

Congratulations to this year's Soroptimist York Region's "Live Your Dream Award" Winners



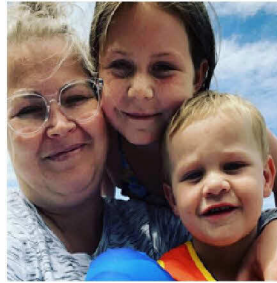
Lina, a single mom of 2 children, aged 5 and 3 years old came to Canada as a refugee from South Sudan, Africa so she could have a better future for her family.

She spent her first year in Canada taking in English as a Second Language classes and then actively started searching for work. As a newcomer to Canada it was difficult to get a job without Canadian work experience or educational credentials.

This made her more determined and she decided to enrol in a certificate program in Canadian Workplace Communication at Toronto Metropolitan University.

As a single mother and with no family here she faced a common barrier of lack of access to affordable childcare. Again, she didn't give up. She started a full-time 57 week intensive HR Management diploma program which includes a 3 month internship which will help her overcome the barrier of lack of Canadian workplace experience and will allow her to expand her professional network.

Lina migrated to Canada as a refugee in need of protection from Sudan where she feared for her life and kids. Coming from a war torn country with violence against women, she said, "I want to change my life by having new skills to help my family". "I want to help other refugees and survivors of war and torture and the Live Your Dream Award will help me achieve my goal of obtaining a diploma in Human Resources".



Natasha, is a single mom of a 9-year-old daughter and a 2 year old son.

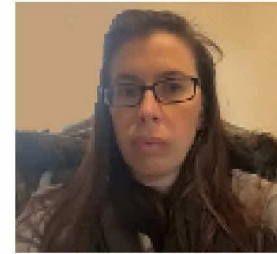
Natasha suffers from PTSD and anxiety from trauma in her life.

As children, Natasha and her sister were physically and sexually abused. And having the women in Natasha's life, her sister and mother struggling with addiction Natasha took care of her other siblings. In May 2021 Natasha found her sister deceased from a drug overdose.

After finding her sister, she took a leave from school and decided she wanted a better life for herself and her children. She decided to change her career to help those struggling in her community. "I want to have a career that makes a difference in my own home and in the lives of others", said Natasha.

As an indigenous woman she wants to work within Indigenous Youth and their families and is currently enrolled in the Bachelors of Indigenous Social Work program.

Her goal is to complete her Masters of Indigenous Social Work. She wants to change the cycle of generational trauma that has been passed down in her family and help other families heal their generational trauma and show them it is possible to succeed and break the cycle.



Caitlyn is the sole supporter of her 5-year-old special needs son, her special needs brother, and her mother.

Caitlyn is studying to be a teacher.

As a single mom with medical challenges of her own, she struggles to make ends meet and when her son was younger she had to put schooling on hold to care for her son.

He is now in senior kindergarten and adapting well, so Caitlyn is now able to resume her dream of being a teacher.

Caitlyn said, "this award will help me financially so I won't have to stress about money on top of being in school and raising my son. When I am not in class I can be home with him instead of trying to find extra income".

*We honour the courage of
this year's Award winners
to make a better life for
themselves and their family.*

*We sincerely wish them
much success!*