

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **September 8—**
First day of school
- **September 14—**
First Day of Programs
- **October 12**
NHCHC Closed,
Pathways Programs Cancelled

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Welcome to Another Year at Pathways

Another year is upon us and we are excited to welcome another great group of volunteers to the Pathways to Education program at NHCHC. Some are experienced tutors and mentors from previous years while others will be

NHCHC. Whether they are helping our participants prepare for a test at one of our tutoring sites, or guiding our youth through activities and workshops, our volunteers have the skills and expertise to work with our participants to find success in school and beyond.



This year we are proud to announce that we are once again working with McMaster University's Faculty of Social Sciences to wel-

come a group of volunteer students. This 6 year partnership with the University has been very beneficial for our students and we are excited to welcome back another group of eager university students as volunteers. Pathways to Education is also pleased to begin

newly joining our program this year. Either way we are very pleased to welcome another enthusiastic group of generous volunteers.

Volunteers have always been a crucial part of our programs here at Pathways to Education

another year of partnership with Student Open Circles and their excellent program Community Volunteer Action, which each year registers small groups of volunteers at Pathways to Education. With these two partnerships, and with many more volunteers coming from the community at large, Pathways to Education NHCHC is ready to start another exciting year supporting Pathways to Education participants in finding success in school and life.

Call for Submissions

Want to contribute to the Volunteer Times? We are looking for questions for Dear Pathways..., ideas for topics you want to know about in the Beat on the Street, or an original article about a topic relevant to volunteering at Pathways to Education. Email your suggestions to Pathways Coach Brandon Love at love@nhchc.ca

Dear Pathways: Making Students' Dreams a Reality

Dear Pathways,

When volunteering at Pathways tutoring I have noted from time to time students mention they "wish" they could, or made "only if" comments when speaking about their future plans. How do I direct a meaningful conversation that ignites their interest, encourages their passion and promotes students to work towards realistic dreams?

Sincerely,

Ima Littlelost

Dear Ima,

Thank you for taking the time to write in. Conversations full of enthusiasm and energy are helpful when discussing student dreams. It may be that a student fears pursuing

his/her dream because he/she feels it would not be accepted by others or they may just not know how or where to begin. Paired with enthusiasm, acceptance of differences may open the door for some students to engage in conversations that build their capacity for success. So when you hear a student say "I wish" or "only if", recognize this as an opportunity to mentor the student and explore their potential.

Here at Pathways, we are strongly focused on setting goals with students. We assist students to set goals that are of interest to them, and assist each individual participant in reaching their greatest potential. With this in mind, here are just a few useful tips to get you started in your quest to help students work towards their dreams.

1. Assist the youth to break

their goal down into realistic, and specific tasks – For example, "I want to be an environmentalist" can ignite a conversation that brings out a specific way the youth can work towards this ambition. For example, recycling all their plastic bottles, cans and magazines.

2. Encourage students to challenge negative thinking consistently with positive, solution-based encouragement. You may wish to highlight and draw on the student's strengths to have them push through and persevere when roadblocks are presented.

Remember to follow up with the student and celebrate successes. Ask them "what's next, what now?"

Sincerely,
Pathways



Quotes to Remember

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

- C.S. Lewis

Volunteers Share with Volunteers

Our experienced volunteers have this to say about the issue of engaging students who have a hard time getting engaged in homework or other activities

Find a way for them to relate to or feel comfortable with you

Notice what they do (or want to do). One kid wanted to draw cartoons all the time. Encourage them to explore animation as a career choice

Ask what is in their school bag: Texts, notes, books etc...

Talk about your own hobbies and ask about theirs

Be creative!

Motivate them by telling them you'll play a game with them after they finish homework

Talk to them until they slip and tell you that they do have homework

Say Hello to the New “Pathways to Education Volunteer”

For those of you that have been with Pathways for years, you will be used to the terms “Volunteer Tutor” and “Volunteer Mentor.” This year we are changing this language. No longer will there be Tutors and Mentors.

Now there will be the versatile “Pathways Volunteers.”

In-line with a number of other changes to the Pathways program that included staff role changes, changes to the mentoring program and the addition

of formalized goal setting for all students, this year the role of Pathways Volunteers is also changing. All volunteers, whether interested in the academic component of Pathways support, or the social component of Pathways support, will have the opportunity to take part in Pathways programming according to their skills, background and interests.

The vision for these changes is that volunteers will all be responsible for and able to take part as tutors of academic subjects, will help during our student skills workshops and act as mentors of students throughout their time at Pathways programs. The big change for volunteers will be that they will have the opportunity to move back and forth from individual academic support to small group helper. If one of our volunteers has expertise in finance, they may wish to help out with our “Money Matters and You” workshop during September and October and then move back to academic tutoring thereafter. This will offer the opportunity to specialize, but with the ability to move fluidly between academic and social support.

We hope you are all excited about this new opportunity and new role. All the staff here at Pathways are excited to get started and to have you join us for an exciting and innovative year of student support at Pathways to Education NHCHC.

Pathways to Education Volunteer

Academic and Social Support Volunteer

What it is. How to get involved.



You the volunteer

You have...
A academic skills and knowledge to share



You have...
Life experience and social insights to share

you want to make a difference

You are...
a Pathways Volunteer



Tutoring
youth on homework and school assignments



Mentoring
youth in all program spaces, socially and academically



Coaching
youth during skills modules

you make a difference by

What's next?



Learn more
at an upcoming orientation session



Register
once you are ready to get started



Get prepared
at a volunteer training session





Want to join?
Call or email today
pathways@nhchc.ca
905-523-6719



Pathways Student Shines at Science Conference

This summer one of our Pathways to Education student participants had the opportunity to take part in a fantastic summer Engineering Conference for girls at McMaster University. She took some time to write about her experience so we could share it with you.

I had an amazing experience at the *McMaster University Engineering Conference for Girls!* When each girl arrived, they were registered and assigned a dorm room. And when all the girls were there, it was breakfast and introductions.

I met many girls, and I easily made friends. It was fun meeting people from all over the Province with similar interests. After breakfast we had some presenta-



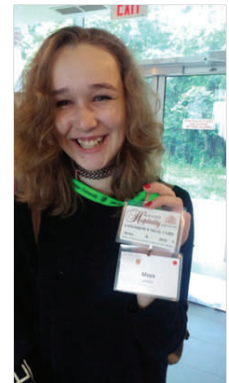
tions about what engineering was and it's disciplines. The first talk, given by the Dean of Engineering, Ishwar Puri, was my personal favourite. He explained the program with a personal touch, and was informational in a non-textbook-like way.

We had tours, workshops and activities throughout the two days, and in the evening we had opportunities to experience University life - like hanging out in the game-room, watch a movie and played pool. The Conference ended on Friday with a final presentation of scholarships to ten students and then lunch for the girls, their parents and faculty as a farewell.



Even though Engineering is not my current passion, it reinforced that it is okay for me to be a creative thinker in the way that I am. I learned from these days to think creatively and always see a way to improve things, even if they don't need improving. Strive for better!

- Maya Remillard
Pathways Participant



Pathways Student Wins Youth Vision Scholarship

It's not everyday that you hear about a grade 10 student living in North Hamilton winning a scholarship. It's even more remarkable when you learn that the scholarship is one as exciting as the CIBC Youthvision Scholarship. For anyone that knows Pathways student Maryam Niaze Mohamed, it's no surprise that she was one of the thirty students across Canada to receive this award. As a young woman actively involved in

her community, captain of the Sir John A MacDonald Jr. Girls basketball team and an academically outstanding student, Maryam is a great choice for the CIBC Youthvision Scholarship. As a recipient of the scholarship Maryam has been awarded \$16,000 for post-secondary tuition and the possibility to earn \$22,000 in summer internships with the YMCA. Shortly after finding out she won, she had this to say about

the experience, stating: "I still can't believe it! My future is figured out already and I couldn't have done it without Pathways". After completing high school Maryam plans to attend university in hopes of becoming either a pharmacist or plastic surgeon specializing in burn victims.

