



Trails Youth Initiatives

2020 Annual Report

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Our mission is to challenge, equip and empower vulnerable youth from at-risk areas of Toronto to become contributing members of the community. Through outdoor skill development, mentorship, high school credits, bursaries and job opportunities, we are making a difference and changing lives.

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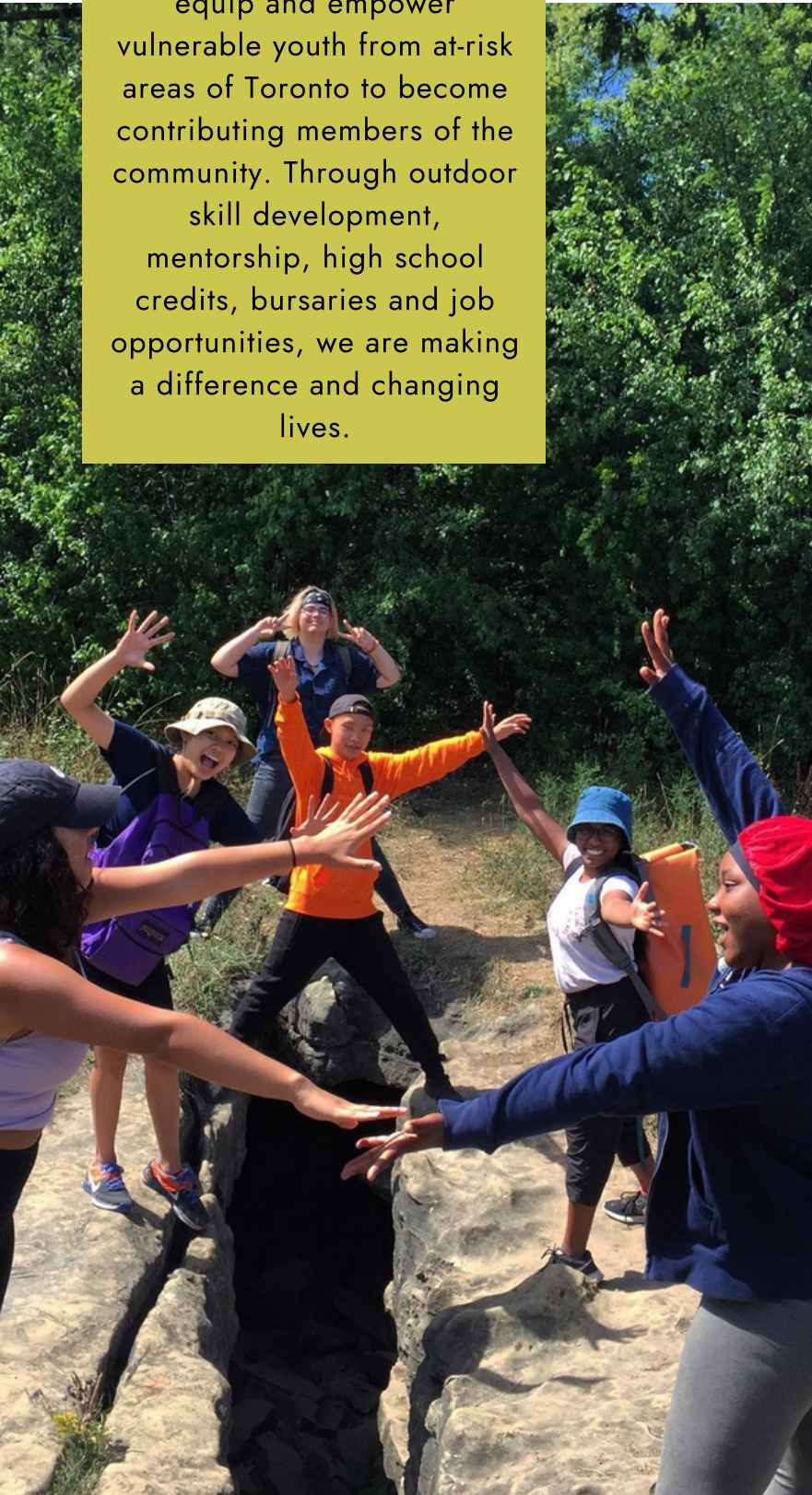
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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Family

A word from the
President, Mel Millward

Trails is, first and foremost, a family. As co-founder, Hurst, once said: “We are a large family where there is laughter, conflict, learning and occasional mischief.” All families are different and unique — ours has over 150 participants and over 500 alumni along with their families, dedicated staff and volunteers, and our community of supporters — all part of our beautiful extended and blended family.

2020 was a very challenging year for the Trails family. Restrictions, fears and protocols surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic tested our resiliency and shifted our program model and desired impact. I would be lying if I said we reached every program or organizational goal we had set.

And yet, we were able to provide significant support to our kids and their families in the form of winter clothing, groceries, and transportation stipends. We hosted engaging — and sometimes challenging — discussions online through our Virtual Veranda, Town Hall, and one-on-one phone calls. We created our first-ever Family Day and City Day Camps throughout the summer, bringing us all together in a new way.

I’m so grateful for you — our family of donors. Thank you for being there with advice, support and unrestricted gifts. It was a gift that you trusted in us to make the best decisions for our kids. It was a gift to know we were not alone through all the ups and downs. It was a gift to know that Trails could continue to live true to



our mission and our program would, as always, remain open. It was a gift to know that no matter what happened, our family would always have our back (or as our kids would say, our six).

When you are hungry, family feeds you. When you are afraid, family keeps you safe. When you are lost, family leads you. Surrounded by the Trails family, we know there is always a brighter trail ahead.

Mel

MELISSA MILLWARD
PRESIDENT



“When COVID hit, I worried about how we could maintain the vital line of communication with our youth. I knew we had to and would find a way to be there for our families who rely on us.”

Mel Millward

CURRENT TRAILS STAFF

Mel Millward

President

Brandon McKinley

Youth Development Director

Erin McLeanDirector of Alumni & Volunteer
Engagement**Janelle Dayman**

Director of Development

Jess Taylor

Program Director

Josh Harney

Director of Education

Leslie McGill

Office Manager/Donations

Lisa Evans

Program Director

Luke Morrison

Facilities Manager

Whitney Lorentz

Donor Engagement Coordinator

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greig Clark

Chair

Mark Convery

Vice Chair

James Werry

Vice Chair

Greg Ryan

Treasurer

Peter Cook**Amanda Haigh****Dr. Bob Henderson****Ashiqur Khan****John McIntosh****Lauren Mostowyk****Micah Nelson****Jennifer Steckel Elliott****Jennifer Werry**

2020 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

James Werry

Chair

Jim Hayhurst, Jr.

Vice Chair

Sylvain Dion

Vice Chair

Susan Armitage**Paul Brink****Joe Canavan****Tim Casgrain****Mary Anne Chambers****Jack Cockwell****Gordon Cressy****David Crombie****Kiki Delaney****Shaun Francis****Ian Greenberg****Richard Hamm****Brooke Hunter****Norman Keevil III****David Kerr****Sheldon Levy****John McIntosh****Rose Patten****Timothy Price****Aaron Regent****William Thorsell**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR GREIG CLARK

When I reflect on the past year and my journey as part of the Trails family, there are two dates that stand out in my mind.

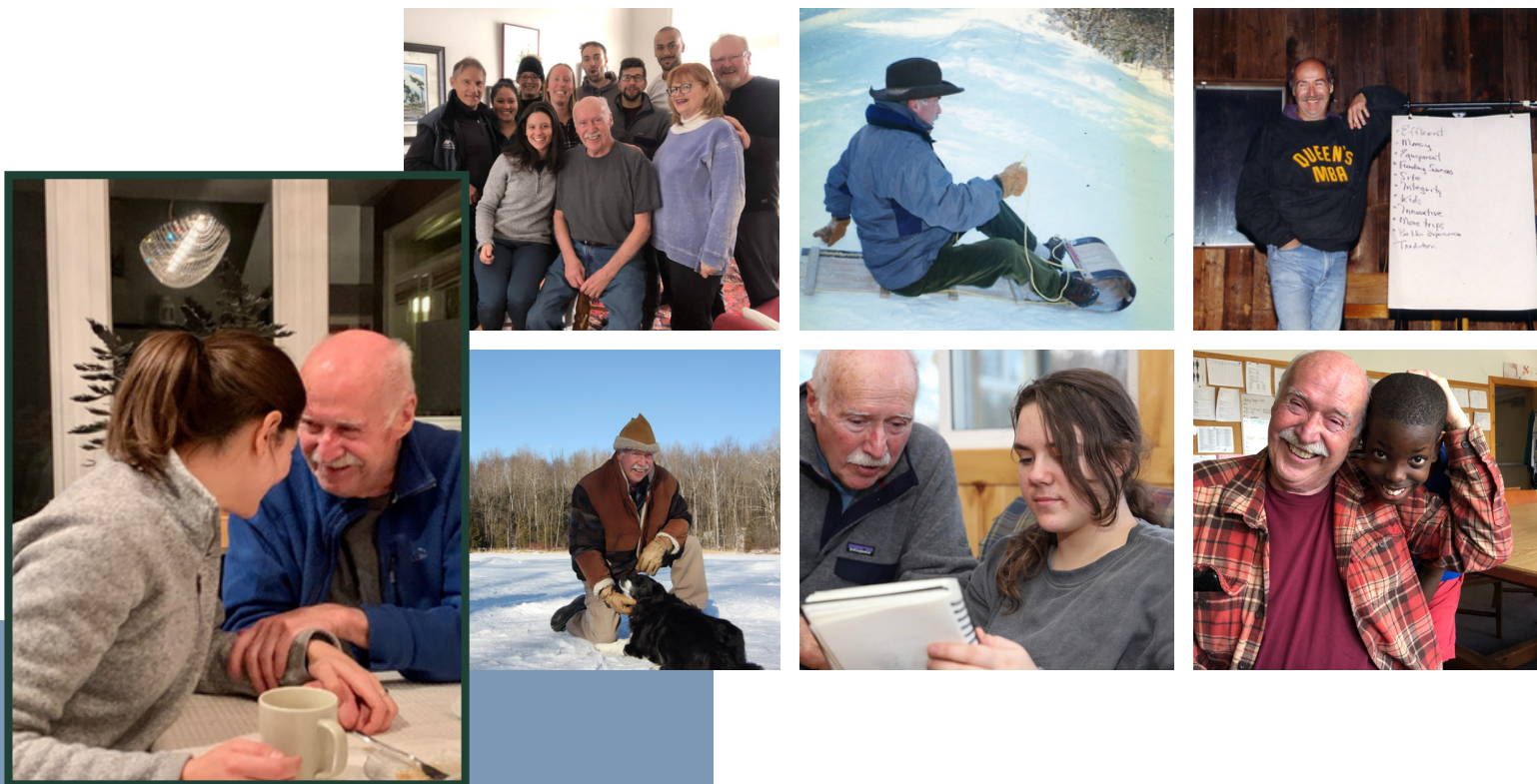
February 3: Our Founder, Hurst, called me from his red pick-up truck to tell me he was on his way for his last visit to Trails because he had chosen medical assistance in dying for February 29. Before I could stammer out any reply, he asked me to take over from him as Chair of the Board. How can you turn down an offer like that? I took the job. I have not regretted a moment since.

I think of Hurst almost everyday. My favourite time is when I pull into Trails and imagine the first time Hurst and his son and co-founder, Jimmy, discovered this wonderful home for Trails. I also ponder his last visit here as he came to say goodbye to the place he founded in 1992. I was on the first Board of Trails and watched it go through its early growing pains. It was a thrill to be asked back 28 years later to help Mel and the team with the next phase of growth. As Hurst said: "Trails is successful, and the world needs more Trails."

December 13: I was at the Wilson Subway stop in the biting cold with my mask and Santa hat, standing alongside other volunteers distributing Holiday Celebration gift bags to the Trails kids and alumni. There, I met a tall young man named Andre. I started by asking him if he's been up to Trails lately. "Yes," he responded with his eyes sparkling, "I was up there yesterday with my group." I think back to the previous day; it was cold, wet and rainy — a miserable day to be outside. I inquired delicately how the day went and if it was tough to be outside for eight hours. "Nah it was GREAT," he responded, "We went for a hike, we played in the snow... the rain made it great for making a snowman, we made one even bigger than me," he said enthusiastically and with obvious pride. It reminded me of what Jimmy says: "All Trails kids have...GRIT." What a lesson for all of us: when life serves you wet snow...make a giant snowman!


GREIG CLARK

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



OUR FAMILY SAYS GOODBYE TO A DREAMER & A DOER

Jim "Hurst" Hayhurst, Founder of Trails
May 24, 1941 – February 29, 2020

BY MEL MILLWARD

Hurst would find a way to work Trails into every conversation. He believed in our organization with everything in his body and soul. And he likely thought you would too. In hindsight, when talking about Trails he was talking about himself — because he was Trails.

The fact that 100% of our kids graduate high school is a tribute to his passion, indomitable will, tireless fundraising efforts, and tenacity. His dream to make systemic change for vulnerable youth and ensure that every child has the right to a meaningful and successful life will live on.

The real magic of Hurst is entwined in the stories: the 3 AM phone calls from a Trailer needing a friend, finding out how much Huggles' ailing mom loved fudge and always bringing her a fresh block, sitting with Trinity as she drew a picture of Trails which I'd later find flagged as "Important" in his files, plopping a skunk fur hat on Kike's head and sending a car for her and her mom to get somewhere.

Beyond being the co-founder and my business partner, he was my friend, my mentor, my hero. In writing this, I realize I was Hurst's final Trailer. I spent 4 Seasons, 4 Years, 4 Life with him. He saw things in me that I didn't see in myself. He removed barriers — like my age — to be hired. He imparted knowledge, taught skills and built my confidence. And then I met the ultimate graduation from Roots to Wings.

It wasn't always easy. Like a true Trailer, I had to learn the hard way. And all the lessons were tied up in a cryptic story. I would often think, "Can you just give me the answer?" What on earth does a fly-fishing trip or the Yukon Gold rush have to do with this fundraising proposal? Well, it did. It always did. And he knew that's how I would learn to use my "wings" without him.

Our entire Trails family would agree — it was the most surreal experience having to say goodbye. Hurst didn't follow the Trails rule of having a big impact on a few, rather than a little on many. He had a big impact on a lot of people. I had the privilege of seeing the outpouring of memories from people who shared how he changed their life.

In dying he was sharing his last story about how to live. That time showed me the purpose of life. I am so grateful for the time he shared with me and we are all so fortunate to have him with us always.



"It's hard to think of my old self and where I would be without Trails. I'm so thankful for Trails for pushing me to better myself" - Heather, Year 3



100%

of our participants were supported during the COVID-19 pandemic

89%

of our youth identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Colour

98%

said Trails helped them develop self-confidence

100%

graduate high school and contribute to the community

95%

said Trails helps them be successful at school and at home

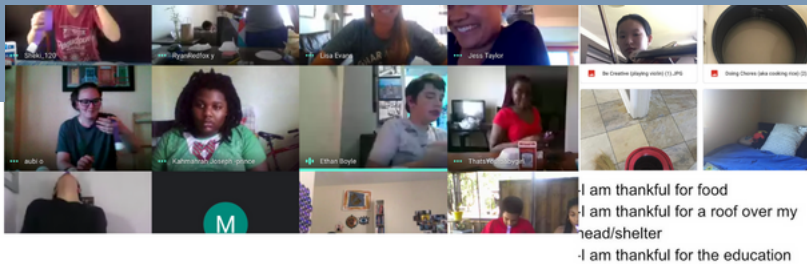
72%

go on to post-secondary education

WHAT DID SUPPORT LOOK LIKE IN 2020?

- 8** sessions of Trails City Day Camps
- 4** sessions of Saturday Family Days
- 21** Saturday programs
- 42,400** boxed meals provided during program
- 205** Holiday Celebration gift bags distributed
- 30** Homework Help sessions
- 316** one-on-one Key Kids check-ins
- 55** Virtual Veranda meetings

190 hours of peer mentorship
14 Care Packages delivered
32 graduation yearbooks distributed
8 skills workshops
150 hours of Virtual Trails
4 Black Lives Matters Town Halls
58 winter coats and **38** snow pants delivered
\$7,137 emergency funds distributed
28 Danielle Dion post-secondary bursaries awarded
33 prizes given for Virtual Olympics

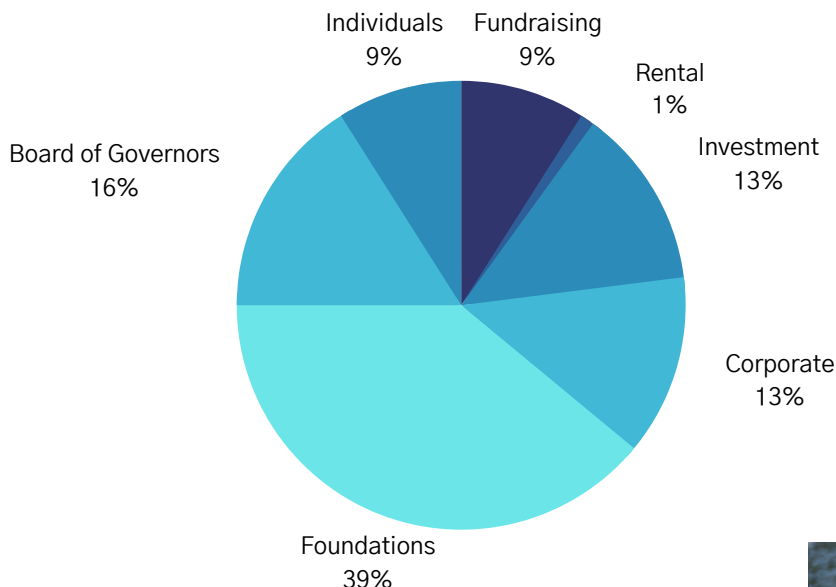


“Without knowing what to expect, both my kids attended. Abigail couldn’t stop talking about paddling on Lake Ontario and how it has inspired her to take on bigger challenges in life, even though things may seem hard. I’m so thankful to Trails for inspiring youth leaders and setting them on the path of seeing what is possible.”

Carlis Dunbar, parent

Financial Update

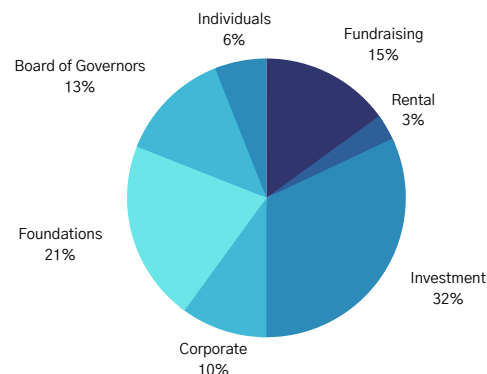
2020 Revenue: \$1,609,236



Vision Fund: \$1,000,000

The Vision Fund reflects increased fundraising efforts for Expansion. Doubling the amount of vulnerable youth served will more than double the Trails impact.

2019 Revenue: \$1,488,152



2020 Events



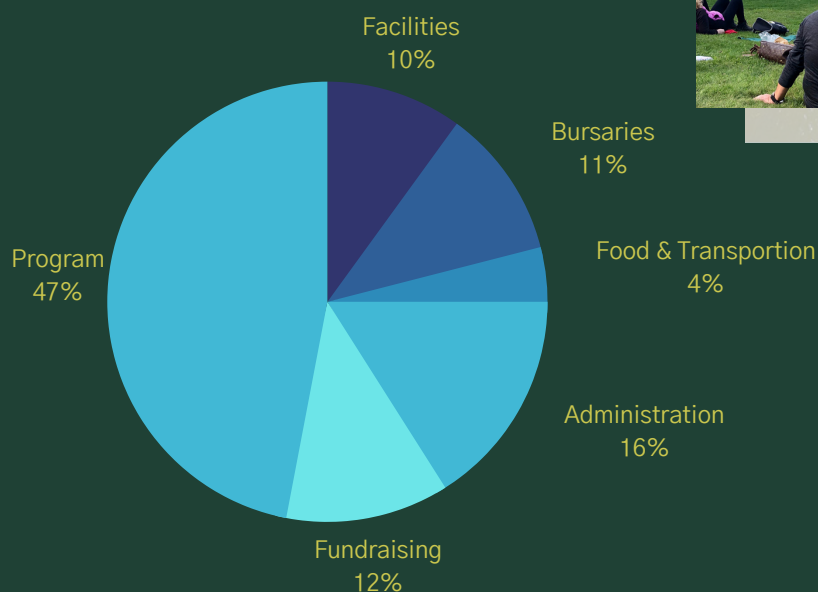
A special thanks to Vance Cooper and his family for hosting the 9th annual Vancestock (and first ever at Trails Lakeside) in September. Over \$40,000 was raised, bringing their 9 year total to over \$290,000!



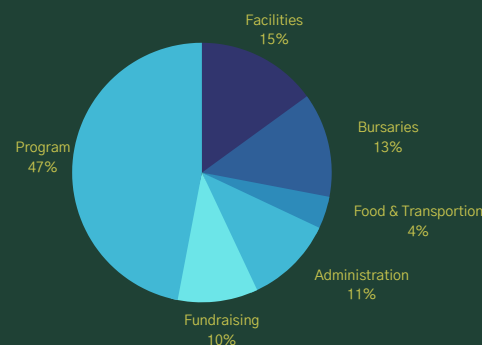
Thanks to Sid Thomas and Ash Khan we raised \$35,000 at the 3rd Annual Sunil Thomas Golf Classic.

The Inside Ride, Holiday Campaign, Limberlost Challenge and COVID-19 Relief Fund raised \$35,000.

2020 Expenses: \$1,092,687



2019 Expenses: \$1,322,204



Thank You

for being part of the Trails Family

\$50,000+

Brookfield Partners Foundation
Deacon Legacy Grant*
Jack Cockwell
MLSE Foundation
Sylvain Dion
The Lake Family's All One Fund
The Slight Family Foundation
Travel Edge Inc.

\$25,000+

Bank of Montreal
Jim Hayhurst, Sr.
R. Howard Webster Foundation
Regent Family Foundation
Royal Bank of Canada
Scotiabank
Susan Armitage
The Catherine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation

\$10,000+

CIBC
David Kerr
Diane Horton
Greig and Carolyn Clark
Jalynn H. Bennett Foundation
Mackenzie Investments
Charitable Foundation
Murray & Susan Armitage
Foundation*

Paul Brink
Polar Asset Management
Raymond Chang Foundation
Robert Kerr Foundation
TD Bank Group
The Canavan Family Foundation

\$5,000+

Andrew Pringle
Anthony Rubin
Arthur & Audrey Cutten
Foundation
Howard & Diane Taylor Family
Foundation*
John McIntosh

KPMG LLP
Limberlost Challenge
Mark Convery
McFadco Investments
Nature Canada
Nemar Limited
Ontario Realtors Care Foundation
Pat Jacobsen
Rob Krajcarski
The Greig & Carolyn Clark Fund
through The United Church of
Canada Foundation
The J & B Carroll Family
Foundation
Trish Fonberg
Vance Cooper

"Thanks to Trails,
I am no longer
emotionally sad,
sitting at home
doing nothing."
Ryan, Year 1
participant



On March 5, 2020, Trails participated in the inaugural Deacon Legacy Grants event where 10 outstanding charities presented to an audience of fund-holders and community members. Nearly \$1M in grant funding was awarded, based on audience votes. The grants were designed to support successful, high-impact organizations addressing chronic stresses facing Toronto.

With a moving speech from alumni, Collin Caleb, Trails secured the highest number of votes in the Youth Category and won \$200,000 in unrestricted grant money.

We were thrilled to have been part of this new grant process and so grateful for the hard work of the Toronto Foundation, and for the generosity of the Fraser and Frances Deacon Legacy Fund for their incredible support of Trails in 2020 and 2021.

\$1,000+

Annual Richardson Classic
 Ashiqur Khan
 Aubrey Baillie
 Barb Hayhurst
 BLG Foundation
 Brooke Hunter
 Buchman Fund*
 Clive Caldwell
 Collombin Family Foundation*
 Daniel Balena
 David Hill
 Dawn InfoTek Inc.
 Derrik Dawydow
 Douglas Grant
 Edward Kernaghan
 Gandy Charitable Foundation
 Gordon Cressy
 Greg Ryan
 Gregory & Jennifer Thompson
 Greygates Foundation (Vancouver Foundation)
 Heather Courneya
 Howard Taylor
 J. Hughes & Associates Inc.
 Jackman Foundation
 Jacma Foundation
 Jen & James Werry
 Jill Speedie
 Jim Hayhurst, Jr.
 Kirk Roberts
 Level 19
 Mel Millward
 PayPal Giving Fund
 Robert Keilty
 Sue Thompson
 Summitt Energy
 Terry Maynard
 The Digitalist
 The George Lunan Foundation
 The Junior League of Toronto
 The Kopas Family Foundation
 The Philip Smith Foundation
 The Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton Foundation
 Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
 Tricia Allen
 Unisys Tech Consulting Inc.
 Vanessa Morgan
 William Stos
 William Thorsell

*Funds distributed through Toronto Foundation

Special thanks to...

The Yorkville Run Team:

Leah Carr	Josh Sookman
Josh Singer	Ash Khan
Aaron Fisher	Dayle Carmody
Shilpa Joshi	Janelle Dayman
Jimmy Feng	Jenny Perlmutter
David Liu	



Volunteers & COVID Heroes:

Annika Cann	Kim McFadden
Cameron Hughes	Lari-Ann Convery
Carolyn Clark	Lucas Cooper
Chris Oliver	Lynn Vieira
David Latimer	Marlon Teekah
Dr. TA Loeffler	Mayisha Ahsan-Khan
Farhad Khan	Nadia Islam
Gabriel Bousquet	Nancy Oliveira
Hannah Kocsis	Rebekah Murdoch
Jeffery Fielding	Ted Weber
John Romaniuk	Tim Mullins
June Zhang	Trish Fonberg
Kerri Brock	Wali Shah
Kiera Alderson	Warren Clarke





HURST LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENT: MICAHA NELSON

"I'm so honoured to receive the Hurst Legacy Award – Hurst was like a dad to me."

My early childhood was the definition of unstable. Moving countless times between Jamaica and Toronto while my parents separated and reunited meant new schools, new neighbourhoods and new friends – not an easy time for a shy little girl. My mom and I finally settled in the Toronto area and when I was 12, we heard about Trails from friends who were in the program.

From the first day in 1996, Trails became my “home away from home.” A haven where I was given the traditions and structure that I craved. An extra family that provided grounding and constant support. Thanks to Trails, I had the opportunity to travel to Wales and go horseback riding as part of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. I would never have had that incredible opportunity without Trails.

After graduation, I was a Dion Bursary recipient, which helped pay my way through my degree at McGill University and included mentorship from Sylvain Dion. It was like having another Dad checking up on me. Despite him being a very busy and successful business man, he was always there for me, providing guidance, checking on my grades and genuinely caring for me and wanting me to succeed. When my own dad got cancer and moved in with me so I could take care of him, Sylvain was there to help me through.

Deeply inspired by my Trails experience, I studied International Development Studies because I wanted to focus on youth and education. Trails gave me tools that I wanted to use to influence the next generation. After working abroad, I shifted my focus to helping local kids find health and wellness. I became an elementary school teacher, yoga instructor and natural health practitioner. With my combination of skills, I started a wellness and education business called Balance First Workshops. I am privileged to give back to the community and share my mindfulness practices at the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment, a centre offering free after school programs for girls, some in challenging situations.

I have also given back to the Trails community, maintaining a close relationship with those who made such a difference in my life. Since graduating, I have been a Facilitator, a graduate mentor, a volunteer and now I serve on the Board of Directors.

Trails gave me tools to stick with things even when they're challenging. I have learned that I can push through and overcome anything. It is such an honour to receive this award – Hurst was like a dad to me and I will be forever grateful for Trails.



Trails City Day Camp ~ Paddling on the Humber River, August 11, 2020

Photo credit: Gabriel Bousquet Photography

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Trails Youth Initiatives

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