



# 2024/2025 **ANNUAL REPORT**

PRESENTED BY:

**THE PEACEFUL VILLAGE PROGRAM**

# Message from The Peaceful Village Program-MB Inc. Board Chair

Annual General Meeting  
December 8, 2025

I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to everyone as we wrap up another successful year at The Peaceful Village.

Where did 2025 go?

So many fun and very fortunate things happened!

We changed our name. This has been in the works for something like 5 years.

The Schroeder Foundation generously filled the gap left by IRCC, and that allowed us to continue as planned without any drastic budget changes.

We opened a site at Shaughnessy Park, had a successful spring, and saw an enrollment of 42 students in September.

Daniel received the King Charles III Coronation Medal, and I think we need to start calling him Sir Daniel.

In June we had a wonderful cultural exchange with Granisle, BC, and then a huge turnout with over 1000 people attending the celebration of learning.

How much celebration?

We celebrated 71 high school graduates, with a 93% graduation rate, and secured \$118,050.00 of scholarships.

That's a lot of celebration!

We opened another site at Nelson McIntyre Collegiate in September

We won the Manitoba Mosaic Award 2025—Welcoming Community Champion Award

All these success stories were made possible because of the generosity of our funders, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, the trust of the parents and the members of the board, and the enthusiasm of all our students.

I'd like to thank our funders one more time in hopes they double our budget in 2026:

The Province of Manitoba

The Schroeder Foundation - Terra Bay Food Services

United Way Winnipeg

Kiwanis Club of Winnipeg

Winnipeg Foundation

Thomas Sill Foundation

Employment & Social Development Canada

Richardson Foundation

Province of Manitoba (again) for the Nutrition Grant

All the school divisions:

Pembina Trails

Louis Riel

St James Assiniboia

Winnipeg 1

A big thank you goes out to the members of the board: Madhav, Khanya, Jamie, Anderson, Monika, and Jacob.

It's been my honour and an absolute pleasure to have served as Board Chair for these last 5 years and Vice Chair for 2 years before that.

A special thank you goes to Jacob Woodbeck, my vice chair and sounding board. His attention to detail, unique experience, and insights were absolutely invaluable. I know the Board will be in good hands as Jacob takes over as our incoming Chair.

Thanks

**ROBERT VLAHOS**

CHAIR



At The Peaceful Village Program, 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.

The Peaceful Village Program-MB 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

What an incredible year in the Village! Our collective efforts have continued to make a meaningful impact on the lives of students and families in our community. This report is an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and express gratitude to those who make this work possible.

First and foremost, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Peaceful Village Program Board of Directors for their guidance and oversight. Your commitment ensures that we operate with integrity and excellence.

We are deeply grateful to our funders, including the Province of Manitoba, United Way of Winnipeg, and other partners whose financial contributions enable us to deliver this critical work.

To the Peaceful Village leadership team (Mahendra Adhikari, Ibrahim Mohammed, Odik Opap, Leah Aidiu, Adnan Kadhim, Jostin Asuncion, and Gideon Gibresilase), thank you for your tremendous efforts across all sites. Your dedication and passion are the foundation of our success. Not forgetting the incredible admin staff in Re Moon and Xianhui, your work behind the scenes is immeasurable. To our incredible kitchen staff, Jima Ali, Flora Wani, and Auntie Agnes, thank you for feeding the village.

To our Community Development Tutors, your unwavering support helps students reach their full potential. Your work is transformative.

We also acknowledge the school divisions for their partnership and financial contributions. Your collaboration strengthens our ability to serve students effectively.

Most importantly, we thank the parents and guardians for entrusting us with the care of your children during the critical after-school hours. Your trust and support are invaluable.

# Executive Director Report

## Key Achievements and Impacts

- Students Served: Over 829 pupils participated in Peaceful Village programs across all sites.
- Academic Support: Delivered 4000+ hours of tutoring and homework assistance.
- Scholarships: \$118,050.00 earned in scholarships towards post-secondary education or training
- Graduation Success: 71 of the Grade 12 students in our program graduated with a 93% graduation rate, and many are pursuing postsecondary education or training.
- Family Engagement: Hosted 40+ family engagement events, strengthening community ties.
- Our kitchen continues to provide 500-600 hot meals to our students.
- Volunteer Contributions: Over 800 volunteer hours dedicated to supporting students and families.
- Holistic Summer Program: Over 200 youth participated and benefited from our summer program between the months of July and August.
- New Initiatives: Launched one new Peaceful Village site at Shaughnessy Park School in Winnipeg School Division, expanding our reach to underserved communities.

In a special way, we pay tribute to Robert Vlahos, our outgoing Board Chair. Robert, your years of service have been instrumental in shaping this organization. As we say in the Village:

“Once in the Village, always a Villager.”

Robert, you will remain a Villager for life.

Together, we are building a stronger, more peaceful community. Thank you all for being part of this journey.

Thank you.

**DANIEL SWAKA**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## 2024/2025 Graduates and Scholarship Recipients Overview

In June 2025, 296 Peaceful Village participants earned scholarships to support their post-secondary education and training, which can be claimed upon their high school graduation.

The 2024/2025 academic year was a successful one for the Peaceful Village Program, with 71 youth participants graduating from high school. The breakdown of graduates from each site is shown below:

### 2024/2025 Graduates

Community Site	16
Glenlawn Collegiate	21
Gordon Bell High School	7
Fort Richmond Collegiate	20
St. James Collegiate	7

With a total of 296 scholarships distributed to youth across the sites, the total amount of scholarship distributed was \$118,050.00

### 2024/2025 Scholarship Amount Distributed

Acadia Junior High	34 Students	\$ 6,800.00
Community Site	35 Students	\$ 18,450.00
Glenlawn Collegiate	64 Students	\$ 29,700.00
Gordon Bell High School	29 Students	\$ 14,250.00
Fort Richmond Collegiate	36 Students	\$ 20,100.00
Hugh John MacDonald School	50 Students	\$ 11,550.00
St. James Collegiate/George Waters Middle School	48 Students	\$ 17,200.00

# HIGHLIGHTS

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This year, we are proud to highlight the impactful opening of our new Learning Centre at Shaughnessy Park School, located in North End of the city. Designed to serve our participants between grade 5 to 8, the Learning Centre provides a warm, safe, and engaging space beyond the school day.

Here, students receive dedicated support to complete their homework and can socialize and build new friendships in a supportive environment. The program is further enriched by access to the school's gym for fun physical activities, promoting healthy habits and teamwork.

Understanding that active minds and bodies need fuel, we ensure every child is supported with a nutritious snack and a hot meal on each programming day. This holistic approach is fostering greater confidence, academic progress, and joy for the children in our community





# YMCA YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM



This year, we hosted and participated in exchange programs during May. Our twin partners were Babine Elementary Secondary School. Our youth and staff took part in a week-long exchange, hosted in Winnipeg in May and visiting Babine Elementary Secondary School, Granisle, British Columbia in June, through the YMCA Exchange Program.

## 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.



# 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 2024 food drive was a great success, allowing us to pack over 400 food hampers. We are incredibly grateful to all our generous donors and supporters for making this possible.



# Summer Program

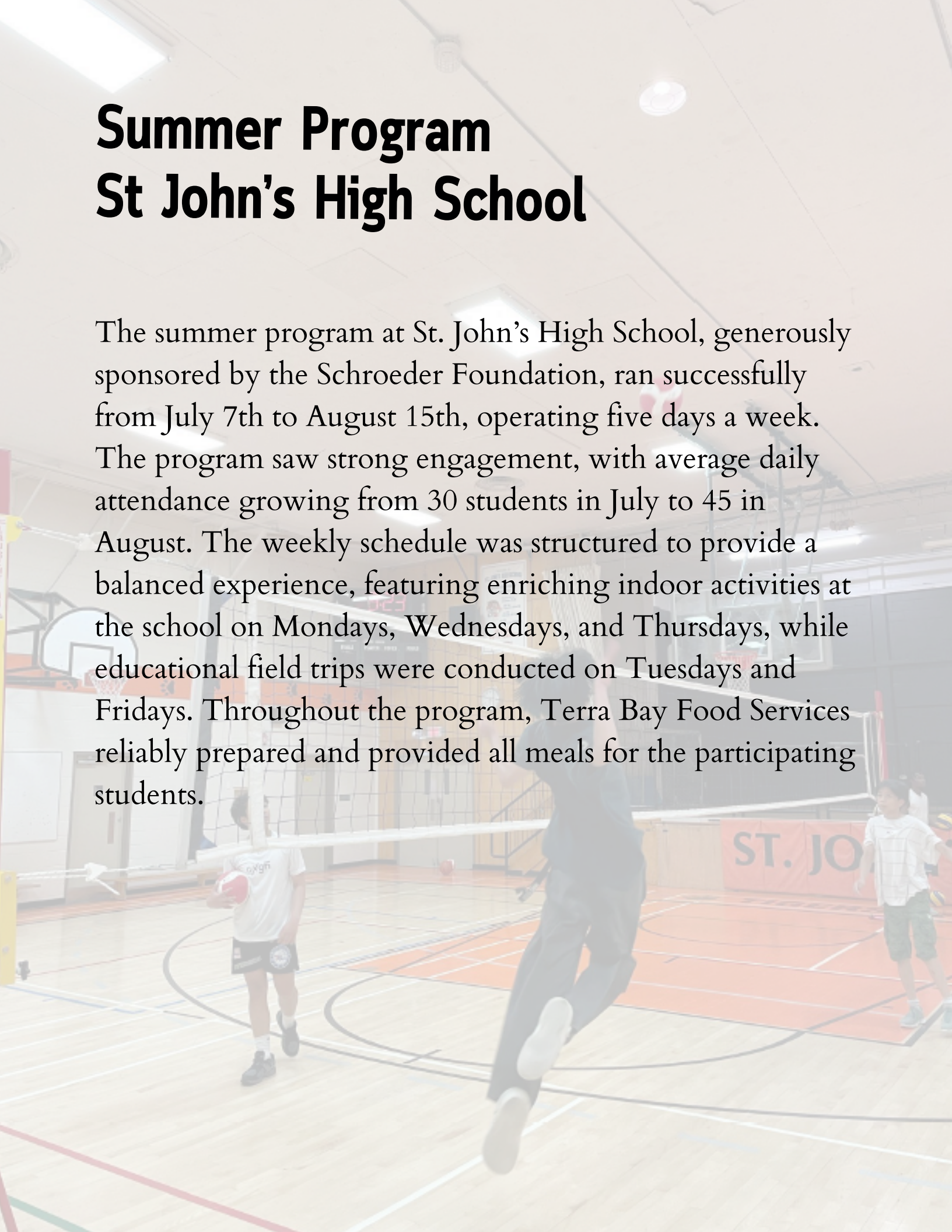
The Summer Program at Peaceful Village provides unique opportunities for youth to build confidence and develop new skills. This year, all nine sites came together for combined activities, allowing the villagers to connect and embrace the spirit of being "One Village," despite our different locations. 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.





# Summer Program St John's High School

The summer program at St. John's High School, generously sponsored by the Schroeder Foundation, ran successfully from July 7th to August 15th, operating five days a week. The program saw strong engagement, with average daily attendance growing from 30 students in July to 45 in August. The weekly schedule was structured to provide a balanced experience, featuring enriching indoor activities at the school on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, while educational field trips were conducted on Tuesdays and Fridays. Throughout the program, Terra Bay Food Services reliably prepared and provided all meals for the participating students.







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

This community kitchen allows us to prepare hot meals for more than 800 youth across our eight 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.





# 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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I really enjoy coming to The Peaceful Village Program. It really helps me with my work and helps me to build really good connections with people here, the staff, teachers and students. This place has given me so many opportunities, and I hope to continue coming here. I would also recommend others to come.

~ Semhar Kahsay

I like this program because it's a fun, supportive place where I can get help with my homework, meet new friends, and feel comfortable. I like how everyone is friendly, the staff always helps when I need it, and there is always something fun to do. Plus, the food at the end is a great bonus and makes the whole experience even better.

~ Aranshi

The Peaceful Village Program has helped me a lot with schoolwork. It's really fun, we always play games. The Staff are nice and friendly/ The food is good. far.

~ Rania

I really enjoy the Peaceful Village Program because the vibe is always welcoming and the people make it feel like a great place to be. The food is honestly one of my favourite parts - everything tastes good and there's always something I look forward to. Overall, I love everything they offer because it makes every visit feel fun and worth it.

~Natnial Soloman

The program is good, and it's good for studying and have time to play ping pong, get bus tickets and a scholarship for university or college. It is a good program and the staff member is nice, and they help with my homework like Math and Science. They are fun to talk with.

~Natnial Soloman

There are two things I really like about the Peaceful Village Program. First, it is a solid, well-run program that actually focus on helping us grow. Second, they really support people, they listen, and they guide us, and they make sure we get the help we need. That is what keeps me going.

~Bethelhem

I really like the program because they helps you with everything. Also it is a good place, and the vibe is always great and welcoming. The food is amazing every time.

~Mohamed



# OUR TEAM 2024/2025

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## TPV Board of Directors

Chair	:	Robert Vlahos
Vice Chair	:	Jacob Woodbeck
Member	:	Monika Vashisht Khana Sibanda Anderson Agbugba Madhav Nanda Kumar Jamie Pfau
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	:	Leah Aidiu
Fort Richmond Collegiate & Acadia Junior High	:	Odik Opap
Hugh John MacDonald School	:	Ibrahim Mohamed
Shaughnessy Park School	:	Gideon Gebresilase
St. James Collegiate / George Waters Middle School	:	Jostin Asuncion
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  
Shaughnessy Park School  
Winnipeg Police Service  
Sexuality Education Resource Centre  
Terra Bay Food Services Inc.  
University of Winnipeg  
University of Manitoba  
Newcomer Education Coalition  
Manitoba Association of Newcomer Organization

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TUTOR

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Abdalhanan Bouskly  
Aimhanosi (Emmanuella) Shaibu  
Aisha Abdullahi  
Amanu Torben  
Anjolaoluwa Olawole  
Daryn (Kit) Vosbourgh  
David Fu  
Dorcas Oshoneye  
Elaiza Sales  
Eleham Fetu Bereda  
Fthee Ghebrewoldi  
Genesis Lozada  
Jonathan Araya  
Jostin Asuncion  
Justin Tongun  
Kamau Kiano

Karen Gonzaga  
Kelsey Trumbla  
Linpu Zhang  
Mahendra Adhikari  
Marianne Shaibu  
Michael Ewashko  
Oyinkansola Banjo  
Prasamsa KC  
Rayid Mahmoud  
Siham Seid Abdullah  
Simithy Mansaray  
Souline Bouskly  
Sumaya Abdullahi  
Tam-Daniel  
Tecleab Tewolde  
Yuriy Yamchuk  
Zartashiya Khan

# VOLUNTEERS

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Jonathan Novak  
Alyssa Manalaysay  
Payton Vanstone  
Freedom Lapuz  
Ashley Brandt  
Kathryn Babiuk  
Hannah Gilmore  
Rafaela Fiorillo  
Kassidy Komonko-Pachniosky  
Jenna Champagne  
Gabrielle Laplume  
Taryn Sampson  
Kassidy Esaw  
Zikomo Pankratz  
Jaren Hildebrand  
Elise Stokes  
Cassian Gillies  
Graeme Bytheway  
Tristen Vincent  
Emma Chorney

# Financial Report

Available upon request

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