

2018

# ANNUAL REPORT

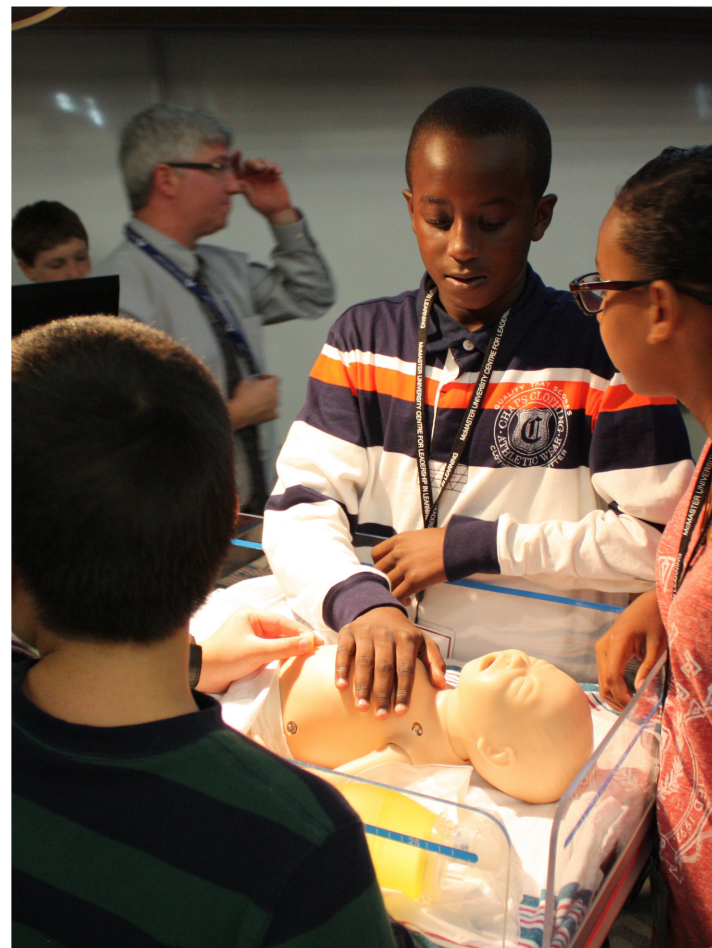


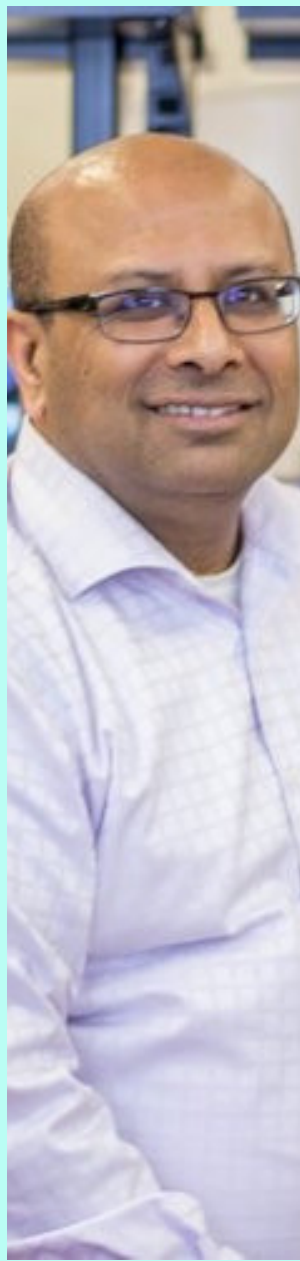
BRIGHTER WORLD



# MCYU

McMaster  
Children & Youth  
University





## Message from the Director, Co-Founder

### Dr. Sandeep Raha

McMaster Children and Youth University (MCYU) is an innovative educational program that bridges the gap between the university and its surrounding community, and works to empower and academically prepare youth, especially those at a socioeconomic disadvantage, to aspire to post-secondary education in subject areas such as science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM).

MCYU was born out of a desire to share the innovative research happening at McMaster University with youth in the wider Hamilton community. In 2011, Drs. Katrin Sheinemann and Sandeep Raha co-founded MCYU based on the European Children's University model. Our program objective is not to simply disseminate information, but to engage actively with youth in a way that would excite their imaginations, spark their curiosity, and inspire a love for life-long learning. Most importantly, we work to help youth understand how to mobilize their knowledge and creative imaginations to address more complex social and economic challenges in their communities. This philosophy inspires the central credo for the program:

**QUESTION** your environment  
**DISCOVER** your potential, and  
**CREATE** a brighter world.

# VISION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

To engage children, youth and their families in exploring a range of contemporary topics and provide opportunities for hands-on and digital experiences through workshops and interactive lectures.

In addition, we provide experiential training for undergraduate and graduate students in translating complex knowledge to youth in the greater Hamilton community. All of our experiences follow our central credo **Question - Discover - Create** TM

MCYU's network of partnerships is instrumental in providing opportunities for youth in the community, as well as McMaster students, to Question, Discover and Create. MCYU's dedicated staff and volunteers from across the McMaster campus work to foster a large number of relationships with community organizations throughout the Greater Hamilton area. In addition to our community partners, McMaster University undergraduate and graduate students form the engine that has driven the growth of MCYU. Our primary partners are the youth and their families who participate and fuel MCYU.

MCYU now looks to taking their youth-centered educational programming to the national and international level through our digital format, which is currently under development, and to further assess our community impact through a variety of research questions and pursuits. Our efforts would not be possible without the generosity of our donors, funding agencies, and the numerous McMaster University and Hamilton community-based volunteers.

I look to the future with great enthusiasm in developing a platform that will truly define community-based learning for youth and their families along with faculty and students at post-secondary institutions.

Sincerely,



Sandeep Raha, PhD



# VALUES

Youth  
engagement

Respect

Collaboration

Inclusivity

Responsibility

Interdisciplinary

Community

# MCYU STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES

## Youth and Family Learning:

MCYU will continue to develop unique approaches to facilitate family-based exploration of STEAM-based subject matter. The uniqueness of our strategies are a result of collaborative learning methods implemented primarily through our digital and workshop-based approaches where families and MCYU facilitators share the discovery process.

## Exposure to University and Campus Life:

MCYU reduces barriers by providing transportation for youth and their families from priority neighbourhoods to attend on-campus events. MCYU holds “special event days” on campus where youth can explore the power of questioning and meet students with whom they can share their experiences and form mentorship relationships.

## Academic Upskilling:

By developing critical thinking, creativity (and demonstrating the real-world applications of these skills), MCYU’s workshops and digital-platforms significantly support and improve academic growth for youth.



## Digital Learning:

MCYU’s interactive on-line platform will leverage the power of digital learning to demonstrate how multidisciplinary approaches to learning can be achieved through co-discovery. The on-line landscape allows youth and their families to explore the application of various STEAM subjects through digital conversations and interactive activities in collaboration with MCYU eCreators.

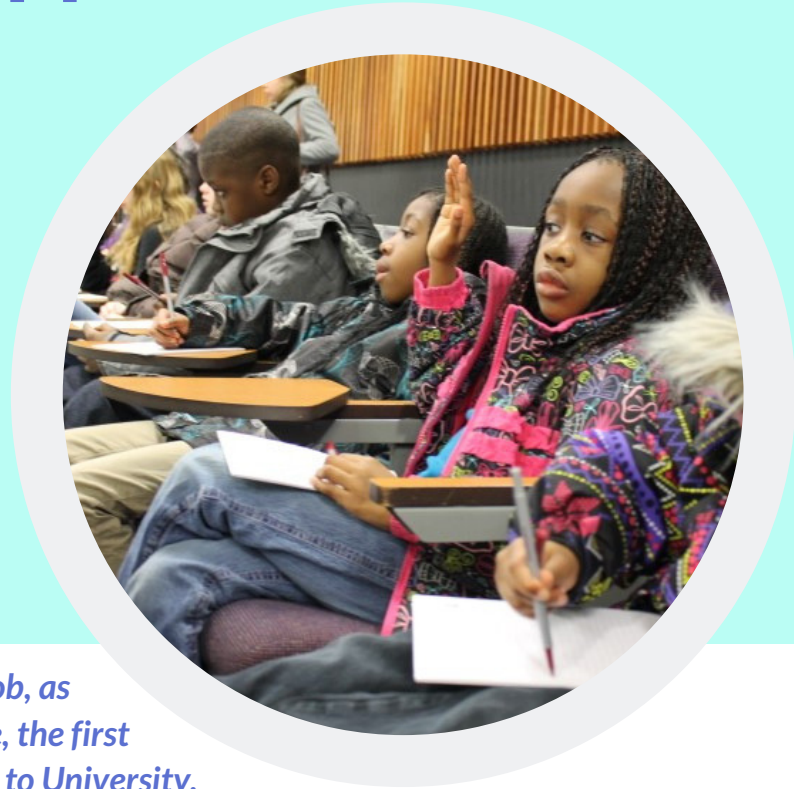
## Mentoring:

MCYU trains McMaster students to lead these workshops as “mentor-facilitators” and eCreators to develop our digital platform.

# THE PROGRAM

The MCYU Program consists of:

- (i) **The MCYU Family Lecture Series**
- (ii) **MCYU in the City Interactive Workshops**
- (iii) **MCYU Interactive Digital Platform**
- (iv) **MCYU Facilitators' and eCreators Training Course.**



*As with many of the speakers, they do an amazing job, as did Felicia (Valcu)...I know this, when after a lecture, the first things I hear my daughter say is... "I can't wait to go to University, how many more years now Mum?" She said it before we left the lecture hall this time. I can't thank the people behind MCYU enough, for lighting this desire in my daughter. As a mother, it is my hope and heart wish that she goes to McMaster one day, and I alone wouldn't be able to spark that desire, as MCYU has...Thank you!!!!*



**MCYU**  
**Family**  
**Lectures**

Since its inception in 2011, the **MCYU on-campus lectures have averaged more than 300 youth and parents (per session)** from all over the Golden Horseshoe, including the priority neighbourhoods of Hamilton, as well as youth from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton, North Hamilton Community Health Centre and the Hamilton YMCA.

These lectures allow youth to interact with University faculty one-on-one and provide opportunities for them to explore their curiosities in conversation with University Professors. These experiences help to build their confidence and promote a sense of curiosity for young learners. A couple of the fan favourite lectures have been "Why Don't Dinosaurs throw Snowballs" and "Movie Monsters - Real or Imaginary?".

These lectures also provide opportunities to explore the post-secondary environment and serve to break down perceived barriers to attending post-secondary institutions.

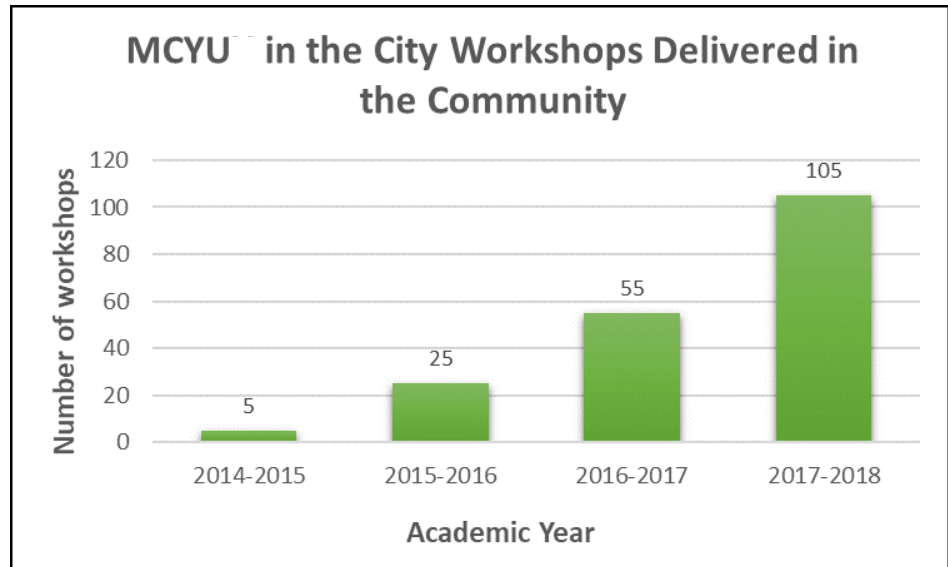
Youth who attend 6 or more lectures throughout the year earn MCYU's Certificate of Knowledge. **Over the last 3 years we have averaged about 80 graduates per year.**

*An excellent program - so pleased to see that you are reaching out to kids in the community - besides the wonderful lectures, the program de-mystifies a university for children - particularly those whose parents did not attend university. It also reinforces the idea of lifelong learning. Way to go!!*



# MCYU IN THE CITY WORKSHOPS

To extend the reach of MCYU beyond the McMaster campus, MCYU in the City delivers **family-oriented, community-based interactive workshops** for schools and community groups in the priority neighbourhoods of Hamilton. The workshops are developed by McMaster students using **inquiry-based learning** strategies designed to demonstrate our credo: **Question, Discover, Create.TM**



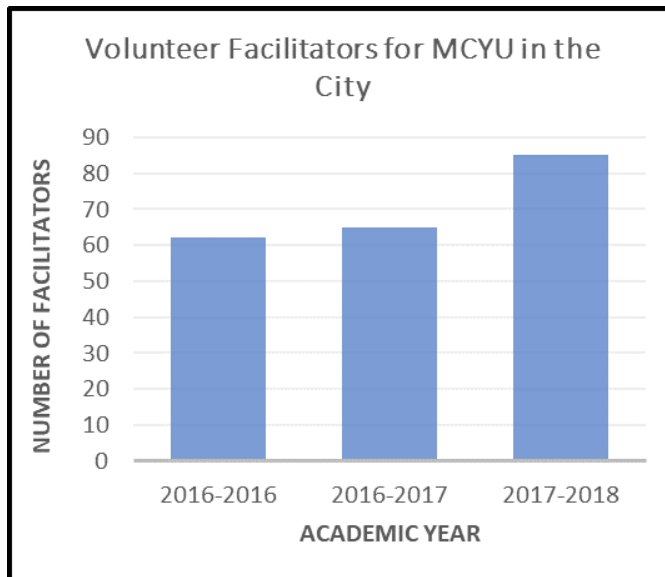
We align our programming with various aspects of the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum so that content is suitable for youth (aged 7-14) in grades 2-8. MCYU workshops complement classroom learning by demonstrating the application of the specific skills taught in the formal educational system. The workshops are presented in schools, public libraries and afterschool programs.

The workshops are designed through conversations with our community partners for youth to explore critical thinking in the context of real-world problem solving.



*Contagion was our favourite workshop. The workshop was very well paced and organized around a series of learning activities – a brief video, a discussion, a writing component and a hands-on craft in which students created their own viruses (this, by the way, was incredibly cool!). We still have the model viruses hanging in our classroom!*  
- Rob Bell (Teacher at Dundas Valley Secondary School)

# MCYU In The City Facilitator Training Program



In the **2017-2018** academic year, MCYU trained **78 McMaster student volunteers** to facilitate **105 workshops** in the community.

MCYU's Facilitators and eCreators represent multidisciplinary teams of undergraduate and graduate students and contribute to the delivery of the MCYU in the City workshops and the development of the MCYU digital platform. MCYU's rigorous training program provides support in becoming proficient agents in community engagement and research communication. Specifically, they receive training in theatre arts, storytelling, philosophy of inquiry, curriculum design, principles of community engagement.



*The work I do with MCYU in the City is a nice change of pace from my research, and working with the kids is always an exciting challenge. The enthusiasm they show for my field of study - and the university in general - always catches me off guard, and I've had to learn how to respond to these questions in a succinct way that isn't intimidating to them. This communication skill has translated into me being able to better discuss my thesis and research to my peers.*

*- Andrew, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Engineering*

*Joining MCYU (in the City) has been a highlight of my McMaster graduate career. The organization has given me a chance to work with other students from a range of different backgrounds and use my education to contribute to the local community. Each time we present our workshop, we are giving children an opportunity to develop new educational interests that they will take with them in the future. It is very rewarding to be part of this process. Through running the MCYU (in the City) workshops, I have learned to transfer knowledge without losing the essential components of that information. This skill will not only be beneficial when presenting my graduate research to others, but will be of great value when speaking to clients in my future law career. My experience with MCYU (in the City) has been truly worthwhile.*

*- Imtiaz, MHS, Faculty of Health Science*



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

MCYU is **committed to engaging youth and families in priority neighbourhoods** in Hamilton, including the north- and east-end areas, as well as Indigenous families situated in the Greater Hamilton area. The youth and families from these neighbourhoods are highly valued partners. The **youth are given a voice** directly in the management of MCYU through a **Youth Advisory Board**. The **families contribute** to the operation of the program through **regular opinion surveys** after each event. In the spirit of all of our programming, we believe that collaborative input from our partners is important in developing a successful community-based organization.

## Some of our valued partners include:

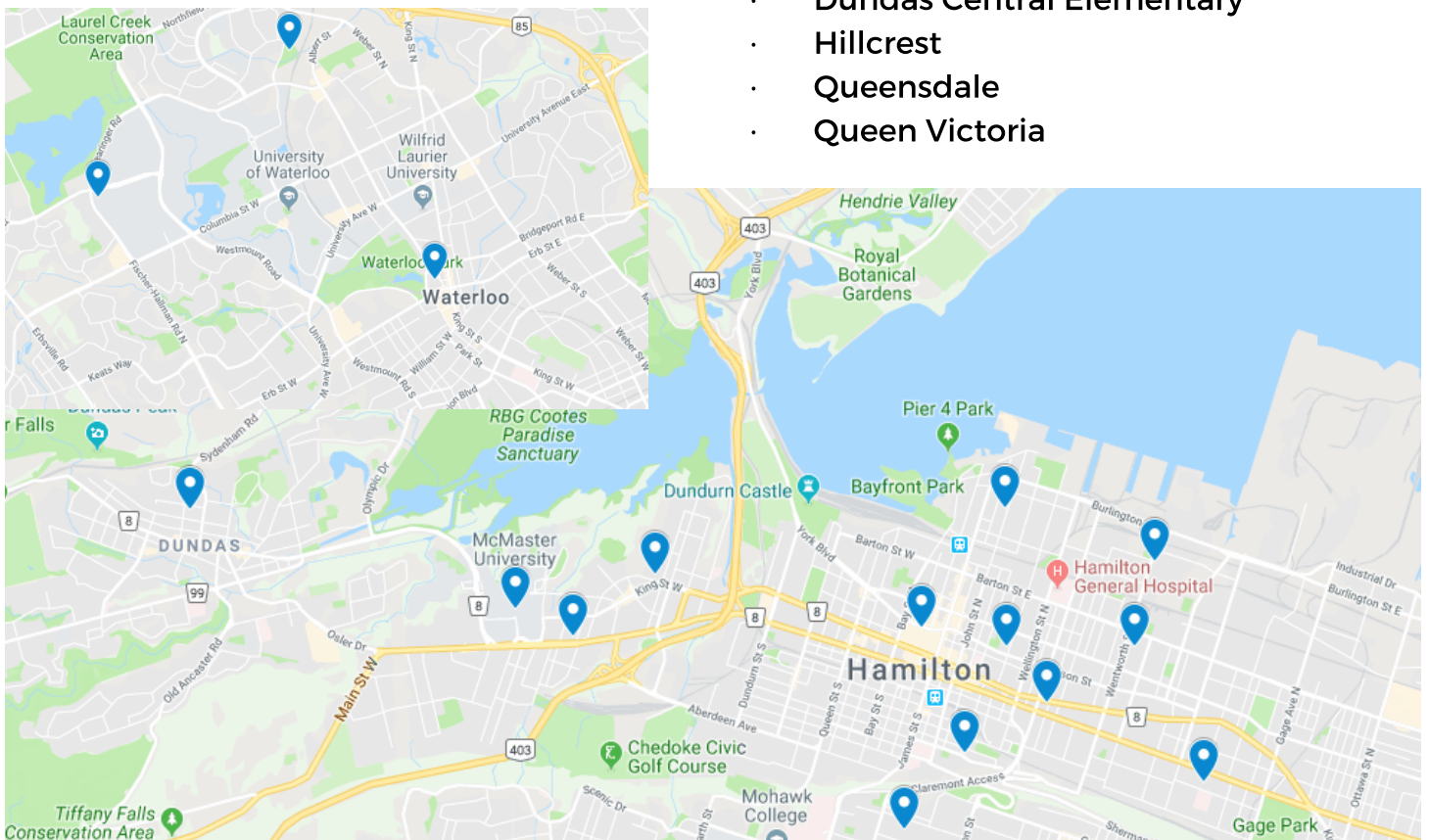
- Pathways to Education
- Eva Rothwell Centre
- Mission Services
- North Hamilton Community Health Centre
- Hamilton Boys & Girls Club
- Hamilton YMCA, Beyond the Bell
- Wesley Urban Ministries
- Burlington Public Library (Central Location)
- Hamilton Public Library (Central Location)

We are particularly excited to be working in partnership with a number of elementary schools within Hamilton Wentworth District School Board.

These include:

- Adelaide Hoodless
- Ancaster Meadow
- Cootes Paradise Elementary
- Dalewood Middle School
- Dr. Davey
- Dundas Central Elementary
- Hillcrest
- Queensdale
- Queen Victoria

## MCYU'S REACH







**“ The MCYU Events were an amazing opportunity for my group of students. They were so eager to attend each month and would discuss the lectures and activities for days afterwards.**

**Many of the kids are from newcomer families and/or are part of low socio-economic groups, so the MCYU events were a really fun and creative way for especially these students to be introduced to opportunities after high school.**

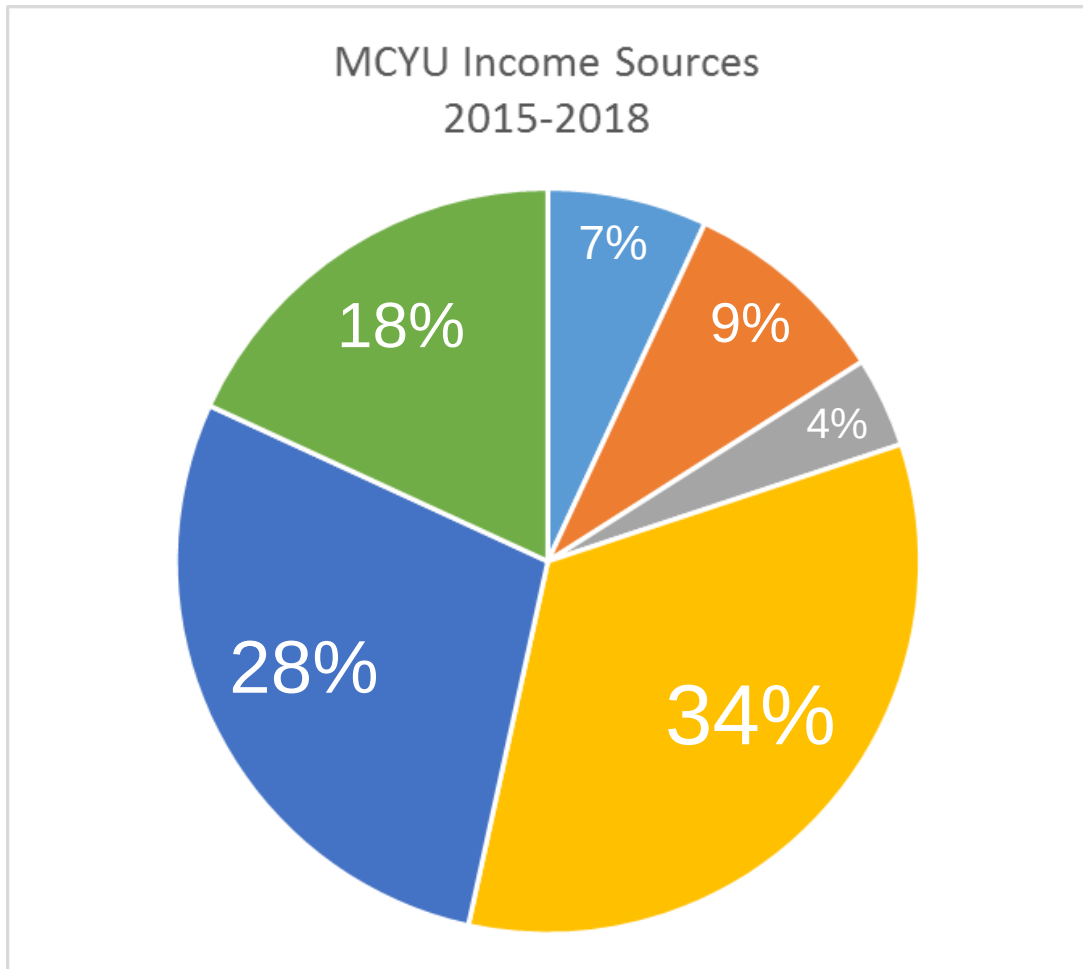
**Many of their parents are new to Canada and do not have a lot of knowledge about post-secondary education. The events allowed them to be exposed to some of the possibilities out there.**

**Simply getting to sit in a lecture hall was so exciting for the students! Since these events, the students have been asking more about post-secondary education.**

**Thank you so much for creating this opportunity for young minds. ”**

**- Aneesa Mohammed from Wesley**

# FINANCIALS



- ▲ Private Donations
- ▲ Provincial Government
- ▲ In Kind Donations from McMaster University
- ▲ NSERC Promoscience
- ▲ Hamilton Community Foundation
- ▲ McMaster University

		2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Revenue</b>					
	Total Revenue	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 262,250.00
<b>Expenses</b>					
	Salaries	\$ -	\$ 30,146.84	\$ 56,820.97	\$ 102,297.59
	Operating Costs	\$ 1,542.28	\$ 22,475.15	\$ 18,921.95	\$ 21,194.86
	Total Expenses	\$ 1,542.28	\$ 52,621.99	\$ 75,742.92	\$ 123,492.45

# MCYU TEAM



MCYU in the City  
Manager



Director,  
Co-Founder



Media  
Specialist



Program  
Coordinator



Administrative  
Coordinator

**THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
SPONSORS  
WHO HELP  
MAKE  
OUR  
PROGRAMS  
POSSIBLE**



ALUMNI



**QUESTION**  
**DISCOVER**  
**CREATE**



McMaster  
University 

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**BRIGHTER WORLD**