutoring virtually throughout the pandemic so youth could continue to receive academic support. This was in response to survey data FYI collected demonstrating that tutoring was a top need.

The survey data also indicated the need for devices to utilize for virtual learning as a top need. This information contributed to our decision to expand the FYI Future Fund to not only fund scholarships for young people but also work to address the exacerbation of the digital divide this year by supporting youth with access to devices. In 2021 – 2022 FYI's tutoring program engaged 38 youth in tutoring, 19 youth tutor volunteers, and serviced a total of 223 hours of free tutoring for youth in the community.

"FYI's Tutoring Program reinforced for me that education can look very different - through conversation, stories, songs, and so on - and is not necessarily reliant on a school/classroom environment. I think the best part of the program is building relationships with students over the process of meeting each week, and seeing the progress that students make over time."

- Samantha Zerafa, Volunteer Tutor

Student Family Advocate Program

The role of the FYI Student and Family Advocates (SFAs), launched by the Ministry of Child, Community, and Social Services as part of their Black Youth Action Plan, is to offer community-based and culturally relevant advocacy support to Black students and their families. FYI Student and Family Advocates work directly with youth and their families to develop individual strategies to overcome barriers when navigating school processes and systems. Black students and families are connected to supports, services, and opportunities to help them achieve their educational, career, and life goals. They also focus on supporting Black youth who are overrepresented among youth who are currently not in education, employment, or training.

Alongside FYI's education and settlement team, FYI Student and Family Advocates engaged over 74 Black identifying youth and facilitated three main programs for Black youth in the areas of civic leadership, digital literacy, and self-care/ identity.

Black Table Talk (George Harvey After School Program)

Black table talk was an after-school program the FYI SFA hosted weekly at George Harvey Collegiate Institute that engaged Black-identifying students in conversations pertaining to principal issues such as race, culture, identity, belonging, education, anti-black racism, systems navigation, healing, self-care, and leadership. 32 youth actively participated in this new after-school program.



Black Digital Literacy Program (Virtual Program)

Digital skills continue to play an important role in the current and future success of youth. The rise of COVID-19 has only brought a new urgency to this truth and FYI is doing all it can to ensure our youth are equipped for an increasingly technological job market and world. This January the Student & Family Advocacy team at FYI launched our Black Digital Literacy Program for Black identifying youth from the ages of 13 to 25. The 10 week program engaged 15 youth in a series of weekly workshops focused around digital representation, online safety, personal branding, financial literacy, and technology development. Participants of the program had access to meaningful mentorship and networking opportunities from Black professionals in the field of technology. In addition, all participants received a financial honorarium for their participation and had the opportunity to produce a digital product that explored storytelling about an issue related to the Black community through different art mediums such as poetry, drawing, film etc.



Accessing Post-Secondary Education & Employment

For Youth Initiative works with the community to ensure our youth have the support they need to engage meaningfully and successfully with post-secondary education and training that will catalyze their futures. This year we have facilitated multiple post-secondary application writing workshops to support youth in their application process. We have also intentionally established partnerships with youth employment skill building organizations such as Step Up Virtual and Black Women in Motion.

Removing Barriers to Post-Secondary Education

In 2021-22 we launched a Post-Secondary Bursary for clients graduating high school and seeking to apply to post-secondary institutions to cover the application fees that pose a barrier for some youth to apply. In our inaugural year, we supported nearly 30 youth with bursaries to cover up to \$250 of fees to apply to college and university.

Since 2005, FYI's Scholarship Program has awarded over \$186,000 to 111 youth. The FYI Scholarship program, now in its 17th year, is in commemoration of Jamal Hemmings and Amon Beckles, Toronto youth who were lost to gun violence in November 2005. Jamal and Amon were participants in FYI's daily programs and will be remembered for their positive, vibrant personalities and dance skills.

The FYI Scholarship Program supports our community's youth towards a brighter future through funding support for various forms of education including: college, university, training, trades, and certificate programs.

Black Youth Mentorship

For Youth Initiative has worked with the Somali Canadian Association of Etobicoke for the past 5 years delivering a Youth Mentorship Program. Now in its sixth year, the program provides young Black entrepreneurs between the ages of 15 and 29 with invaluable training, pre-launch coaching, ongoing mentorship, access to business resources, and start-up financing to successfully launch their businesses. In the past fiscal year, the program engaged 22 new youth participants and has distributed start-up funding to over 89 young entrepreneurs since its inception. The Somali Canadian Association of Etobicoke is a non-profit organization that addresses the unique needs of new Somali immigrants and refugees transitioning to life in Canada.



Navigating the Justice System

This year For Youth Initiative celebrates a decade of supporting and advocating for youth justice. Since 2012, the For Youth Initiative team has dedicated itself to supporting youth who have been involved with and are at-risk of involvement with the justice system. The past two years have been especially difficult for youth in conflict with the law. As court proceedings took place online, our team adapted quickly to continue to support youth remotely. After COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and we were allowed to begin seeing youth in person again, it reopened the potential for our full capacity services to operate.

Since courts reopened, we have been able to support over 20 youth with court support, counselling, case management, and referrals to community mental health services. FYI employs a holistic approach to working with youth through diversion and court support services as we recognize that many factors impact a youth's involvement in the justice system. FYI youth justice programming focuses on major areas of support which include preventative measures, diversion programming, rehabilitation, and reintegration. All of our Youth Justice programming and wraparound support service options have the ability to be facilitated virtually.

RISE Diversion Program

RISE is a pre-charge and post-charge diversion and reintegration program that supports youth 12-17 who have interacted with the criminal justice system. RISE supports court-mandated youth in fulfilling their obligations to meet Extrajudicial Sanctions (EJS) and community service orders by participating and engaging with FYI staff or mentors. RISE intervenes and disrupts violence by bringing focus back to the individual and highlights important influential areas of their life that lead to a positive, goal-oriented future. The five key areas of focus within the program are:

- Identity/ Lived Experience
- Family Wellbeing
- Education
- Work/Career
- Human Rights/ Youth Justice Education



Impact & Highlights 2021-2022:

- In 2021-22, once courts reopened, FYI supported 20 youth with justice court support services, counselling, and youth justice related employment support
- Contributed to development of Delta Family Resource Centre's (DFRC) Mmere Dane curriculum to develop culturally responsive practices and approaches to working with youth interacting with the justice system for the Northwest Justice Centre pilot
- Provided 3 clients with early-release and reintegration support from institutional discharge back to their communities
- Actively engaged in weekly community FOCUS meetings and supported 3 families within the last 3 months dealing with housing and food insecurity, conflict with the law, and community violence
- Partnered with our Oz of Prevention program colleagues at DFRC to help support clients collaboratively with court support, counselling, and reintegration
- Cohosted and participated in the Provincial Community of Practice for Black Diversion programming to establish stronger cross sector partnerships and referral pathways for Black youth aged 12-17 to access diversion programming
- Shared the RISE program with probation and the Northwest Justice Centre to further our networks and to broaden our referral pathways for the upcoming year



Newcomer Settlement

For Youth Initiative's Newcomer Settlement Services work to take the overwhelm out of the experience of arriving in a new country and making it a home. Newcomer youth migrate at a time in their lives when most young people are enduring the process of self-discovery and identity formation. The importance of security and social support during this process is crucial for these youth, especially those who are racialized. Holistic and informed, our case management process addresses these issues. Our youth surveys demonstrated that newcomer youth struggled most with remaining connected during the pandemic and their households were among the majority who were lacking access to a device to access virtual schooling.

Life in Canada Series

Life in Canada was created to offer a welcoming and safe space for newcomer youth to come together virtually in hopes of creating community. The program engaged youth in interactive-virtual workshops. The workshops focused on culturally competent content while also ensuring that youth developed skills in the following areas: financial literacy, education system navigation, understanding Canadian values and culture.

C4 Project Mentorship Program

The C4 Project Mentorship Program was a six week program offered in collaboration with York University students in February 2022. Designed to support newcomer youth in their settlement journey, youth gathered to make connections,

form meaningful friendships, and receive support in connecting to their community in ways that are relevant to their unique experiences as newcomers. The program was delivered in a combination of virtual and in-person activities which included English language fluency support and creative arts activities. The diverse, cross-disciplinary team devised strategies to raise awareness of and accessibility to FYI among newcomer/immigrant youth in the Oakwood-Vaughan community, so that they become aware of the support available to them and how to find these resources.



Pathways to Post-Secondary (Newcomer)

Newcomer youth often require more support when navigating their way through the education and post-secondary systems. Through the Pathways to Post-Secondary program newcomer youth (grade 11 and up) explored Post-Secondary Education (PSE) related topics and were connected with newcomer services offered to prepare for PSE.

Daniel



"FYI has impacted my life in many ways. I have the honour to be the coach and coordinator in the Youth Empowering Parents program as well as a successful member of the Youth Advisory Council. I have taken every opportunity that FYI has given me, which has helped me build awareness of my skills and grow professionally as a newcomer. I have made long lasting friendships while at FYI, I love making a difference in the community!"

- Daniel Bonilla, Council Member

The program broke down the various steps towards PSE into digestible workshops where youth were guided with knowledge, skills, resources, tips, and action items that would help them succeed in PSE and address specific issues faced by newcomer youth trying to access PSE.

13%

INCREASE IN NEWCOMER CLIENTS FROM 2020-21



Civic Leadership

For Youth Initiative works to engage youth in community leadership roles where possible to develop transferable skills for the future. We understand that youth have important concerns and things to say on behalf of themselves and their peers so FYI strives to provide them with opportunities, support, and the tools they need to be practice self-advocacy and become effective advocates for change.



Black Youth Leadership Program (George Harvey After School Program)

In collaboration with the ICL (Institute for Change Leaders) and the Student & Family Advocates, this year FYI facilitated another cohort of the Black Youth Leadership Program at George Harvey Collegiate Institute. There were 10-15 young people in attendance for the three-week program. Youth engaged in activities around storytelling, allyship, building a campaign, and leadership.

OLORI

OLORI is a Black youth leadership program grounded in finding ways to promote Black youth voices in issues that impact our city. A program run in partnership with Delta Family Resource Centre (DFRC), FYI engaged 16 youth to work together in groups to create an advocacy campaign that they believe is meaningful to the black community. Youth honed their leadership, collaboration, and research skills to create projects that were then shared with their peers and community.

"The most significant part about OLORI to me is how it allowed me to transform into a leader of my own..I gained the confidence to share my opinions with my peers [...] and from my 12-weeks in the OLORI program, I have increased my knowledge regarding discrimination and treatment of black people in addition to becoming assertive. Such information affirms my confidence to spearhead events for individuals who are in need of assistance."

- Rianna Meru, OLARI youth participant



Crisis Intervention & Support

As an organization we work to remain responsive to the urgent needs of the young people we serve. The need for crisis intervention and support for young people peaked during the Covid-19 pandemic and communities were forced to recognize the necessity of understanding the systems in which young people live consist of many factors that determine the possibilities for their futures.

Our case management services support youth to receive support in the areas of housing, food, physical and mental health, justice, education, and employment. This year 833 youth worked directly with FYI case managers to receive this individualized support.

Tackling Food Insecurity

In an ongoing needs assessment conducted by The FYI team in the Oakwood-Vaughan area, 16% of youth expressed that they either did not or only sometimes have regular access to healthy food where they live. This only further emphasized to us the need for addressing food insecurity in the work we do and its deep intertwinement with a young person's ability to reach other important outcomes in the areas of education, employment, civic leadership, and settlement. In response to this urgent need, FYI distributed \$7,450 in grocery gift cards, \$8000 in food vouchers to youth in the community, and organized several community initiatives this year.



FYI Breakfast Program

Food insecurity is a barrier for youth and their families which was only exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic's influence on the lack of funding local high schools had to support their students. With support from the Second Harvest Emergency Food Security Fund, FYI was able to support youth in the community through running a successful Breakfast Program every Friday at George Harvey Collegiate Institute as well as providing monetary (food vouchers, gift cards, and honorariums) and referral support to local youth.

In the first couple months 50-60 youth accessed the breakfast program each week. Over the last month of the program, we saw an increase to 80+ youth taking advantage of the breakfast program weekly. The program continues to ensure that youth are being fed and have access to nutritious food prior to engaging in learning. Furthermore, youth are showing up to school on time and know that they have support and people rooting for them to succeed.

GEORGE HARVEY x FYI BREAKFAST CLUB PROGRAM

13

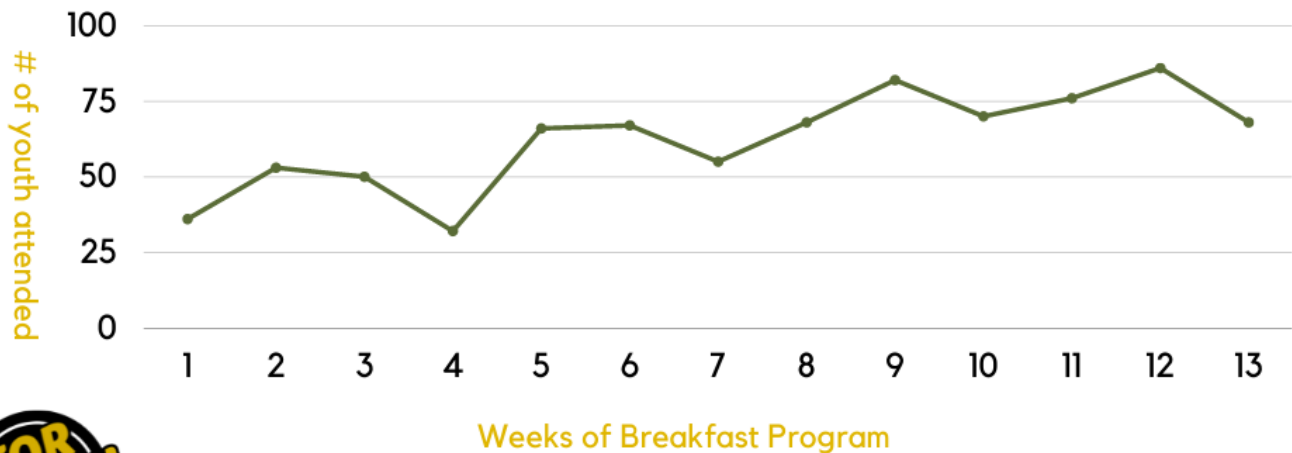
weeks of Breakfast Program

809

Meals Served

57

Attended on average



Community Green Market

In partnership with Unison Health & Community Services, a Green Market was held at FYI on Oakwood. Folks from the community could pick up a bag of fresh produce for free. Over 150 families came by to get fruits and vegetables and learn about the services our organizations provide.

Supporting Youth Care Packages

The FYI team understands the many ways in which COVID has impacted life for young people. Because of this, our frontline staff assembled 120 Care Packages for OV (Oakwood Vaughan) youth which contained: PPE, hand sanitizer, food vouchers, a sheet (10) of TTC tickets and program flyers. We wanted to show the community that although we are not able to provide in-person programs and services, we are still here, and we care. Our team took to the streets and distributed these care packages at various locations popular with local youth.

Healthy Communities

Many communities were unequipped to deal with the stressors on health the year brought. FYI responded to the overwhelming need young people had for health and wellbeing support by distributing 80 hygiene kits to youth in the community. We also continued to run culturally relevant programming and services that addressed mental health, physical health, and healthy relationships for the young people we serve.

Counseling Support

FYI has continued to offer counseling support to youth through its partnership with two pathways: Unison Health and Community Services and the recruitment of an FYI social worker who facilitated individual and/or group drop-in counselling sessions weekly to Black and/or racialized youth between the ages of 12 to 17 years.

Motiv8 – Youth Violence Prevention Program

The For Youth Initiative team in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Group and Black Women in Motion, hosted a series of youth violence prevention workshops in the Oakwood-Vaughan area led by black youth for Black youth aged 13-25. The workshops focused on gender-based violence, consent, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention among other important topics.

Boys 2 Men

FYI ran a 5-week peer group program called Boys 2 Men where youth participants were given a safe and facilitated space to engage in conversations around topics such as friendships/relationships, toxic masculinity, identity, culture, dealing with stress and coping skills, anger, and aggression, and much more. The goal of the program was to create an inclusive, mutually respectful, and judgment free space where participants could open up about some of their lived experience and connect with peers around important subjects. Elements of art were weaved into the program to support youth in their express themselves.

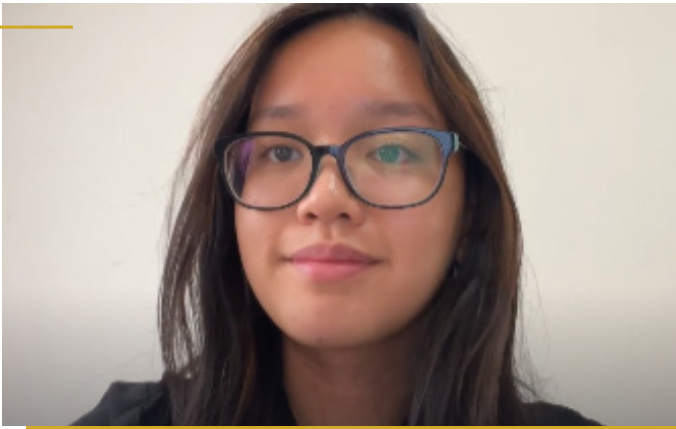
FYI Future Fund

The FYI Future Fund supports our community's youth towards a brighter future through removing barriers and providing the funding support for various forms of education, resources, and system navigation assistance. Every year we run the FYI Future Fund (Originally named the FYI Scholarship Fund) campaign. Youth aged 16-29 who live, work, volunteer, and/or go to school within the York-South Weston and Oakwood-Vaughan communities are eligible to apply to receive funding from the FYI Future Fund.

What We've Achieved

- Since 2005, have awarded \$186,000 in scholarships to 111 youth
- In 2021-22 we distributed nearly \$60,000 in scholarships towards post-secondary education and training to local youth
- Expanded the FYI Future Fund to support not just financial barriers youth face in the pursuit of their highest potential, but also technological and system barriers

Rean



"Winning the FYI Scholarship means learning that people believe in me and my goals. Education should be accessible for all, and it is important for youth to know that there are resources, such as this scholarship, which can help them achieve their goals."

- Rean Pelayo, OV youth, 2021 FYI Scholarship Winner

Jamilah



"Winning the scholarship means that I do not have to stress over financials when it comes to school. For my previous years in university, I would have to stress about working harder to get more finances to cover my textbooks as well as miscellaneous school supplies so winning the scholarship means I can work less and prioritize school more so I am very grateful."

**- Jamilah Reeves, OV youth, 2021
FYI Scholarship Winner**

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH THROUGH THE FUTURE FUND

Help us remove the barriers youth face in three main ways. Visit our website, www.foryouth.ca/future-fund to donate.



Close the Digital Divide

Fund a laptop, keyboard or other technological needs relevant to a young person to pursue education and/or training.



Make Post Secondary Possible

Fund a university/post-secondary application fee for a young person or contribute to a full year scholarship.



Divert Youth from the Justice System

Fund intervention programming to ensure that youth have the support and resources to: re-enroll in school, secure employment, participate in group programming and receive individual counseling.

Powered by Partnerships

For Youth Initiative is powered by the support of its partnerships, community, and collaborators. This year over 172 external referrals were made by FYI to youth supporting organizations. We have also collaborated in meaningful ways to deliver programming and continue to exchange knowledge with those across the youth and social justice sectors. We would like to recognize some key partners this year who have worked with us to support youth in important and impactful ways.

Institute for Change Leaders

The Institute for Change Leaders trains people seeking social justice in the effective organizing skills they need to build power and create change. FYI has worked with the Institute for Change Leaders to co-develop the Black Youth Leadership Program which has equipped over 200 Black youth with the skills to create meaningful and positive change, both systemically and within their communities.

Black Women in Motion

Black women in Motion (BWIM) is a Toronto-based, survivor led, grassroots organization that empowers and supports the advancement of Black women, girls, nonbinary and gender-non-conforming survivors of gender-based violence. FYI is in its second year of running youth violence prevention programming with BWIM.

Somali Canadian Association of Etobicoke

Somali Canadian Association is a non-profit organization working to address the unique needs of new Somali immigrants and refugees transitioning to life in Canada. FYI has had a long-standing partnership with the organization, supporting Black youth entrepreneurs through our Black youth mentorship program for the past five years.

Second Harvest

With support from Second Harvest's emergency food security fund, FYI was able to successfully run a free breakfast program for students at George Harvey Collegiate Institute, tackling food insecurity in the neighbourhood by ensuring youth have access to nutritious food prior to engaging in learning.



Delta Family Resource Centre

As a local partner dedicated to supporting children, youth, and families in Northwest Toronto communities, our partnership with Delta Family Resource Centre (DFRC) has been centered around providing culturally-relevant support and programming for Black and racialized youth. OLO-RI is a Black youth leadership program grounded in finding ways to promote Black youth voices in issues that impact our city. Two other collaborations with DFRC are with the Oz of Prevention and Mmere Dane programs focused on supporting Black and racialized and their families to navigate the justice system.

Youth Justice Transformation lab

A collective impact initiative with organizations working in youth justice to remove barriers to equitable justice services, improve access to culturally responsive diversion programming and specialty courts, improve training of justice professionals, increase youth and community knowledge of the justice systems and to advocate for safety and wellbeing measures at the New Toronto Courthouse.



FOCUS Toronto Situation Table

FOCUS Toronto is a collaborative effort of the City of Toronto, United Way Toronto and Toronto Police Service that aims to reduce risk, harm, crime, victimization and improve community resiliency and wellbeing. The model builds off of international best practices and lessons learned through the Community Crisis Response Program. FYI participates at the weekly York Situation Table where we receive referrals for clients requiring urgent intervention and support.

George Harvey Collegiate Institute

Given the proximity of our Keele Street location to George Harvey Collegiate Institute, FYI has had a unique opportunity to provide on-site extracurricular programming for newcomer youth, Black youth, and racialized youth. They have allowed the FYI team to facilitate in person programming onsite including employment and education system navigation support. This year FYI engaged over 124 youth from George Harvey in programming with over 58.3% of these youth identifying as Black.



Our Team

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Youth Case Worker (Settlement)

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Student & Family Advocate

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Manager, Youth Programs

Ischel Flores Reyes

Youth Case Worker (Oakwood-Vaughan)

Kanica Yadav

Youth Case Worker (Settlement)

Lucia Ejidike

Student and Family Advocate

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Youth Case Worker (Post-Secondary)

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Youth Justice Coordinator

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Youth Case Worker (Oakwood-Vaughan)



Thank You to Our Supporters

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WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES IN PEEL, TORONTO & YORK REGION



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Alexandra Viveros
Amanda Leite
Angelica Teles
Angie Matti
Bavneet Kaur
Billie Schulman
Claire Macdonald
Crystal Chen
David Moscoe
Devon Mundy
Hailey Renie
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Douglas Buck	Kay Wright-Whyte		
	Kevin Lin		

For Youth Initiative in Toronto

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31

	2022	2021
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 526,229	\$ 595,089
Accounts receivable	60,392	205,734
Sales taxes recoverable	19,627	22,642
Prepaid expenses	8,090	5,494
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 614,338	\$ 828,959
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 144,157	\$ 67,131
Deferred contributions (Note 2)	175,598	428,713
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	319,755	495,844
Net assets		
Unrestricted net assets	<hr/>	<hr/>
	294,583	333,115
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 614,338	\$ 828,959

See accompanying notes to financial statements

*Access to full financial statements can be made available upon request

For Youth Initiative in Toronto
Statement of Operations and Net Assets
Year Ended March 31

	2022	2021
Revenue		
Grants (Note 4)	\$ 1,788,080	\$ 1,426,651
Donations and other	45,953	59,875
	<u>1,834,033</u>	<u>1,486,526</u>
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	1,140,307	869,806
Project costs	336,501	221,056
Purchased services	128,820	128,820
Rent and permit fees	120,525	102,612
Office and administration	114,193	110,520
Professional fees	14,568	10,005
Insurance	12,652	12,069
Special events	262	1,300
Professional development	4,737	4,411
	<u>1,872,565</u>	<u>1,460,599</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses for the year	(38,532)	25,927
Net assets, beginning of year	333,115	307,188
Net assets, end of year	\$ 294,583	\$ 333,115

See accompanying notes to financial statements



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