

ONE PEOPLE, ONE COMMUNITY, ONE VOICE



**2018-2019
ANNUAL
REPORT**



Table of contents

- 03** ... Message from the President
- 04**... Message from the Executive Director
- 06** ... About Midaynta Community Services
- 08** ... Project Turn-Around
- 12** ... Youth Outreach Worker Program (YOW)
- 14** ... Enhanced Youth Outreach Worker Program (EYOW)
- 16** ... Rites of Passage Youth Mentorship Program
- 18** ... Future Leaders Summer Camp
- 20** ... Housing and Homelessness Program
- 22** ... Mending a Crack in the Sky (MCIS)
- 24** ... Acknowledgment

Message from the President



Abdirahman Dhore
President

The year 2018/2019 has been a year of significant accomplishments at Midaynta Community Services as we advance on our strategic plan and vision of building vibrant communities, developing services, and continue to advocate for a largely underserved and marginalized communities.

Midaynta is committed to its mission of building vibrant, socially integrated, and united communities. We have seen our community come together and show resilience, determination and share one voice with a sense of purpose and unity. This year, staff, volunteers and Board members have worked tirelessly to build a strong structure and collaboration with other stakeholders and strategic partners to strengthen our organization capacity in attracting new opportunities, donors, partners and provided leadership to several initiatives to improve coordination growth, services and have a clear pathway for youth and families seeking services.

Every year the Board of Directors review and update policies and procedures to meet services needed in the community. We reviewed and initiated the Risk Assessment Tools in order to increase agency capacity to manage identified areas of risks within the organization. The process is intended to enable risk management practices and support development of risk mitigation plan within the organization. The Board of Directors are committed in supporting the agencies growth by fostering a culture of integrity and good governance. They maintained focus on achieving the objectives of the 2017-2018 strategic plan, which allowed them to position Midaynta for continued growth and long-term sustainability.

Last year has been one of the busiest years yet, and our focus continues with a new phase that promises to bring even more growth and positive change to our organization and to our community. Our strategic planning for the future includes increasing our funding, complete with a comprehensive fundraising strategy. We plan to enhance our existing policies and procedures and work on creating new ones. There will be a renewed commitment from our Board of Directors to build capacity building for African grass root organization in Ontario and abroad.

On behalf of Board of Directors of Midaynta, I would like to acknowledge our volunteers, placement students, staff, partner organizations, donors and funders. Special thanks to Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services - Youth Justice Division staff for your continued and unwavering support to the organization. We will continue to build our partnership and work in collaboration with other service providers to enhance our services and support for our community.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AD', written in a stylized, cursive script.

Message from the Executive Director



Mahad Yusuf
Executive Director

Over the past year, I am delighted to report that Midaynta Community Services has taken proactive steps to address youth violence in the Black community by supporting and helping develop a three-phase community healing initiative in partnership with Somali mothers. This initiative, Mending a Crack in the Sky, addresses the issue of youth violence in the greater Toronto area.

Mending a Crack in the Sky (MCIS) is a dynamic program that consists of a dedicated group of mothers who are passionate about creating safe spaces to heal and engage in transformational community change and activism. The group is inspired by a Somali proverb that states “if people come together, they can even mend a crack in the sky.” This concept of unity has also formed the basis of our action plan to address the issue of the radicalization of youth as well as the alarming rates of youth violence -- primarily male youth violence

Our Project Turn Around team has also implemented several community consultations and workshops in the northwestern area of Toronto for youth and their families in crisis. At each consultation, staff and community members have had the opportunity to engage in dialogue around community safety, exploring current concerns and issues that impact families. In addition, Project Turn Around hosted an additional strategic planning meeting with the GPIIP service provider leaders and the program steering committee to discuss best practices, program successes and challenges. The addition of a Family Support Counsellor has been

an incredible asset enhancing the team capacity in supporting families, by providing crisis management support to the mothers of the Mending the Crack in the Sky group.

We also continue to empower families and youth through a variety of our programs including the Rites of Passage, the Youth Mentorship Program, the Enhanced Youth Outreach Workers Program (EYOW), the Youth Outreach Workers Program (YOW) and settlement programs. These programs have continued to thrive and deliver a positive impact to our clients.

We provided an internship opportunity for university students to conduct in-depth research on issues affecting the Black community, which in turn has helped to inform our youth programs and advocacy work by raising awareness and engaging various stakeholders. We have worked with students and their professors from the Munk School of Global Affairs, OISE, the University of Toronto, York University, Ryerson University, the Diversity Institute, Seneca College and Humber college to support our youth and community.

Midaynta Community Services organized the 2018-2019 African Heritage Games, an ambitious summer sports program created to celebrate African Canadian heritage in order to motivate African youth and their families through educational workshops as well as promoting civic involvement within the African community. There were over 5000 youth who participated in this event.

Although we have had significant successes with our projects and initiatives, our community is still in crisis and it is important, now more than ever, that our perspectives and efforts are taken seriously. Despite the pain and the hardship, our young people and their families continue to face fear, Anti-Black Racism, systematic racism, gun and gang violence, poverty, marginalization, criminalization, discrimination in education, employment, housing and healthcare services, as well as the difficulties of accessing financial services.

There is a lack of support from the City of Toronto Community Service Partnership (CSP) unit staff to our community and African youth. We have acknowledged that mending this relationship as a community will be our first step towards systemic change.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our monthly roundtable partners, who for many years have supported Midaynta Community Services at our regular meetings and conferences on Youth Resiliency, Hate, Racism, and Radicalization. They have provided us with great insight and expertise.

Special thanks to our key core partners who participated and supported our conferences in various ways: the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), the United States Consulate General in Toronto; the Ministry of Education; the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE); the Munk School of Global Affairs; the Ministry of Education; the Black Experience Project; the Diversity Institute at Ryerson University; the Mosaic Institute; the Canadian Council of Muslim Women; the Canadian Council of Imams; Somali Immigrant Aid Organization; East Metro Youth Services; Color of Poverty - Color of Change; Northwood Neighbourhood Services; the RCMP, York Regional Police, Toronto Police Services; Peel Police and the members of the steering committee for our Project Turn-Around (GPIP). Thank you to Midaynta Staff, Students, Volunteers and our Board of Directors.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anita', written in a cursive style.

Midaynta Community Services (Midaynta) is a registered Canadian charitable organization that provides settlement, housing and youth services. The organization provides meetings, counselling, workshops, mentorship and other support services for refugees, immigrants and youth.

Since establishing the organization, we have grown to provide multi-services through grassroots cultural relevant approaches that prioritize community engagement and youth empowerment. Through "Project Turn Around", a holistic, culturally appropriate and responsive community-based gang prevention and intervention program, Midaynta does outreach, mentorship and helps at-risk youth exit gangs through intervention and prevention. The Rites of Passage Youth Mentorship Program matches black students aged between 12 to 16 with mentors and organizes workshops for the youth throughout the calendar year. Midaynta is also committed to tackling youth radicalization to violence, and uses education tools that emphasize education equity, inclusiveness and culture relevance to promote excellence among racialized youth and communities.

The organization was established in July 1993 as a family reunification project, and incorporated as a not for profit organization committed to identifying and responding to the needs of the community in August 1995.

Midaynta abides by a policy of non-discrimination and equity, and our services are open to everyone for free of charge. At Midaynta we pride ourselves with a team of passionate and knowledgeable professionals who are dedicate to their work, delivering excellent and quality services to the community. Our diversified services are specifically tailored to empower the youth, and help newcomers from their initial start-up process upon arrival until their full adaptation in the society.

Mission Statement

Provide high quality community social services

Advocate for largely underserved communities in Toronto, especially the youth

Address and raise awareness of issues affecting at-risk youth using evidence-informed

Serve clients regardless of race, national origin, ethnicity, Culture, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability or religion.

Provide free settlement and community development services

Unite the community and create a social cohesive environment under the roof of a `Community center

Project Turn-Around



Project Turn-Around is a holistic, culturally appropriate and community-based gang prevention and intervention service delivery program for youth (aged 12-20) and their families in the Northwest of Toronto.

The program provides gang prevention and intervention support to at-risk youth, gang involved and high-risk youth – most of whom are on probation or in conflict with the law.

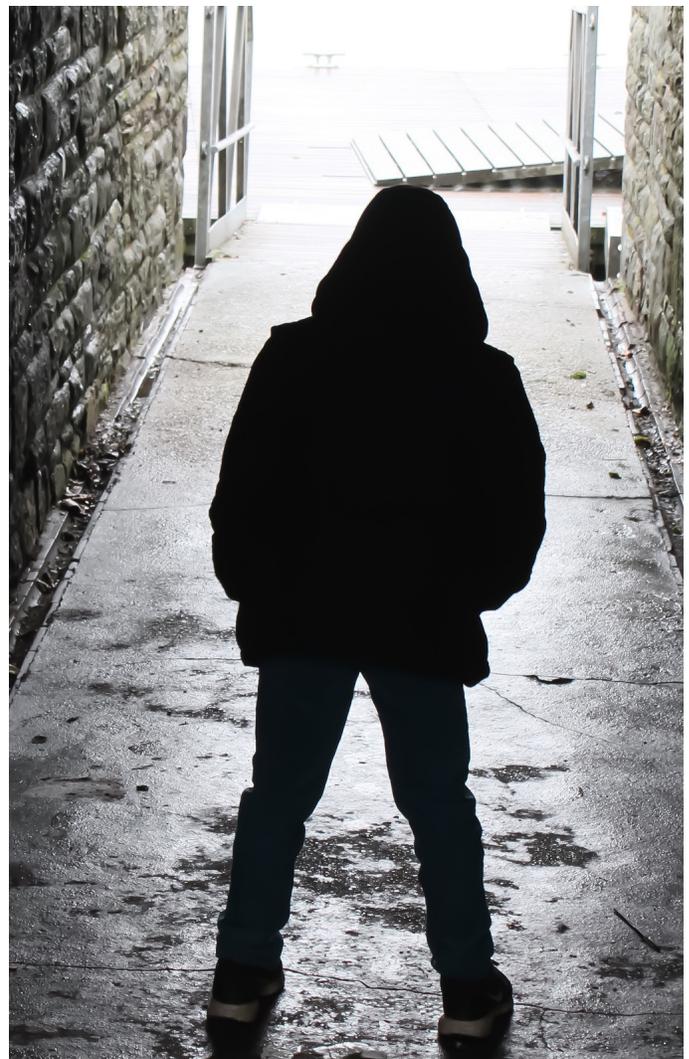
The program provides young people with supports to develop a positive goal-oriented lifestyle and to help them exit gangs and navigate the criminal justice system. This program is supported by a Family Support Counsellor, and case workers. The Family Support Counsellor supports Project Turn Around, EYOW (s), Case Workers and other staff, as well as the families of gang involved youth, or youth at risk of gang involvement.

The Family Support Counsellor provides family interventions including counselling, psycho-education, crisis planning and system navigation. The counsellor often meets clients in the community, at hospitals, court, schools and even online utilizing the Ontario Telemedicine Network technology.

The program offers a wide range of services to both youth and their families. Youth services include one-on-one case management; individual and group counselling; anger management; gang prevention and intervention awareness education; drug and alcohol harm reduction strategies as well as opportunities to gain job readiness skills, education attainment and to further develop life skills to support short term and long-term goals. Parent/Guardian services include family and individual counselling, parenting skills, community resources and interpretation services.

In addition to these services, Project-Turn-Around also provides a series of workshops designed to meet the participants interest and needs, hosted at local local schools, community centers, and at a detention center. Some of the topics that were covered included Mental Health and Self-Care, Career Exploration,

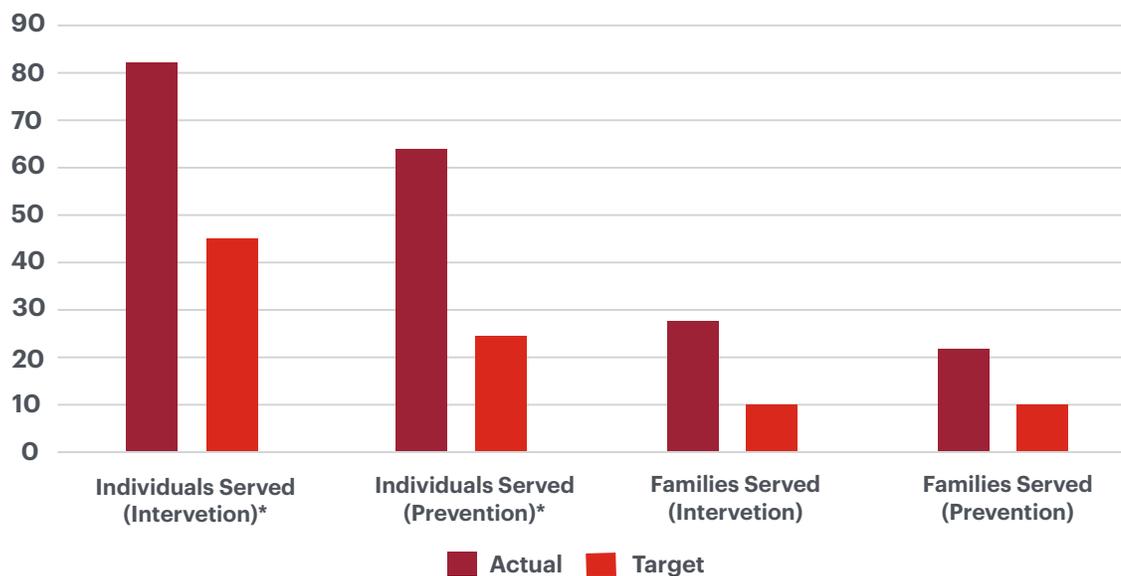
Anger Management and a six series workshop about Leadership in the Afro Caribbean Community. Project-Turn-Around receives referrals from various sources such as probation offices, detention facilities, youth outreach workers, courts, Children’s Aid Society, family referrals as well as self-referrals. The program has developed strong relationships with community partners, resulting in a number of referrals to external services and agencies to better support our clientele.



Partner Agencies

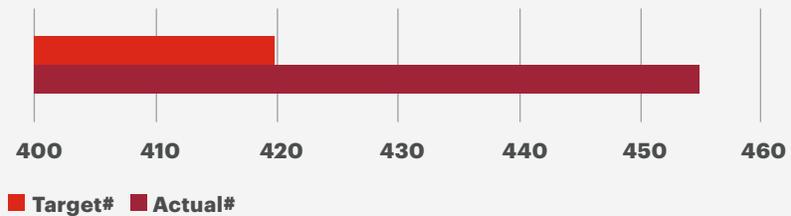
| Referred From | Referred To: | Referred From | Referred To: |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Albion Neiborhood Services | Anishawabe Center | Femie House | Roy McMurtry Youth Center |
| Children Aid Society | Fit4Less | Finch Court Probation | Service Ontario |
| Covenant House | Gerstein Crisis Center | Kipling Probation | St. Stephen's Community House |
| Cuthbert House | Griffin center | Ontario Courts | Success Beyond Limits |
| Developmental Service Ontario | Hammer heads | Toronto Community Housing | |
| Downtown Central Probation | Ontario Telemedicine Network | Toronto Police Service | |
| Dundas West Probation | Rexdale Legal Clinic | | |

Clients Served 2018-2019 fiscal Year



Community Attendance

Number Of attendees for workshop and outreach events



Community Engagement

Number of workshops



Reintegration Program

This past year, Midaynta Community Services launched a new service program to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of young persons in conflict with the law. The goal of this program was to provide services that address specific assessed needs of young person and/or conditions of a sentence. The target population is youth aged 12 -17 at the time of offence, who have been found guilty and are currently on probation, conditional supervision or community supervision or young persons on detention status as part of a community release plan. Upon referral from a probation officer, youth in this program are provided with culturally sensitive, individualized, community-based services that are based on cognitive behavioral principles, and best evidence-based practices.

The services are responsive to the strengths and needs of the family and youth, and are aligned with the Youth Justice Service Division’s 4 outcomes for youth: improved functioning and positive social behaviour; increased skills and abilities; increased youth engagement with supports; and decreased re-offending. The implementation of this program accounts for the significantly higher numbers of clients served in this fiscal year, compared to estimated target numbers.

Youth Outreach Worker Program (YOW)

The Youth Outreach Worker Program has had yet another successful year. Over the course of the year, YOW's worked with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Toronto Police Services (TPS), Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), and courts and detention facilities to support and engage Somali and black students/youth and their families.

The YOWs advocate and raise awareness of the challenge's youth are experiencing. YOWs also respond quickly and effectively to community crises and engage key stakeholders, including the youth, their parents and the community at large to make a difference. Our YOWs continue to participate in several community roundtables and committees, and serve as the voice of the black youth, with and for whom they work.

The Youth Outreach Worker Program work to support the youth and their families by providing them with access to different programs and services that they require. These services include pre-employment and employment, summer job readiness, after school programs, mental health, community crisis response, recreation programs, among others. Within the working relationship with the TDSB, the YOWs facilitated workshops at Alternative schools, and hosted the Rising Star Awards to support, acknowledge, recognize and celebrate youth's academic and athletic accomplishments, community contributions and important roles as student leaders in enriching their own lives and communities. Recognitions were made to exemplary students who have improved their educational standing, rising above obstacles and reaching new heights.

Within Midaynta, internal connections were made between the YOWs and the Youth Mentorship Program. YOWs provided support in the supervising and running of the summer camp, 2019 Future Leaders Summer Camp. YOWs also took the initiative to organize the 2019 Somali Heritage Games, an intensive summer sports program developed to celebrate Somali-Canadian heritage, empower Somali youth through educational workshops, and promote civic engagement within the Somali Community. The program combined sports and education whilst providing a platform where pressing community issues can be discussed. This also provided an opportunity for YOWs to further engage the youth in their community and for connections and support. The summer heritage games were an enormous success, to which more opportunities were made to engage youth in addressing and discussing the different challenges they faced, especially being racialized and/or of Somali descent. The initiative was also used to engage parents and other community members on ideas of how to address different issues in a solution-based approach.

In addition, the YOWs continue to work with courts and detention facilities; engaging with referred young people to get their community service order requirements by connecting them to volunteering educational and employment opportunities and supporting them in the successful transition from detention to community release. This relates directly to their work in raising awareness of the many crises facing black youth, in culturally sensitive ways. They serve to deeply engage Somali youth, parents and communities; one event can include their support in organizing the flag raising ceremony at Queen's Park. This is an annual event where the Somali flag is being raised to celebrate the rich Somali heritage in the city and contributions of Somali-Canadians to Canada.

In addition, the YOWs continue to work with courts and detention facilities; engaging with referred young people to get their community service order requirements by connecting them to volunteering educational and employment opportunities and supporting them in the successful transition from detention to community release. This relates directly to their work in raising awareness of the many crises facing black youth, in culturally sensitive ways. They serve to deeply engage Somali youth, parents and communities; one event can include their support in organizing the flag raising ceremony at Queen's Park. This is an annual event where the Somali flag is being raised to celebrate the rich Somali heritage in the city and contributions of Somali-Canadians to Canada.

Lastly, our YOWs sit on various community planning tables, including the Ward 1&2 Safety Committee, the Ward 11&12 Safety Committee, and the African Canadian Coalition of Community Organization (ACCCO) and TDSB Roundtable. Midaynta's Youth Outreach Worker Program is serving the needs of young people, working with them to build their resiliency, access opportunities in education and employment and overcome challenges and barriers through access to services and programs. For instance, YOWs plan and organize the Annual Youth Resilience Conference to build youth resilience and prevent radicalization to violence. 2018-2019 has been a year of YOWs continuing to make

Enhanced Youth Outreach Worker Program (EYOW)



Midaynta Enhanced Youth Outreach Worker (EYOW) is a clinical program that supports East African, Muslim and Black youth who are at a disadvantage.

The program provides intensive one-on-one support to the youth ages 12 to 25. The EYOW offers many services such as providing short-term counselling and support services in accordance with the Stages of Change intervention model. The EYOWs collaborate with youth outreach workers to identify Black youth who may require additional, more intensive services. We also refer youths to appropriate services in the community and supporting them to access these services as well as support parents and family members to help youth address their needs.

This past fiscal year, the city of Toronto has experienced an increase in gun violence in various communities. In response, the EYOW program's uniqueness and ability to adapt to the needs of the community helped provide crisis response services in the North West region of Toronto. As mental health first responders, The EYOW was able to provide immediate trauma-informed emotional support to families and neighbors affected by the exposure to violence in the community.

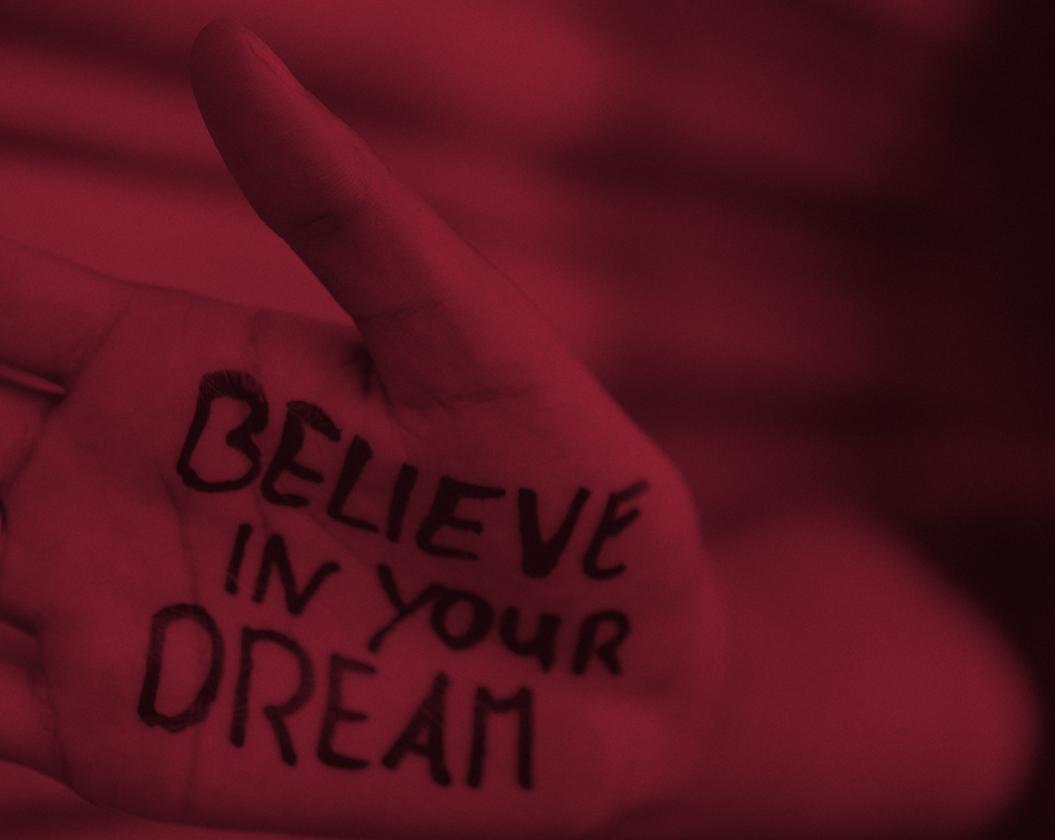
In addition, the EYOW program served as a support system to the Mending the Crack in the Sky initiative, a healing initiative that was developed by Somali mothers to address youth violence in the greater Toronto area. This community-led action plan aims to address the alarming rates of primarily male youth violence among

Somali Canadians, which has exacerbated community trauma and fragmentation. EYOWs work closely with this collective of mothers who facilitate this program, by providing socio-emotional support to participants during their weekly meetings on Saturday mornings.

Additional community engagement endeavors from this past year include the facilitation of mental health workshops at alternative schools in the greater Toronto area, and participation in the City of Toronto's various FOCUS tables. FOCUS tables are an innovative, collaborative, risk-driven service delivery system to improve community safety and wellbeing through weekly partnership meetings with service providers across the greater Toronto region. Our EYOW works with multiple service providers to support and lead service plans for FOCUS table clients who face acutely elevated risk factors.

Finally, Midaynta's EYOW program continues to utilize a variety of resources to support service delivery such as the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN). The OTN is a private and secure digital network that supports the delivery of virtual care offering a variety of ways to communicate with and care for patients, and for health care providers to connect with peers and specialists.

Rites Of Passage Youth Mentorship Program

A close-up photograph of a hand with the words "BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAM" written in black marker on the palm. The hand is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the frame. The background is a blurred, dark red color with a faint, repeating pattern of the same hand and text, creating a sense of depth and repetition.

BELIEVE
IN YOUR
DREAM

The Rites of Passage Youth Mentorship Program maintains its concentration on building positive representation and mentorship opportunities for black youth across Northwest Toronto.

Through the program's success in building community partnerships and collaborating with existing stakeholders, connections are made between young black professionals with shared life experiences and the youth. The connections allow for the development of close and supportive mentoring relationships, which promotes positive outcomes in black youth. Although, there were difficulties in engaging black men as formal mentors, or male mentors in general, the youth were still provided with informal mentorship. Unfortunately, black boys have less access to formal mentors, in comparison to black girls, but through the Rites of Passage Youth Mentorship Program, amazing connections were made through the facilitation of workshops and group mentoring.

In addition to the mentoring relationships, the Rites of Passage programming takes place on a weekly basis in which they cover and provide workshops on different subjects, such as, social justice, cultural history, social belief, freedoms, spirituality, positive self-identity, conflict resolution (with other youth or authority figures), anti-bullying, career and educational goals/opportunities, sexual health and more.

The Rites of Passage Mentorship Program has constant collaboration with the TDSB and Al-Ikhlaas Foundation School, including school-based guidance counsellors and social workers, to allow for improvement and connections between youth in need of mentorship and the program.

With the help of school administration referrals and personal interest from youth, from previous registration in summer camps and March break camps, the need and want for mentorship programs exceeds the program service measures

For the 2018-2019 year, there was an increase in numbers leading to 90 served youth in the program, exceeding the annual target of 70 mentees, and 25 mentors. Due to the large number of youths, the number of mentees outnumbered the mentors, creating a high demand and wait time for matching, but overall, the program was a success. The vast majority of the program attendees were of African descent; however, youth of various racial and ethnic backgrounds were eager to join the mentorship groups during the lunch hour workshops at Dixon Grove Junior Middle School and Martingrove Collegiate Institute.

The youth who completed the program identifies the workshops and mentorship matches as a positive experience. Some key highlights from the 2018-2019 year include: mentees presenting at their schools Black History Month Assembly, youth attending sporting events that are not usually available to them and the linking of cultural identity to mentorship group workshops. The opportunities and experiences truly resonated with youth and parents, as youth from marginalized backgrounds had the chance to build a stronger sense of cultural and racial identity that, in turn, lead to positive effects in all aspects of their lives (e.g., academic outcomes, personal relationship...etc).

Future Leaders Summer Camp



The Future Leaders Summer Camp provides students with a safe space in which children of various black ethnic backgrounds developed their literacy, leadership, character skills, and strengthened their cultural awareness.

Camp attendees access recreational opportunities (i.e., Rides, basketball, soccer, dodge-ball, baseball, soccer-baseball, swimming etc.), go on excursions to key sites in Toronto, complete traditional arts and crafts (i.e., water-painting) and are provided with lunch and refreshments. The youth campers are also engaged with their community members, making new friends and engaging with old ones. Parent(s)/ guardian(s) are also engaged to build awareness of community safety and improve their knowledge of how to be better involved in their child's education. For instance, they were informed of programs and services provided by community service providers to serve their child's educational, extracurricular and recreational needs. Through the camp TDSB Focus on Youth Student Counselors also get access to professional development and community engagement opportunities. The Camp strives to provide children, youth and their families with opportunities that enhance student and community learning, engagement and well-being.

Mission

- Literacy development
- Leadership and character education development
- Somali language and cultural awareness
- Art instruction
- Recreation and sports
- Community engagement and awareness

2019 Future Leaders Summer Camp ran from Tuesday July 02 to Friday August 09, 2019 at Martingrove Collegiate Institute. A total of 40 campers, 20 boys and 20 girls, with an age range from 8 to 14 years of age registered for the program.

The program also provided work placement opportunities for TDSB Focus on Youth Summer Counselor, and Service Ontario Student Placements. Key activities included gym activities,

dodge ball, basketball, puzzles and card games, outdoor field activities, movies, trips to queens park (Ontario Legislature), High Park, Ontario Science Centre, and Skyzone.



Housing and Homelessness Program



Midaynta' Housing program is designed with the premise of meeting the needs of our clients, through the provision of safe, affordable and sufficient housing.

Our housing manager and her team works with low-income individuals and families who face many obstacles in finding and maintaining appropriate and affordable housing. Midaynta Community Services is continuing to strive towards strengthening the delivery of efficient and effective services that will meet the varied and unique needs of our clients.

Through the work of this program, we take a holistic approach and look at a number of contributing factors when looking into housing needs, such as family size, financial status and variable health challenges, etc... all of which tend to have a detrimental impact on our client's housing status. While we are actively willing to serve anyone and everyone who needs the service, the main emphasis of the program is to provide culturally-appropriate support to prevent homelessness in the Somali Community. These services also include housing access and maintaining affordable housing, information, referral, eviction prevention, housing stabilization and counselling, mentoring programs and peer-support initiatives. In order to provide high quality support to clients, we work in collaboration with a number of other service providers, including Toronto Community Housing Corporation, who provides social housing, as well as Access to Housing/Housing Connections, who oversee the central wait list process while also providing educational workshops for housing help centres like Midyanta.

Housing project outreach efforts have increased this year with the establishment of the better working relationships with a variety of Community Legal Clinics, which provide conflict resolution and eviction prevention support for tenants that are faced with housing challenges.

Midaynta is also an active member of Landlord Connect, who provide our clients' vacancy listing for affordable private market units.

The housing program has also conducted a variety of educational workshops, which help to ensure that our clients are well informed about their rights and responsibilities as tenants. By the same token, we will establish more beneficial partnerships and collaborate with other service providers in an effort to better support our clients.

The housing program has also conducted a variety of educational workshops, which help to ensure that our clients are well informed about their rights and responsibilities as tenants. By the same token, we will establish more beneficial partnerships and collaborate with other service providers in an effort to better support our clients.

Close to 661 individuals receive housing support from the our housing program 80 eviction prevention, Accessing to housing 160, 200 Stabilization, New clients 221.



Mending a Crack in The Sky (MCIS)

“If people come together , they can even mend a crack in the sky .”

In partnership with Midaynta Community Services, a three-phase community healing initiative was developed to address youth violence in the greater Toronto area titled Mending A Crack in The Sky.

Mending A Crack in The Sky (MCIS) is dynamic program that consists of a dedicated group of mothers who are passionate about creating safe spaces to heal, engage in transformative community change and activism. A Somali proverb states that “if people come together, they can even mend a crack in the sky.” This sentiment has been the basis of a community led action plan to address the alarming rates of primarily male youth violence among Somali Canadians, that has exacerbated community trauma and fragmentation. The core group is made up of Somali mothers, who have lost their loved ones due to violence in the community. The group also consists of additional community members and leaders who support the mothers in reaching their goals.

Healing Initiative

Mending A Crack in The Sky (MCIS) has organized an unprecedented program to provide immediate support to youth and families impacted by gun violence. In the past year, the Somali Mothers who make up MCIS, have been calling community members to action by organizing community forums across the priority neighborhoods in the West-End of Toronto.

The mothers have successfully hosted healing forums in Lawrence Heights Community, Falstaff, Driftwood (Jane & Finch) and have upcoming forums scheduled in Rexdale, The East Mall and West Mall as well as Regent Park. They have reached over 200 mothers to date. At every meeti--ing, a neighborhood leadership team is nominated to hold community members accountable to continue connecting and

Documentary Film

The MCIS group have also been working very hard on an extraordinary documentary film. The aim of the documentary film is to capture the raw stories of Somali mothers who have lost their youth due to community violence. It also serves as a mechanism to create awareness of this issue within the Somali community and to call community members to action. Furthermore, the video also explores the perceptions of other Somali community members and leaders. The documentary also captures an array of challenges, barriers as well as recommendations and strategies to mitigate these issues.

Activism Through Policy

A. Capstone project

The Mending A Crack in the Sky – Somali Mothers Group were also instrumental consultants for the Master of Global Affairs (MGA) students at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy -University of Toronto Capstone Project - Understanding Canadian-Somali Remittance Flows: Money Services Businesses and the Trend of De-risking (April 2019).

“This research provides recommendations for stakeholders to address the complex problem of money-transfers particular to Somali-Canadian MSBs. The research undertakes a multi-faceted analysis of the roots of Somali de-risking and includes considerations of its implications for the Somali-Canadian diaspora, and for development in Somalia.”

b. Memorandum of understanding

On July 31st, 2019, Mending A Crack in The Sky, presented at the Toronto Police Board Services’ public deputation to present a list of sustainable and concrete recommendations that can be used to combat youth violence and increase a sense of community safety and belonging. The mothers highlighted three key areas that they wanted to partner on with the Board and TPS: Transparency, Building Trust and Community Safety. The Transformational Task Force Report, Action Plan: The Way Forward, was used as an important tool to help the mothers identify collaborative meth-

On July 31st, 2019, Mending A Crack in The Sky, presented at the Toronto Police Board Services’ public deputation to present a list of sustainable and concrete recommendations that can be used to combat youth violence and increase a sense of community safety and belonging. The mothers highlighted three key areas that they wanted to partner on with the Board and TPS: Transparency, Building Trust and Community Safety. The Transformational Task Force Report, Action Plan: The Way Forward, was used as an important tool to help the mothers identify collaborative methods and

strategies to work more efficiently with the Toronto Police Services. At the conclusion of the presentation, the board approved the following motion.

“THAT the Board receive the presentation and direct staff and appropriate members of the ARAP and MHAAP to work with Somali Mothers Movement (Midaynta Community Services) to pursue opportunities for partnership with a view to establish an MOU (memorandum of Understanding and Bring it for Approval at the September Board Meeting.”

Both the Toronto Police Board Services and Midaynta Community Services agree as follows:

- Core Element One: Increasing transparency and understanding through service’s implementation of the Score Card Initiative;
- Core Element Two: Building Trust through Integrated Collaboration with divisions and Neighbourhood Community Officers (NCOs);
- Core Element Three: Enhancing community safety through implementation of the Mother Outreach (MOW) program.

Transformative Community Change : Mother Outreach worker

Mother Outreach Workers (MOWs) provide culturally sensitive interventions by:

- Implementing a unique Crisis + Peer Support Model as first responders to incidents of trauma/violence.
- Providing a healing and recovery network for victims and families of trauma.
- Acting as trusted and respected community partners in resource referral.
- Brokering and partnering in the implementation of policy interventions e.g. establishing an MoU with the Toronto Police Services Board.
- Acting as education and awareness liaisons.

On behalf of the community we serve, Midaynta Community Services would like to express our gracious gratitude to all our funders, partners, supporters, individual donors, community members, staff, volunteers, and placement students. Together we are 'One people, One voice, One community'.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Abdirahman Dhore - Chair
Abdi Yousuf - Vice Chair
Ayan Omar - Treasurer
Huda Ibrahim - Secretary
Safia H. Gassem - Director
Timiro Agenah - Director
Joel Mukwedeya - Director
Hanan Al - Director
Arlene Wellace - Director

OUR STAFF

Mahad Yusuf - Executive Director
Abdulwasey Siddique - Human Resource Manager
Amina Noor - Program Manager / Case Worker
Fowzia Duale Virtue - Youth Outreach Worker
Ahmed Mohdhar - Youth Outreach Worker
Fatma Adam - Enhanced Youth outreach Worker
Abdiaziz Dayr - Project Turn Around Caseworker
Dominique Stevenson - Project Turn Around Bilingual Caseworker
Jean-Luc Ramphal - Project Turn Around Caseworker
Muna Ali - Youth Mentorship Coordinator
Ubah Farah - Housing Manager
Farhia Abdi - Intake Worker YMP
Saido Sheikhnur - Administrative Assistant
Sixberth Himbaza - Youth Outreach Worker
Nora Elmi - Family Support Worker.

PARTNERS

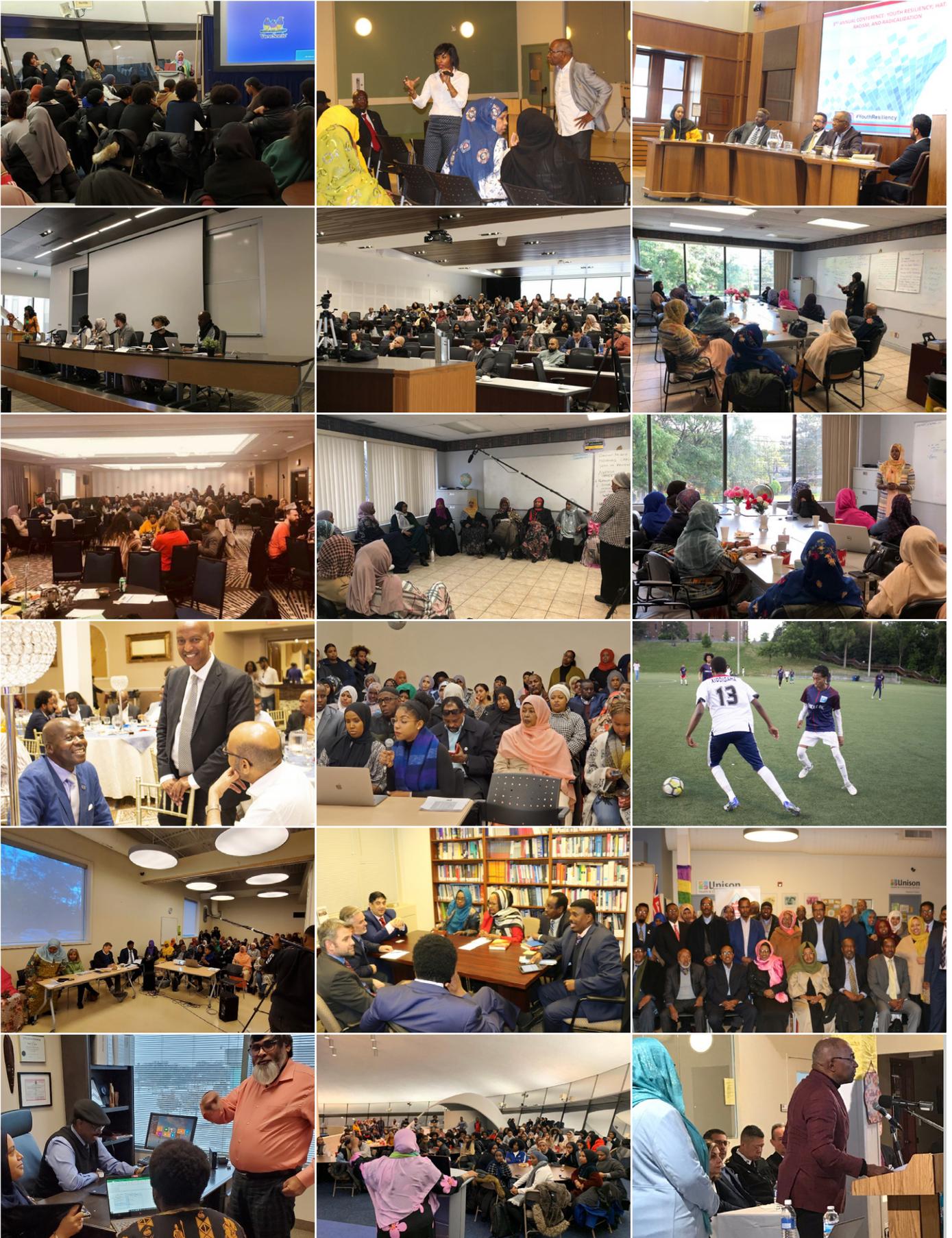
- **Diversity Institute**
- **Ryerson University**
- **The Canadian Council of Muslim Women**
- **The Canadian Council of Imams**
- **East Metro Community Services**
- **Color of Poverty-Color of Change**
- **African Canadian Community Organizations (ACCO)**
- **African Canadian Social Development Council of Ontario (ACSDC)**
- **Black Action Defense Committee (BADC)**
- **Caribbean African Canadian Social Services(CAFCAN)**
- **Northwood Neighbourhood Services**
- **Somali Immigrant Aid Organization (SIAO)**
- **KIDS UPFRONT TORONTO**
- **MOSAIC Institute**
- **University of Toronto (Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, Munk School of Global of Affairs)**
- **U.S Consulate**

SUMMER STUDENTS

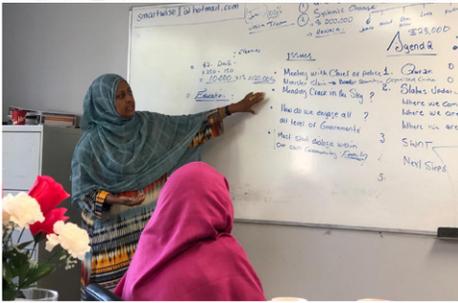
Selma H Isse
Jehann Mohamoud
Amran A Hassan
Sudi Salah
Mustafa Ali
Hassan Awad
Ayan Jimale
Yusuf Ahmed
Said Mohmud
Yasir Gire
Bilan A Abdullahi
Mohammed A. Siddiqui

Funders











Midaynta Community Services

Head Office: 2150 Islington Ave. Suite 207, Etobicoke, ON M9P 3V4 T: 416 544.1992 F: 416-440-3379

Satellite Office: 1652 Keele St Suite 104, Toronto, ON M6M 3W3 416 544.1992, EXT 5 F: 416 -645-7570

Satellite Office: 1514 Jane St. North York, ON M9N, 2R3

Contact Information

Main Telephone: 416-544-1992 Fax: 416-440-3379

Jane St Hub Telephone: 416-645-7575 ,ext 5 Fax: 416-645-7570

Email: info@midaynta.com www.midaynta.com



@midayntayouth



@MidayntaCommunityServices



midayntayouth