

Strengthening Scarborough.



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United
Scarborough
Initiative

-2025-

A plan and a vision to create meaningful change in the lives of
teens across our region. Join us in addressing this important need.

We have the ability to make a difference.

WELCOME TO U.S.I

Welcome to the United Scarborough Initiative, a dynamic program designed to uplift and empower our community through a range of targeted programs initiatives. Our mission is simple yet powerful: to provide inclusive, affordable, and life-changing opportunities for youth across our region.

We proudly offer a variety of curated programs:

- **Afterschool Programs:** tailored to support junior high, high school, and young adult students, helping them excel academically, socially, and emotionally.
- **Late-Night Sports Sessions:** designed to provide a safe, constructive space for youth, keeping them off the streets while promoting teamwork, discipline, and personal growth.
- **Life Spark:** a program dedicated to stimulating and engaging Toronto's seniors, fostering social connections and vitality.

With our own dedicated facility our focus is to be more than just a building—we want to be a beacon of hope and a hub of transformation. Together, we are shaping a stronger, more vibrant Scarborough. Join us in making a lasting impact.



Leadership Team

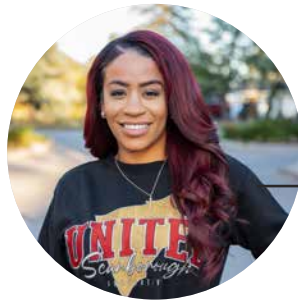
Our leadership team embodies a deep passion for empowering youth and fostering community transformation.



Iyan Kulendran, Chairman
Director of Youth Success & Mentorship



Earl James, Vice-Chairman
Leadership & Mentorship Strategist



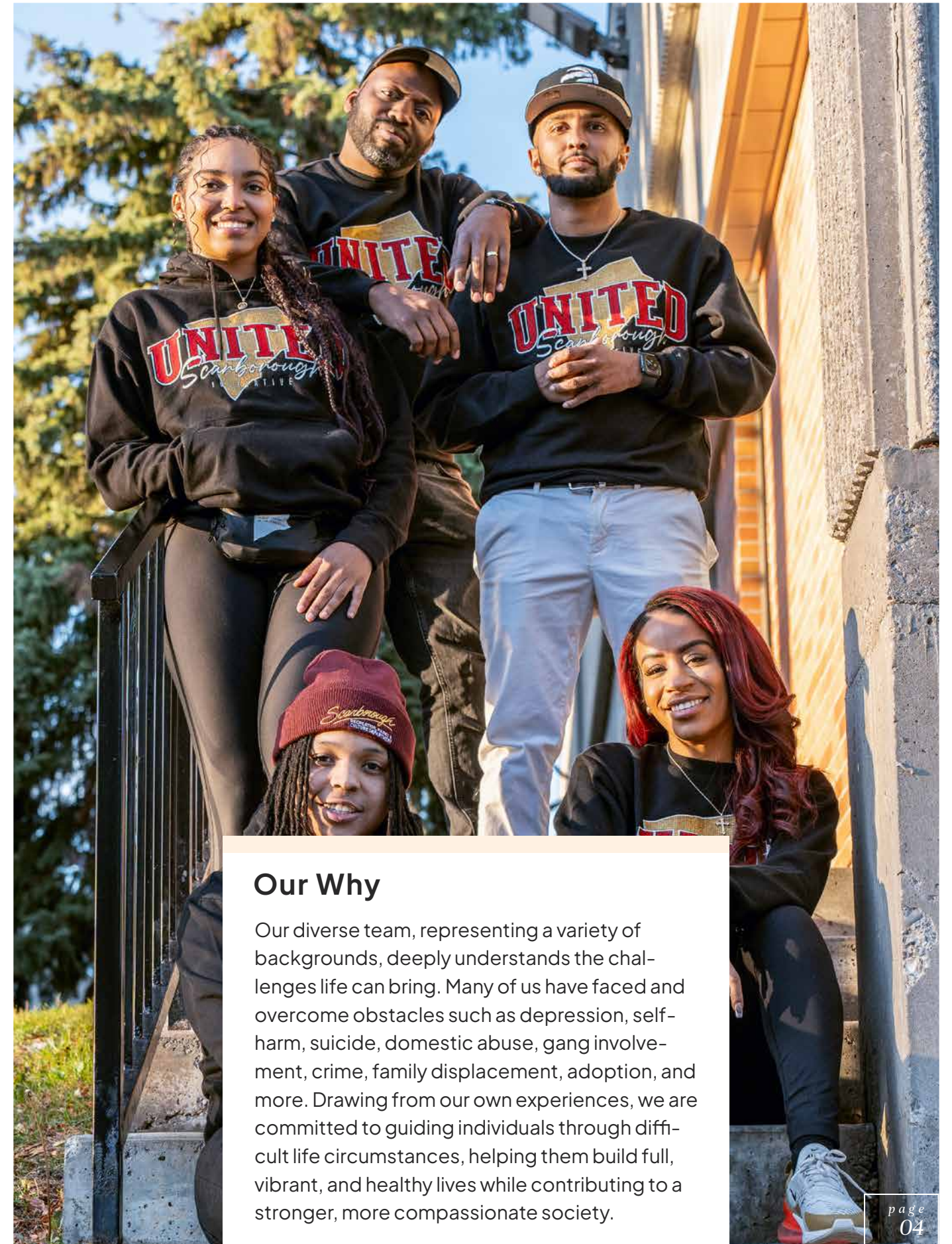
Sasha Vella, CFO
Community & Growth Coordinator



Cam Greenidge, Director of Community Youth Advocate & Action Leader



Kiara Aarons, Program Director
Women's Advocacy & Empowerment Coordinator



Our Why

Our diverse team, representing a variety of backgrounds, deeply understands the challenges life can bring. Many of us have faced and overcome obstacles such as depression, self-harm, suicide, domestic abuse, gang involvement, crime, family displacement, adoption, and more. Drawing from our own experiences, we are committed to guiding individuals through difficult life circumstances, helping them build full, vibrant, and healthy lives while contributing to a stronger, more compassionate society.



Core Pillars

Our Core Pillars

These are the 5 pillars that govern the mission and focus of the United Scarborough Initiative.

1. Youth Crime Prevention
2. Nurturing Talents
3. Mental Health
4. Physical Health
5. Life Skill Development

Youth Crime Prevention

In Toronto, youth firearm arrests have increased by 75% this year, highlighting the urgent need for intervention programs. United Scarborough Initiative aims to address this through structured activities like late-night basketball and mentorship. Studies show that engaging youth in supportive environments can significantly reduce their likelihood of involvement in crime.

Physical Health

Physical activity is vital, especially as over 30% of Canadian children are considered overweight. Our programs, including basketball and fitness initiatives, encourage a healthy lifestyle, reducing risks associated with sedentary habits and promoting long-term well-being.

Nurturing Talents

We believe every individual possesses unique talents waiting to be unlocked. Through our after-school programs, we offer opportunities for artistic, athletic, and academic growth. By fostering these skills, participants not only gain self-confidence but also create pathways toward future success.

Life Skill Development

Life skills such as financial literacy, conflict resolution, and leadership are foundational for success. We equip participants with these essential tools, preparing them for real-world challenges and fostering independence. Programs like resume workshops and mentorships address key areas of growth, setting up participants for a brighter future.

Mental Health

Mental health challenges affect 1 in 5 Canadians, with youth particularly vulnerable. Our initiative incorporates mindfulness and resilience training to help participants manage stress and build emotional strength, ensuring they thrive both personally and academically.

The Crisis

Today's children and teens are grappling with unprecedented mental health and developmental challenges, creating a profound crisis with far-reaching implications. Anxiety, depression, and social isolation are on the rise, fueled by factors such as the pressures of modern life, exposure to social media, and the lingering effects of global disruptions. Many young people lack the necessary support systems to navigate these challenges, leading to struggles in emotional well-being, academic performance, and personal growth.

Youth is a pivotal stage for mental health, as most mental illnesses manifest before the age of 18. Since 2019, conversations about self-harm have risen by 82% according to Kids Help Phone, reflecting an alarming trend. CAMH reports that up to 70% of mental health issues begin during childhood or adolescence. Additionally, suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals aged 15–34, highlighting the urgent need for early intervention and support.

After accidents, suicide is the second leading cause of death for people aged 15–24. In fact, Canada's youth suicide rate is the third highest in the industrialized world. In 2016, suicide accounted for 19% of deaths among youth aged 10 to 14, 29% among youth aged 15 to 19, and 23% among young adults aged 20–24.

In 2016, the issue of youth crime was significant in Toronto, with a reported 7,412 incidents involving young offenders. This highlights a substantial challenge for law enforcement and community safety in the city.

Ontario had the highest number of youth gangs and gang members in the country. Specifically, there were 216 identified youth gangs in Ontario, comprising a total of 3,320 youth gang members. This data shows the social issues related to youth crime, such as gang affiliation, which is often associated with various forms of criminal behavior including drug trafficking, violence, and property crimes.

In a 5x5km square radius from our facility, there are over 20 schools and only 5 community centres (including YMCA which is paid activities). With a rough average of 900 kids per school, that brings us to about 3600 kids per community centre. Out of all the 5 community centers, only Malvern Recreation Center offers free drop-in programs for youth. The rest are paid programs that Kids may not necessarily afford.

This crisis not only impacts the lives of individual youth but also poses a significant threat to the health, safety, and stability of future generations. It affects families, schools, and communities across Canada, with the potential to undermine the social fabric of our society. Addressing this urgent issue is not just a matter of providing resources—it's about ensuring that every child has the opportunity to develop the resilience, skills, and support they need to thrive.

Our 2025 Programs

Here is our 2025 program roster, each thoughtfully designed to uphold our core pillars and work collectively to enhance the lives of youth across our region.



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Mentorship

Problem: Many youth lack positive role models and guidance to help them navigate critical life decisions and challenges. Without mentorship, they often struggle to find direction, develop essential skills, and build the confidence needed to achieve their goals. This gap can lead to missed opportunities, poor decision-making, and limited personal growth.

Solution: Our Mentorship Program provides youth with access to experienced and compassionate mentors who offer personalized support, guidance, and encouragement. Through one-on-one and group mentoring sessions, we help participants develop academic, career, and personal growth plans tailored to their aspirations. By fostering meaningful connections, we empower youth to overcome obstacles, unlock their potential, and build a strong foundation for a successful future.

Life Skills Development

Problem: Many young people today lack access to practical education in essential life skills, leaving them unprepared to navigate adulthood with confidence.

Solution: Our Life Skills Development Programs are designed to bridge this gap by equipping youth with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive. Through hands-on workshops and interactive lessons, we teach budgeting, investing, cooking, entrepreneurialism, time management, and more. These programs empower participants to make informed decisions, develop independence, and build the confidence to pursue their goals. By addressing these foundational needs, we're helping young people lay the groundwork for successful and fulfilling lives.



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Scarborough Showtime Nights

Problem: Affordable, community-oriented entertainment options that promote connection and togetherness are increasingly scarce. Many families and individuals lack safe, inclusive spaces where they can unwind, bond, and build meaningful relationships. This absence can lead to feelings of isolation and missed opportunities for fostering community spirit and engagement.

Solution: USI addresses this need through initiatives like our community movie nights. These events provide a welcoming and affordable space for families and neighbors to come together, relax, and enjoy films in a fun and safe environment. Beyond entertainment, our movie nights create opportunities for people to connect, share experiences, and strengthen their sense of belonging. By promoting community interaction, these gatherings help build a stronger, more united neighborhood while offering a much-needed outlet for relaxation and socialization.



Day Camps

Problem: For families with limited resources, school breaks can lead to gaps in supervision and missed opportunities for enrichment.

Solution: USI's day camps provide affordable, high-quality programming designed to stimulate growth and exploration. From team sports to creative workshops, these camps help youth build confidence, resilience, and essential social skills.



A Growth Culture.

Empower Mindset.



House Leagues

Problem: Many youth encounter significant barriers to participating in organized sports, including financial constraints, limited access to facilities, and a lack of inclusive opportunities. These challenges prevent them from experiencing the physical, social, and emotional benefits that come from team sports. Without access to organized sports, youth miss out on critical opportunities to develop teamwork, discipline, leadership, and communication skills. Additionally, the absence of a structured, supportive environment can leave them vulnerable to negative influences and feelings of isolation.

Solution: USI's house leagues are designed to remove these barriers, making organized sports accessible and inclusive for all youth. By providing affordable, community-based programs, we ensure that every participant has the opportunity to thrive both on and off the court. Through engaging gameplay and mentorship, youth learn teamwork, discipline, and leadership while staying active and healthy. More than just a sports program, our house leagues foster a sense of belonging, confidence, and pride, creating a positive ripple effect that extends into their personal lives and strengthens the community as a whole.

Thanks for your support.



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\$250,000

As a registered Non-Profit - we are on a mission to raise \$250,000 over the next year to expand our impact and deepen our commitment to the Scarborough community. This funding will allow us to enhance our youth development programs, broaden access to our affordable day camps, strengthen our mentorship and senior care initiatives, and host inclusive community events that bring people together.

Program Budget

| Expense Item <small>In the scenario of 120 kids</small> | Expense Cost <small>(Annually)</small> | Expense Notes |
|--|---|---|
| Programming | \$16,640 | Based on two programs, 6 hours a day, 3 days a week. |
| Marketing | \$12,000 | Based on \$1000/m budget |
| Staffing | \$131,040 | Based on 7 staff at \$20/hour for 18 hours a week each. |
| Facility Rental | \$112,320 | Includes LifeSpark, After School Programing and Engagements |
| Digital Platform Expenses | \$5915.48 | Application Resources |
| General Expenses | \$4000 | Tshirts, Trophies, Basketballs, Tournaments, Training Equipment |
| TOTAL ANNUAL | \$281,915.48 | |

Pledge Guide

| Weekly Pledge | 52 Weeks <small>1-Year</small> |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| \$10 | \$1560 |
| \$30 | \$4680 |
| \$100 | \$15,600 |
| \$200 | \$31,200 |
| \$250 | \$39,000 |

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Scan the QR code now to make your online donation and create lasting impact!



FROM U.S.I TEAM

Thank you for taking the time to explore this magazine. We hope it has inspired you and encouraged you to partner with us in sustaining this program and creating lasting change.