

Youth on Board!



Lead today and help shape the future of our community

Leadership
WATERLOO REGION
community leadership development

About the Program

“Youth on Board” is a program that connects our young leaders with established leaders in our community. Young leaders, aged 18–23, are matched with mentors who sit on local Boards of Directors. This program provides the opportunity for young leaders to learn about board governance and, with the assistance of their mentors, participate in the governance of a local social profit organization for a minimum period of six months.

TIMELINE

September:
Recruitment

October: Leadership
and Governance
Workshop

November – May:
Monthly Board Service

June: Commencement
and Congratulations

Youth Leaders

Youth on Board has been established to build a bridge between young leaders and established community leaders. It provides youth with leadership opportunities and enhanced community networks.

BENEFITS

- Further development of leadership skills
- Increased experience and understanding of board governance and the issues faced by social profit organizations
- Increased connections with established leaders in our local community

“The Youth on Board program is a great way to start off if you’re young and want to help the social profit sector, especially at the organizational level. My board of directors encouraged me to be very hands-on and to keep the questions coming. Definitely a very valuable experience!”

~ Howard Leung, Student, University of Waterloo, matched with Volunteer Action Centre of Kitchener-Waterloo & Area

Mentors and Boards

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

To seek opportunities for young leaders to engage with local boards of directors in order to:

- Increase their knowledge of board governance practices through hands-on experiences
- Expand their networks by building bridges with established leaders
- Encourage a youth perspective at the board level
- Encourage established community leaders to mentor young leaders

“Participation in the Youth on Board program is a win/win opportunity. As a mentor, I believe I gained as much as the participants. This was an opportunity to interact with enthusiastic and committed young people who were eager to learn and to make a difference. The organizations also benefited from having the perspective of a young person at our meetings. I recommend the program to organizations and board members who are committed to the development of our future leaders.”

~ Gary Pooley, Mentor

If you are a member of a board of directors and interested in mentoring a young leader, Youth on Board is a great program to explore this opportunity. We require support and approval from the board and organization that you serve.

BENEFITS

- Mentors, as community trustees, will engage in succession planning at a community level
- Established leaders play a pivotal role in connecting young leaders to local community initiatives
- Our community has access to an increased pool of potential board members



(L to R): L. Cameron & J. Noble, Libro Financial, H. Ekhtiari, Young Leader, D. Adare & J. Wheeler, Alzheimer Society of Kitchener-Waterloo

Expectations

BECOME A MENTOR!

- You are a current Director of a local social profit organization
- You can commit to participating for a minimum of 6 months between October and June
- You will connect with the young leader prior to board meetings
- You will act as the ongoing liaison between the young leader and the organization for events, committee work and any new opportunities for involvement
- You will provide opportunities for the young leader to ask questions and participate in board meetings

“We were thrilled to participate in the Youth on Board Program and would recommend it to other social profit organizations. Our young leader not only brought a new and refreshing perspective to our Board discussions, he engaged other members on the Board to look at their decision-making process in a new light. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the program!”

~ Julie Wheeler, Executive Director, Alzheimer Society of Kitchener-Waterloo

YOUTH LEADERS

- Are between the ages of 18–23
- Have demonstrated leadership skills and an interest in learning about social profit governance
- Can commit to participating for a minimum period of 6 months between October and June
- Want to learn and engage in the social profit organization’s programs and events
- Can connect with their mentor prior to board meetings
- Will ask questions, seek opportunities, and participate in board meetings
- Will participate as non-voting members and abide by the boards’ confidentiality policies



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Please visit our website to complete an online Youth on Board application or to request additional information on this exciting opportunity.

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