

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024



Prepared by:  
MSIP - The Peaceful Village Inc.



# Message from MSIP-TPV Inc. Board Chair

Annual General Meeting  
December 2, 2024

What a year!

I know Daniel will do a fantastic job of highlighting our many successes in 2024, so my message is one of thanks and gratitude.

We continue to have amazing financial support from the Province of Manitoba, The United Way, IRCC, and many more donors. I would like to thank each and every one of those wonderful organizations and individuals for their continued, and hopefully doubled financial support in the years to come.

I would also like to thank the volunteers and staff for their continued excellence and dedication to the success of our students.

Even more thanks goes out to the parents for encouraging their kids to attend, and take full advantage of all the programs and opportunities we offer.

I would like to thank the students for their hard work, voracious appetites, and all their wonderful success stories.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their unique perspectives and guidance.

I am both honoured and humbled to have been asked to stay on as Board Chair for another year. This organization, this village is such a blessing to so many communities in Winnipeg. The combination of passionate volunteers and staff, the very generous funders, the trust and support of the parents, and, of course, the dedication of the students make The Peaceful Village a resounding success year after year.

Thank you!

**ROBERT VLAHOS**  
CHAIR



At MSIP, we don't embrace a sanitized version of social justice. Rather, we appreciate the challenge, discomfort, and messiness of how people achieve their potential. Our work is to encourage schools and communities to act out for renewal in diverse ways that suit their contexts. We recognize that working for social justice in education requires both courage and vulnerability to re imagine, reconsider, and recreate powerful learning opportunities and relationships with students.

Manitoba School Improvement Program – The Peaceful Village Inc. is a not-for-profit, non-government, independent organization that is dedicated to the advancement of education to marginalized youth, particularly immigrants and refugees in Manitoba and to assisting such youth in achieving their potential.



#### Youth-led:

Aspire and design for establishing youth ownership by engaging and responding to the voices of youth and families.

#### Collaborative:

Individuals, funders, organizations, schools, and advocacy groups collaborate and meet to ensure the success of youth education.

#### Flexibility:

Flexibility in our program to suit the voices and needs of youth and families.

#### Community-Based:

Our focus, mandate and staffing are Community-Based, community-focused, and community-empowered

# Our Goals

- Provide educational assistance (academic assessment and tutoring) to youth to strengthen their English language, literacy, numeracy and other academic skills.
- Facilitate access to higher education through the provision of scholarships.
- Promote positive social connections by providing a safe place for youth to learn together and assist them in transitioning to Canadian society.
- Assisting the families of youth in developing a sense of belonging in Canadian society by providing English language instruction to parents and hosting community events (such as Village Kitchens).
- Facilitate positive mental health among youth by providing opportunities for them to explore their talents (through passion projects).
- Facilitate community movement toward universal safety via embracing cultural diversity by educating the community about The Peaceful Village program and its value to the community.

The Peaceful Village Program is centred on a human rights and social justice framework, where we believe that:

- the aims of public-school education are to build more peaceful, democratic, healthy and joyful communities.
- youth, particularly newcomer youth and their families face many barriers when they enter the public school system in Canada.
- participants (students, families, educators, program staff, and other community organizations) must work together to help public schools actualize the aims of public education in Manitoba.

# Program Model

We aspire to improve educational outcomes, expand possibilities, and support our youth in the Peaceful Village along with their individual paths to achieve their full potential and success. Our focus is to reduce the negative impact of external factors that affect the educational success of our youth in our community.

# Executive Director Report

As we reflect on another successful year in the Peaceful Village, I am filled with immense gratitude for the opportunity to serve our community in this vital role. The dedication and hard work of our team leaders, board members, and community development tutors, along with the unwavering support of our funders and supporters, not to mention our families, have truly made a profound impact on the lives of the youths we serve. Join me as we journey through the achievements, challenges, and aspirations that have shaped our program over the past year, and look ahead to the bright future that lies before us.

The Peaceful Village has not only provided a safe and supportive environment for our youth but has also been instrumental in their academic and personal growth. Through heartwarming success stories and glowing testimonials, we have seen firsthand the transformative power of our program.

Our program outcomes provide compelling evidence. The quantitative data, which includes 751 students enrolled in our seven sites, 290 scholarship recipients, 79 high school graduates with 95% graduation rates, and \$ 119,150.00 worth of scholarships toward post-secondary education or training, demonstrates the tangible impact our program has had on the lives of our youth and families, ranging from improved academic performance to increase social skills development.

Our program thrives on the power of community partnerships, which play a crucial role in enhancing our impact and reach. By working hand in hand with local organizations and schools, school divisions, and stakeholders, we can truly make a difference in the lives of the youth and families we serve.

As we look to the future, our goal is to continue growing and expanding our programs to reach even more youth in need. With strategic growth strategies in place, we aim to make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve. We are committed to enhancing our services to meet the evolving needs of our students. By continuously adapting and improving, we can ensure that our program remains relevant and impactful in a rapidly changing world.

We couldn't do what we do without the dedication and hard work of our incredible board, staff, and volunteers. Their passion and commitment are truly the driving force behind our program's success, and we are endlessly grateful for all that they do.

We also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our funders and supporters who believe in our mission and continue to stand by us. Your generosity and unwavering support make it possible for us to make a difference in the lives of the youth and families we serve.

Thank you very much.

**DANIEL SWAKA**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## 2023/2024 Graduates and Scholarship Recipients Overview

In June 2024, 288 Peaceful Village participants earned scholarships to support their post-secondary education and training, which can be claimed upon their high school graduation.

The 2023/2024 academic year was a successful one for the Peaceful Village Program, with 79 youth participants graduating from high school. The breakdown of graduates from each site is shown below:

### 2023/2024 Graduates

Community Site	15
Glenlawn Collegiate	12
Gordon Bell High School	24
Fort Richmond Collegiate	23
St. James Collegiate	5

With a total of 290 scholarships distributed to youth across the sites, the total amount of scholarship distributed was \$119,150.00

### 2023/2024 Scholarship Amount Distributed

Acadia Junior High	32 Students	\$ 7,950.00
Community Site	30 Students	\$ 15,200.00
Glenlawn Collegiate	56 Students	\$ 24,350.00
Gordon Bell High School	52 Students	\$ 25,150.00
Fort Richmond Collegiate	38 Students	\$ 22,600.00
Hugh John MacDonald School	44 Students	\$ 10,950.00
St. James Collegiate/George Waters Middle School	38 Students	\$ 12,950.00



# YMCA YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

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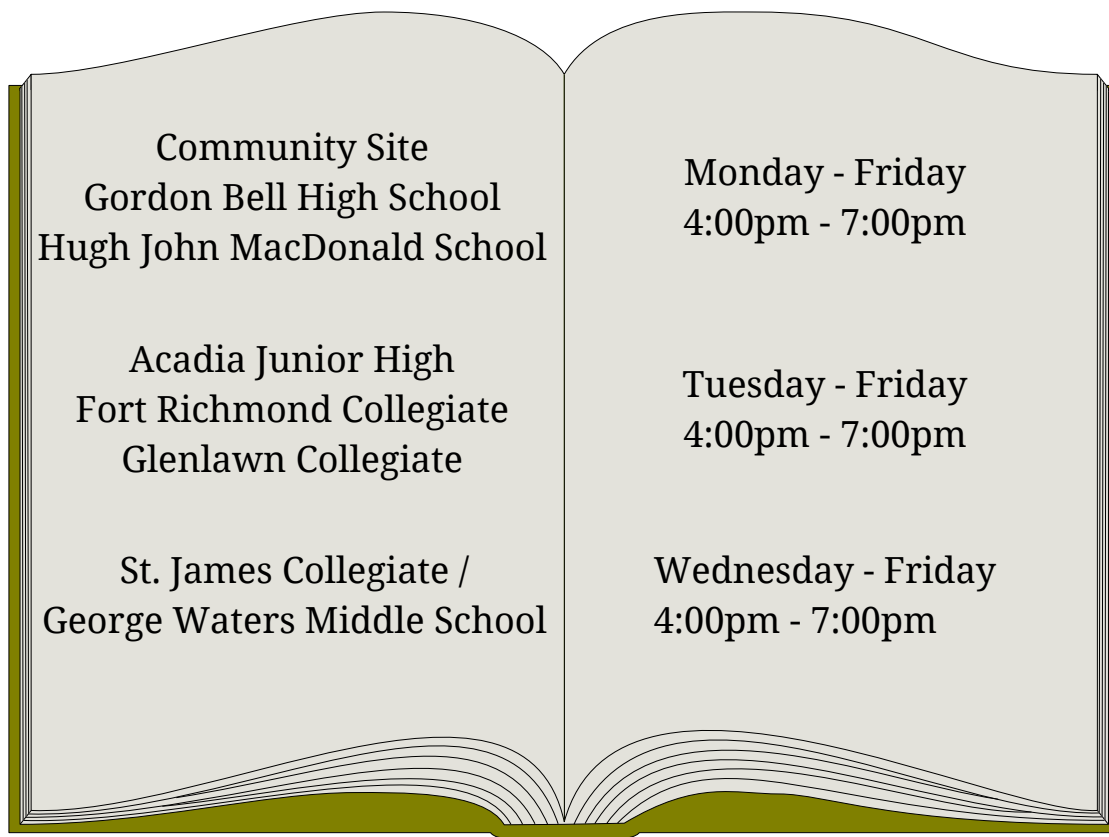


This year, we hosted and participated in two exchange programs during April, May, and June. Our twin partners were Personalized Learning Centre and Abraar Secondary School. Our youth and staff took part in a week-long exchange, hosted in Winnipeg and visiting Ottawa, Ontario, through the YMCA Exchange Program.

# Our Learning Centre

Learning Centers continue to create an instant friendship network for our students. Our learning centers are all open to in-person programs. Our learning centers offer academic and social support (including tutoring, language, nutritious snacks/meals, and bus tickets). All our learning centers are staffed with culturally diverse staff and volunteer staff.

Below are the opening hours of our learning centre:



Community Site Gordon Bell High School Hugh John MacDonald School	Monday - Friday 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Acadia Junior High Fort Richmond Collegiate Glenlawn Collegiate	Tuesday - Friday 4:00pm - 7:00pm
St. James Collegiate / George Waters Middle School	Wednesday - Friday 4:00pm - 7:00pm

In addition, the Community Site is open to students and parents from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon on Saturdays, during school breaks and summertime.



# Passion Project

Passion Projects take place both virtually and in-person during Learning Centre time, offering each student the chance to enhance their learning experiences and reinforce core concepts. These projects provide a platform for youth to express themselves through various artistic forms that transcend language barriers, fostering engagement and creativity. Activities include music, arts, dance, drumming, drama, cooking, sports, and more.



# COMMUNITY CELEBRATION & RECOGNITION OF LEARNING



Our annual Community Celebration and Recognition of Learning event is a time to honor the hard work and achievements of our youth. It brings together students, families, and community members to celebrate their accomplishments. During the event, we award scholarships and bid farewell to our graduating students. Last year, the event was a great success, with over 400 people in attendance.

# Community Kitchen

This community kitchen allows us to prepare hot meals for more than 800 youth across our seven Peaceful Village sites.

This kitchen also offers students a space to carry out passion projects like baking which is a great way to foster creativity, skill development, and a sense of community.



# Food Drive

The Peaceful Village continues to run its annual food drive to ensure that underserved youth and families have enough to eat during the holiday season.

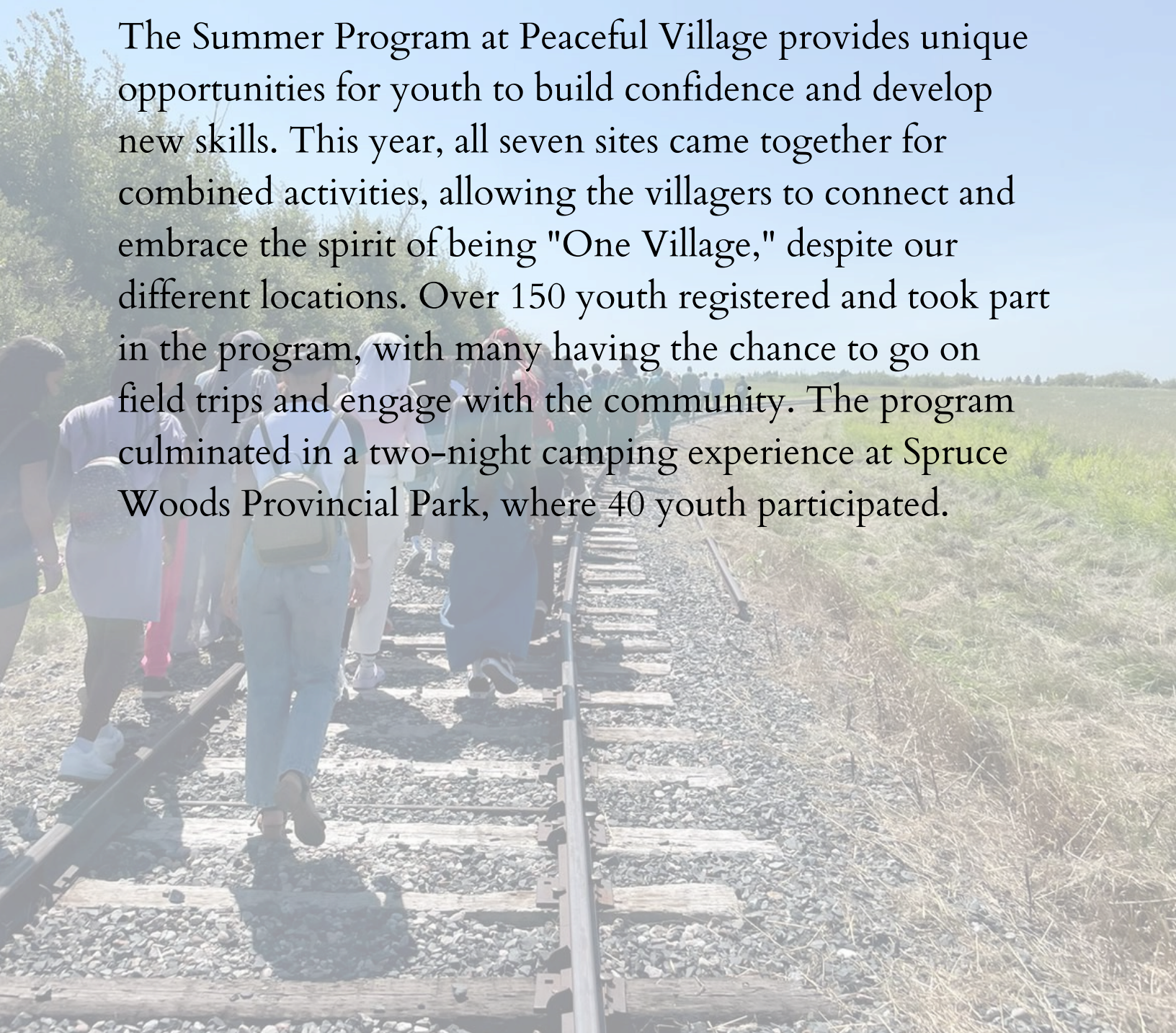
Each year, we receive donations of non-perishable food from the community, which we then package into food hampers and deliver to our youth and families before the holidays begin.

Our December 2023 food drive was a great success, allowing us to pack over 500 food hampers. We are incredibly grateful to all our generous donors and supporters for making this possible.



# Summer Program

The Summer Program at Peaceful Village provides unique opportunities for youth to build confidence and develop new skills. This year, all seven sites came together for combined activities, allowing the villagers to connect and embrace the spirit of being "One Village," despite our different locations. Over 150 youth registered and took part in the program, with many having the chance to go on field trips and engage with the community. The program culminated in a two-night camping experience at Spruce Woods Provincial Park, where 40 youth participated.



# What we have learned this year



Working with our funders and supporters is about both finances and building relationships.

Partnership and collaboration are a process that is never finished. Not something you do but something you live



A solid team is a solid foundation.

Leadership comes from the courage to step out on faith, showing others that they too can step out.



Focused time for tutoring, homework help, balanced with activities gives youth the opportunity to do both instead of having to choose.

A youth led organization empowers youth through youth participation in all areas of program.



Collaboration among parents, teachers, staff members and community is of utmost important to ensure success of our students.

All students have the ability to succeed given the right support and motivation.





# TESTIMONIES

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Peaceful Village is a wonderful organization dedicated to providing homework and assignment support to newcomer students. The program provides a hot meal every day to students and allows students to play sports in the school gym. The program takes us on field trips (even trips outside of the city for graduating students) and gives scholarships at the end of the year. Peaceful Village also has a summer program for students, which also has its own foods, activities, and gifts given to students. I love Peaceful Village because it encourages me to finish all my schoolwork without the distractions I'd face at home. I also love the program because it brings people of different backgrounds together and creates lifelong friendships.

~ Ruth Rossom

Peaceful Village is like a second home to me. It's a safe place because I feel more comfortable here. You can make new friends, especially if you're new at school, where I met most of my friends. PV also offers a lot of other things, not just homework. We get gym time where I can practice my volleyball, soccer, and basketball skills. They also serve snacks and hot meals and offer rides or bus tickets. They also provide scholarships, which is amazing.

~ Rahaf Ahmed

I enjoy the Peaceful Village program because I get to have personal time to study and focus on my education individually. I also get time to socialize with my friends and I get to mix up with new people as well which is important to me since I am an international student. The Peaceful Village has greatly helped me settle down and adjust to educational and life here. The staff are friendly and always willing to assist, and we get to do some fun activities together at the end of the week. Joining Peaceful Village is the best decision I have made so far.

~ Emmanuel

This is actually my first time being in the program. After being here for 3 months; I can say that I've been really enjoying my time volunteering here while hanging out with my friends. Peaceful Village is like a family to me and it helps me with my mental health. I might not know all the people here but I get to learn from everyone. It's an amazing experience and it's always so exciting to see what the next day will bring. Through all of the ups and downs of life, PV has made me feel safe and loved. I have learned so much from all of these amazing workers and other volunteers. I love how I have an opportunity to be a leader to younger people and get to learn the life skills needed to live a successful and fulfilling life.

~Shyrna

# OUR TEAM 2023/2024

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## MSIP Board of Directors

Chair	:	Robert Vlahos
Vice Chair	:	Thermala Tharmalingam
Member	:	Monika Vashisht Jennifer Taylor Stephanie Yamniuk Jacob Woodbeck Bunmi Alfolabi Tom Lurvey
Ex-Officio	:	Kevin Lamoureux

## Administration

Executive Director	:	Daniel Swaka
Community Liaison	:	Mahendra Adhikari
Executive Assistant	:	Thaw Re Moon
Program Assistant	:	Xianhui Ho

## TPV Team Leader

Community Site	:	Mahendra Adhikari
Gordon Bell High School	:	Adnan Kadhim
Glenlawn Collegiate	:	Michael Howell
Fort Richmond Collegiate & Acadia Junior High	:	Odik Opap
Hugh John MacDonald School	:	Ibrahim Mohamed
St. James Collegiate / George Waters Middle School	:	Leah Aidiu
Adult Program	:	Batista Kwajok

# FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

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**Your supports make our success possible!**

Province of Manitoba  
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada  
United Way of Winnipeg  
The Winnipeg Foundation  
Thomas Sill Foundation  
The Richardson Foundation  
All Saints Kinsmen Club  
Pembina Trails School Division  
Louis Riel School Division  
Winnipeg School Division  
St. James-Assiniboia School Division  
Gordon Bell High School  
Hugh John MacDonald School  
Glenlawn Collegiate  
Fort Richmond Collegiate  
Acadia Junior High  
George Waters Middle School  
St. James Collegiate  
Winnipeg Police Service  
Sexuality Education Resource Centre  
University of Winnipeg  
University of Manitoba  
Newcomer Education Coalition  
Manitoba Association of Newcomer Organization

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TUTOR

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Abdelaziz Mohamed  
Aimhanosi Shaibu  
Aisha Abdullahi  
Amanu Torben  
Anjolaoluwa Olawole  
Antoni Gebreyesus  
Batista Kwojok  
Eleham Fetu Bereda  
Esther Oluwadare  
Eveline Kabuha  
Flora Wani  
Genesis Lozada  
Goodness Oyediran  
Hermela Araya  
Jima Ali  
Jostin Asuncion  
Justin Tongun  
Kamau Kiano  
Karen Gonzaga  
Kumba Koroma  
Lwe Htoo

Marianne Shaibu  
Marta Gebru  
Micheal Ewashko  
Nissi Tusubira Precioius  
Olu Afolabi  
Oyinkansola Banjo  
Philip Loro  
Rachelle Kabuha  
Rayid Abdullah  
Salah Saoud  
Sara Tesfazghi  
Siddhanta Poudel  
Siham Seid  
Simithy Mansaray  
Souline Bouskly  
Sumaya Abdullahi  
Tanka Nath Sharma  
Tecleab Misgun Tewolde  
Thomas Boomer  
Tran Du Ngoc Nguyen  
Yang Qiu  
Yuriy Yamchuk

# VOLUNTEERS

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Abigail Warkentin	Katie Derksen
Alyia Lavalle	Katie Potter
Alyx Dilworth	Keelyn Heureux
Annika Legault	Kevin Cimino
Arlen Scheelar	Kiandra Rae Mendoza
Ava Tome	Kyra Schultz
Blake Sherk	Laird (Kensley) MacNair
Cameron Madden	Layla Versace
Carsen (Montana) Giesbrecht	Liam Sawatzky
Cassidy Jacobson	Liam Streeter
Charli Reimer	Mackenzie MacNeil
Courtney Feeleus	Madison Daley
Cruz Carricre	Madison Watkins
Dale Thoruawson	Marina Unger
Danny Truong	Mathew Kun
Darby Taylor-Clark	Miranda Wiens
Emily Kroeker	Monet Paletta
Emma Charleson	Natalie Falicia Alvarez
Emma Leipsic	Qinn Ivan Morrison Beyak
Gavin Doyle-Gould	Robin James Buenaventura
George Eskandar	Rocelle Garcia
Haley Bound	Ryan Pellaers
Halla Al Hamed	Selena Chief
Hanna Bartholomew	Shahd Alhamed
Ivan Provzin	Sherly Ward
Jarylle Santos	Sloan Wain-Clarkson
Jasmine Consolacion	Thomas Edward Campbell
Jersey Maxwell	Wyatt Marshall
Jonathan Araya	

# Financial Report

Available upon request

Please request at [reception@msip.ca](mailto:reception@msip.ca)