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LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER

LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY

2024-2025

GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERS



GYL

GLOBAL
YOUTH
LEADERS

About GYL

Global Youth Leaders is an organization founded in 2009. It is an organization that dedicates time to train future leaders by giving youth opportunities to volunteer and work on their leadership skills. Since its inception, GYL has helped various communities around the world in many different ways.

Mission Statement

The goal of GYL is to inspire and empower youth to become socially responsible leaders in their home, community, country and around the globe in order to create a just and sustainable future.



Vision

Strive for education and skills training to develop the potential of each and every member. Build social awareness and compassion for issues that impact the lives of all living things through a loving and caring attitude. Encourage community services that address the needs of at-risk members of society. Promote cross-cultural and ethical discourse, understanding and cooperation. Achieve strength and integrity of character to become a role model for others within our local and global communities.



Dr. Raymond Cho
Member of Provincial Parliament
Scarborough North



May 31, 2025

MESSAGE FROM MPP RAYMOND CHO

Global Youth Leaders Canada 16th Annual Global Youth Leaders Forum

As MPP for Scarborough North and Founder of Global Youth Leaders Canada (GYL), I am delighted and honoured to extend my warmest welcome to everyone attending the 16th Annual Global Youth Leaders Forum!

GYL was founded with a clear mission: to empower young people to become the leaders of tomorrow. In today's uncertain and rapidly changing world, the need for determined, visionary and compassionate leadership has never been more important. Through my conversations with young leaders of GYL, I have emphasized how one leader can profoundly shape society —whether through uniting people with compassion or causing harm through division. That is why the values we teach young leaders truly matter. A true leader remains humble, shows gratitude to those who help them, greets others with warmth and respect, builds positive relationships, is determined, faces challenges with courage, and above all, is thankful for their blessings.

GYL is offering each member with the tools and skills needed to be an effective leader. I commend our youth for taking initiative, working collaboratively, being mindful of others and the environment, and fostering a kind and inclusive community.

This forum is an opportunity to both showcase and celebrate the accomplishments made by members of GYL.

I feel truly privileged and blessed to be part of the GYL family with you. I hope that each and every one of you has a sense of pride in all that you have achieved, and all you will achieve in the future. Witnessing our youth evolve into tomorrow's leaders is both humbling and inspiring. Our future is entrusted to you, and I'm thrilled to say it is in excellent hands. Wishing you all a productive and encouraging forum as well as another year of successful leadership in action!

Sincerely,

Dr. Raymond Cho
MPP – Scarborough North

Message from the GYL Executives



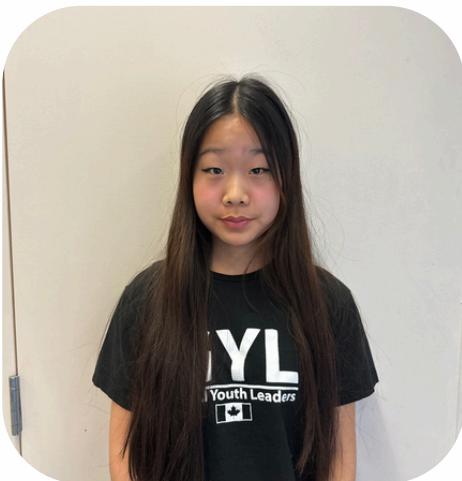
Keilyn Ahn
President



Chloe Kim
Vice President



Julian Kim
Secretary



Heavin An
Director of Activity
Operations

This year, the GYL Executive Team set out with a mission to build upon our strong foundation by expanding opportunities for growth, deepening our impact, and strengthening the bonds within our community. We focused on empowering every member to take initiative, embrace responsibility, and discover their unique leadership potential through both action and reflection.

From service initiatives to workshops and team-building events, we witnessed GYL members step up with passion, creativity, and purpose. Together, we navigated challenges, celebrated achievements, and made a tangible difference in the communities we serve.

None of this would have been possible without the energy and dedication of our members, the guidance and trust of our parents, the wisdom and encouragement of our mentors, and the steadfast support of our founder, Minister Cho.

Thank you for making this year truly meaningful. We are so proud of what we've accomplished together, and we look forward to seeing the continued growth and impact of the GYL community in the years to come.

Activity Representatives



Junseok Kim
Homework Club



Noah Seo
Homework Club



Reese Ahn
Homework Club



Soungwoo Lim
Homework Club



Lauren Kim
Senior Homes



Emma Jeon
Cummer Lodge



Ryan Jung
Cummer Lodge



Katie Kim
Ensemble



Suhyeon Kim
Public Speaking

Members



Brian Song
Grade 12



Chloe Kim
Grade 12



Haena Yoon
Grade 12



Heavin An
Grade 12



Jaedam Kim
Grade 12



Joanne Kim
Grade 12



Julian Kim
Grade 12



Junseok Kim
Grade 12



Justin Kim
Grade 12



Katie Kim
Grade 12



Keilyn Ahn
Grade 12



Lauren Kim
Grade 12

Members



Nick Jeong
Grade 12



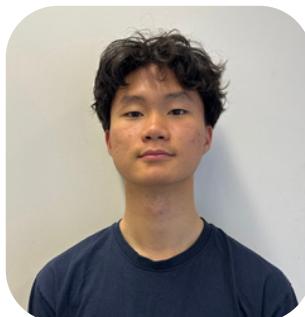
Noah Seo
Grade 12



Soungwoo Lim
Grade 12



Suhyeon Kim
Grade 12



Sungwoo Park
Grade 12



Jake Kim
Grade 11



Jason Lee
Grade 11



Minjae Kang
Grade 11



Ryan Lee
Grade 11



Samuel Baek
Grade 11



Skyler Shin
Grade 11

Members



Daniel Jung
Grade 10



Emma Jeon
Grade 10



Harrison Oh
Grade 10



Reese Ahn
Grade 10



Ryan Jung
Grade 10



Sohun Kim
Grade 10



Sojun Kim
Grade 10



Aiden Park
Grade 9



Ava Wu
Grade 9



Doyeong Jung
Grade 9



Gaon Kim
Grade 9



Haewon Lee
Grade 9

Members



Jian Im
Grade 9



Jungwook Hong
Grade 9



Junoo Bang
Grade 9



Somyung Hong
Grade 9



Meet the Founder: Honourable Minister Raymond Cho



This year, GYL had the privilege of hosting a “Meet with the Founder” day, where students had the opportunity to hear directly from the GYL founder, the Honorable Minister Raymond Cho. He delivered an encouraging and powerful message to all GYL members, sharing the mission and vision behind the founding of GYL, as well as his inspiring success story – from arriving in Canada as a young student, to becoming a doctor of social work, to being elected as one of Ontario’s longest-serving MPPs, and eventually the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility.

Minister Cho talked about essential leadership skills for the leaders of tomorrow.

We also welcomed Paralympian Mr. Dean Dwyer, who shared his inspiring journey of never giving up and staying focused on his dreams and goals.

The meeting was concluded with the interactive jeopardy style trivia game, “Who Knows the most about GYL and its Founder?” created by the executive team.

GYL Picnic Social

GYL hosted a picnic at Earl Bales Park—an outdoor social event designed for both new and returning GYL members to come together, feel comfortable, make friends, connect, and have fun through a variety of team-building games, icebreakers, and fun group activities.





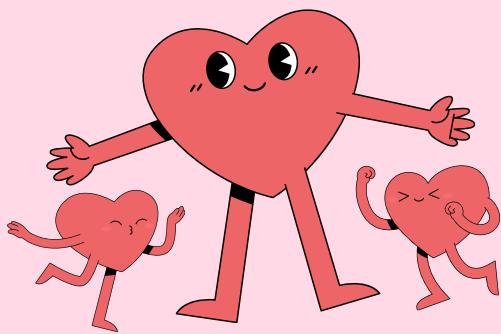
Learning Korean Culture: SAMULNORI WORKSHOP



In celebration of Korean Heritage Month this October, we hosted a Samulnori workshop led by Mr. Baek, the Artistic Director of Samulnori Canada. Each student had the opportunity to learn and play the traditional Samulnori instruments, working together to create a collaborative sound. The workshop concluded with an inspiring performance by Mr. Baek, leaving everyone falling in love with Korean traditional culture and music.

Mental Wellness Workshop

Establishing healthy boundaries



Understanding the stressors that test your mental boundaries is a powerful tool in learning when to say 'yes' and when to say 'no.' In collaboration with Ms. Emma Lim, a psychotherapist, GYL hosted a student workshop to teach this important lesson.

GYL MENTAL WELLNESS WORKSHOP

*Say Yes!
Say No!*

Healthy Boundaries

BY MS. EMMA LIM, REGISTERED PSYCHOTHERAPIST

ON NOVEMBER 23, 2024
WORKSHOP FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 7 P.M.
Q&A (OPTIONAL) FROM 7 P.M. TO 7:15P.M.

Meet Ms. Emma Lim!

With over 30 years of experience, Ms. Lim is a skilled psychotherapist and Director of the Toronto Somatic Mindfulness Psychotherapy Clinic. She specializes in empowering immigrants, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, conducting psycho-educational programs, offering a holistic approach to mental health and well-being. Ms. Lim's work spans Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Sandplay Therapy, Senior Community Projects, and much more.

highlights of Ms. Lim's Work:
• "Body and Mind" Mental Care Program at Long Food for volunteer leaders
• "Eco-Connection" program for Eco-Spiritual life and "Language-Connection" program for North Korean defector Korean English empowerment.
• Researcher and Facilitator at Toronto Western Hospital's Asian Initiative Clinic
• Former Family Connections Program Facilitator for CAMH for families affected by Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), Christian Science, and Psychosis.



This workshop was designed for GYL students to reflect on their mental health, discover their inner strengths, establish necessary boundaries, and explore ways to protect them.



GYL Book Donation

Drive

GYL was proud to partner with the [Children's Book Bank Charity](#) to support young readers in our community. Through our book donation drive, we collected an amazing total of **342** books for children who love stories, learning, and adventure. We were happy to be part of this meaningful initiative—because every child deserves the joy of a good book.



*"The more that you read,
the more things you will
know. The more that you
learn, the more places
you'll go."*

- Dr. Seuss





HOLIDAY CONCERTS



GYL hosted our annual holiday concert for the residents of Cummer Lodge and Castlevue Wychwood Towers Long-Term Care Homes. The event featured performances by our Ensemble, a singer and guitarist, a dancer, and a group dance team, all coming together to spread holiday cheer. In addition to the performances, we also created Christmas care gifts for the seniors, sharing the joy and spirit of the holiday season with them.



GYL WINTER

social



This past Christmas season, the GYL executives organized a Christmas social where each member had the opportunity to create heartfelt cards for senior home residents, thanking them for joining us at our Christmas concert.

To make the celebrations even more special, we hosted a festive Christmas cookie decorating competition and organized fun, engaging games focused on building teamwork and strengthening friendships.



GYL FOOD DRIVE

CONSIDER DONATING!

<https://www.richmondhillcommunityfoodbank.ca>



55 Newkirk Road, Richmond Hill, ON, L4C 3G4

January 24th, 2025

Global Youth Leaders

Dear Laura and the Members of Global Youth Leaders,

On behalf of the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your food donation before the holiday season. Your generous food donation has already been used to provide emergency relief to individuals and families who have recently found themselves in need.

Our food bank currently serves over 3,600 people each month, and this number continues to grow. Meeting the rising demand has become increasingly challenging, and without your generous support at Global Youth Leaders, we would not be able to meet this urgent need in our community.

Thank you again for your thoughtful donation to our food bank and for partnering with us to provide urgently needed assistance to the community.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lee Reynolds
General Manager
Richmond Hill Community Food Bank
(905) 508-4761
lee.reynolds@rhfoodbank.ca

This year GYL executives organized a successful donation drive in support of the Richmond Hill Food Bank!

Thanks to the generosity of our members and community, we were able to collect and donate much-needed food items to help families in need.



ANNUAL UNIVERSITY SEMINAR

HIGH SCHOOL TO UNIVERSITY

TRANSITION TIPS & INSIGHTS FROM GYL GRADUATES

Saturday
1st March 2025

LIVE ZOOM WEBINAR



GYL'S ANNUAL UNIVERSITY WEBINAR: Featuring alumni from

- Western University
- McMaster University
- University of Waterloo
- University of Toronto

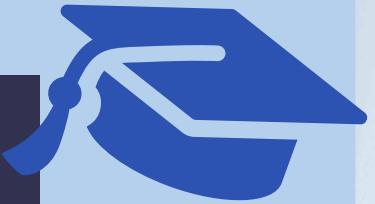


BRANDON SONG
Western University
BMSc Program
Medical Sciences

BYURI KIM
McMaster University
Honours Health Sciences

RYAN SUK
University of Waterloo
Accounting and financial management

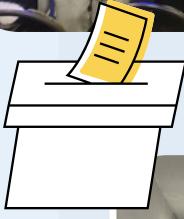
TRENTON KIM
University of Toronto
Rotman Commerce



This year's University Seminar featured 4 GYL alumni from four different universities. They shared firsthand experiences and practical advice on preparing for university life, navigating academic and social transitions, building strong networks, and more.

A key takeaway from the seminar was to cherish every opportunity to connect with new people, as you never know which doors may open through these relationships. The alumni also emphasized the abundance of resources available at university to support each student's success.

CAMPAIGN SUPPORT



In preparation for the 2025 Ontario Provincial Election, on February 1, GYL students had the unique opportunity to volunteer at MPP Dr. Raymond Cho's campaign office and attend the campaign office open house on February 8. This experience gave students a firsthand look into how a political office operates during an election season.

Each student signed up for various roles—from door-to-door canvassing, phone outreach, promoting the importance of every vote, to office organization, preparing materials, placing stickers on flyers, and distributing door hangers. GYL students learned how to work in a dynamic environment, work collaboratively as a team, and develop a deeper appreciation for the democratic process—all while proudly supporting our founder!

COMMUNICATION SKILLS WORKSHOP



GYL's own Public Speaking Instructor, Manish Sawhney, hosted GYL's own Communication Skills workshop

GYL COMMUNICATION SKILLS WORKSHOP

(EVENT DETAILS)

SATURDAY, APRIL 5,
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

EDITHVALE COMMUNITY CENTRE
131 FINCH AVE W, NORTH YORK

Manish Sawhney
3RD YEAR GYL PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUB MENTOR

Jeremy Shin
FORMER GYL MEMBER,
EXPERIENCE IN DEBATE



Manish kicked off the workshop with an engaging door-knocking exercise – a real-life canvassing activity that gave members firsthand experience in interacting with the public and speaking confidently and concisely about their cause.

During the workshop, each member also had the opportunity to speak about something they felt was true about themselves. This exercise helped them feel more comfortable, boosted their confidence, and reinforced the importance of authenticity in public speaking.

Manish closed the session by reminding everyone that being a good public speaker starts with being truthful and genuine – because real connection comes from speaking from the heart.



TREE PLANTING



GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERS

JOIN THE GREEN MOVEMENT!

Be a part of our tree-planting event
and make a difference



Date: April 27, 2025 (Sunday)
Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Location: 6 Princess St, Markham



In celebration of Earth Day, GYL joined Friends of the Rouge Watershed to plant trees in Rouge Valley. This sustainability effort was initiated by Minister Cho, our founder, back in 1991, and since then, GYL has been proud to be part of the ongoing environmental, ecological, and sustainability work in our community.

This year, it was amazing to see how much change could happen in just one hour. The once dry and bare landscape began to fill with rows of baby trees, bringing new life to the area. Through small but meaningful actions like this, GYL is proud to continue building a greener future for the next generation.





Supporting Ukraine – Peace Gathering

On Sunday, February 23 we took part in a peaceful gathering to remember those affected by the war in Ukraine. The event was sponsored by Alpha Korean United Church and supported by the Consulate General of Ukraine in Toronto. GYL was invited to join in prayer and show our support.

Welcoming Ukrainian Children

This year, for the first time, GYL welcomed Ukrainian children into our Homework Club. This initiative was launched by GYL students who wanted to provide more hands-on support to a community in need, and it was supported by the entire GYL community.



**Stand
Ukraine**

CERTIFICATE

OF ACHIEVEMENT.

CHLOE KIM

HEAVIN AN

JULIAN KIM

KATIE KIM

KEILYN AHN

LAUREN HAEMIN KIM

NOAH SEO

SUHYEON KIM

2024-2025

DR. RAYMOND CHO
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS

DR. RAYMOND CHO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

CHLOE KIM



The first, most essential step in becoming an effective change-maker is not taken directly in the community, but closer to home. The first step is taken within ourselves. Looking back on my four years volunteering with GYL, I learned that it is this fundamental lesson that allowed me to find passion and embrace a variety of roles to support my local community from becoming a tutor on Saturdays to help younger students find confidence in their literacy and numeracy skills and receive the support they need, to becoming a companion for the elderly at long-term care homes within Toronto. Initially, when I first started my year at GYL, I was perhaps how most students may feel entering a large, energetic crowd for the first time: out-of-place, anxious and confused. However, the supportive environment made by mentors to parents and even guest speakers along the way all allowed me to adjust to the rhythm of a driven community that had an agenda to accomplish.

The following year and the year after that, the variety of workshops from mock interview and communication, physical wellness and mental wellness workshops continued to push me out of my comfort zones. However, in doing so, I realize that I began to grow more comfortable with what I would usually find uncomfortable or simply terrifying. They provided me with the chance to uncover my strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, I found myself wanting to learn more and strive for new experiences regardless of how daunting they seemed. Above all, being surrounded by so many of my peers within a youth-run organization allowed me to experience the joy and pride of being able to say that our friends are also our role models and make goals for community improvement seem more achievable knowing we are a team. Together, these experiences allowed me to transition from a volunteer battling uncertainties to someone ready to help lead and guide others. Although I still have much more to learn and more people to meet and learn from, if there is one lesson that I take away from my time at GYL, it is that the first step to creating positive change in the world begins with positive change within yourself.

HEAVIN AN

Global Youth Leaders is a non-profit organization which aims to give young students the opportunity to build leadership skills and enact meaningful change in the world.



When asked to describe what GYL is, this is the refrain which I often repeat in speeches, applications and interviews. Yet, it feels insufficient to sum up GYL in so few words because of how much more it has become to me. Global Youth Leaders isn't just a volunteer organization, it's truly a community – a place where I feel that I belong. When I first joined GYL, I was 11 years old. I was extremely shy and despite the fact that I had many ideas to contribute, I held them back in fear of judgement.

At my first general meeting all the new members were told to introduce themselves to a seemingly massive audience. It was the scariest moment in my eleven years of living. However, as I participated in ensemble, samulnori, and homework club and was able to observe senior leaders passionately running GYL activities, I became inspired. I became inspired to contribute my ideas, join the public speaking club, and apply for my first leadership position – Cummer Lodge Activity Representative. Eventually, I had the honour of serving as GYL President in 2023–2024 and Director of Activity Operations in 2024–2025. Not only has this organization given me the platform to see my ideas come to life but also the confidence to contribute them. Without GYL, I wouldn't have been able to give back to causes that I am personally passionate about, for example, donating to families impacted by domestic violence, fundraising for Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and organising workshops focused around student success for my peers. Without GYL, I wouldn't have found a community of people who are equally passionate about volunteerism and who do it for the heart, not the hours.

JULIAN KIM



GYL has been an influential part of my life for the past six years. When I joined in Grade 7, I did not fully know what to expect, but over time, it has become a place where I have grown as a leader, found a community, and learned what it really means to give back as a volunteer. GYL gave me the chance to be part of something larger than myself. Whether I was performing in Ensemble for senior residents, teaching in Homework Club, or planting trees for Earth Day, every initiative reminded me of the impact we can have when we come together with purpose. I have seen firsthand how even simple acts bring smiles and a sense of togetherness. These exact moments remind me why organizations like GYL matter. As head of Ensemble last year and now Secretary, I have been able to help build and rebuild our programs post-pandemic.

Seeing the success of our volunteers returning to in-person events such as socials and workshops, allowing us to reconnect with each other and the community, has proved to me the importance of close-knit collaboration. I was also able to meet outstanding leaders through GYL. Working alongside Dr. Raymond Cho during his campaign helped me see what long-term commitment truly looks like through his ability to show up to election season year after year with the same dedication and passion. Throughout my six years at GYL, I have reimagined how I see leadership and service to our community. It has taught me that leadership is not just about the big gestures but consistency, care, and willingness to step up when it matters most. GYL has made me a better leader, and I hope to have helped it through my own efforts and inspired GYL's future leaders.

DR. RAYMOND CHO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

KATIE KIM



Being a member of Global Youth Leaders has impacted my understanding of what it means to be a leader. From the six years I have been a member of GYL, I have been a part of the Ensemble for five years and later had the honour of being head of Ensemble for three years. In this role, I've led musical performances in senior care homes and missionary organizations, often for individuals with cognitive impairments. When I first joined Global Youth Leaders, I had already begun with a strong interest in music, however, that interest turned into a deeper commitment to becoming a leader over time. From my time in GYL, I've learned that leadership is built on commitment to others. Through my responsibilities as an Ensemble Head, organizing rehearsals, leading performances, and supporting fellow ensemble members, this role has pushed me to grow not only as a musician but as a leader.

One of the most meaningful lessons I have learned from Global Youth Leaders is connection. Through our ensemble performances, I have observed that our music often brought comfort and connection to people who may have otherwise felt isolated or unappreciated. Moments like these showed me that the act of showing up with care and a purpose can make a difference to others, even if we do not realize it. Additionally, I learned the value of a community. GYL is not just a volunteering organization, it is a space where members work toward a shared goal, helping each other grow. As a member and leader within Global Youth Leaders, I have understood the impact we can have on others and along the way, I have made lifelong friendships that I will forever cherish.

KEILYN AHN



When I joined Global Youth Leaders in Grade 7, I had no idea how much it would shape me. Now, six years later as President, I can see how much I've grown—not just as a leader, but as a person who cares about their community. One of the biggest lessons I've learned from my time in GYL is the value of commitment. Leadership isn't about showing up once but showing up consistently. Over the years, I committed myself to GYL, whether it was through participation, planning, discussions with the executive team, running events, or the countless hours in between. That commitment taught me how to stay focused, follow through, and keep going even when things got difficult. GYL also helped me grow my initiative.

Whether it was organizing the food drive, cultural workshop, or wellness seminar, I discovered that leadership means recognizing a need and taking action. Slowly, I became more confident in making decisions, guiding and working with a team, and taking responsibility for both the challenges and successes. Empathy was another thing that grew in me. Watching a senior's face light up during our holiday concert while they sang along to old carols or laughed when we danced. Those moments reminded me that leadership isn't just about organizing but also about caring. Sometimes, showing up consistently with kindness is the most meaningful thing you can do. Additionally, working with a variety of people from different ages and experiences has taught me patience. Whether it was mentoring younger or newer members who were just starting out, collaborating with peers who brought different ideas to the table, or coordinating with GYL, I learned how to listen, adapt, and meet people where they are. Patience became essential, not just for getting things done, but for building trust and creating a space where everyone felt valued and heard. Lastly, collaboration was another lesson. None of GYL's accomplishments, from tree planting to campaigns, happened alone. Working closely with my executive team and GYL taught me how to delegate, support others, and build meaningful connections. Most of all, GYL showed me a real community. As I move forward, I carry the confidence, values, and commitment that GYL helped me build.

LAUREN HAEMIN KIM To me, GYL is not just a volunteer organization, but it is where I have grown, contributed, and discovered what kind of person I want to be. When I first joined, it was right after the pandemic, when the world was slowly reopening but still full of uncertainty. After years of limited interaction, I was very unsure of who I was. GYL was a place where I could re-engage with the world around me as a leader. The countless opportunities such as Homework Club and Cummer Lodge volunteering had a tremendous impact on my leadership and interpersonal skills. GYL taught me to be a confident leader through all the events and workshops that took place, even if it was out of my comfort zone.

I was also able to meet so many different people whom I was able to connect with through shared values and interests. These relationships represent the importance of collaboration and connection. Being part of GYL made me realize how valuable and impactful a strong, supportive community is. Looking back to when I first joined, I have changed and learned so much from everyone around me. I realized that GYL is not just a way for me to receive volunteer hours, it is a special opportunity that allows me to have different experiences in order for me to discover what I am passionate about. Most importantly, I am able to showcase my skills and ideas openly to my peers, while also learning more about theirs, which helped me grow into the person I am today. The experiences I gained would not have been easily achievable without GYL, and I am positive that I would have never developed the same level of confidence, empathy, and leadership skills.

DR. RAYMOND CHO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

NOAH SEO



To donate one's time and energy to the community necessitates that there be some kind of meaning behind the endeavour, otherwise the experience is at once unfulfilling, insincere, and - in all likelihood - inferior. In my role as a GYL math tutor, there was no way I could work with my young students if I did not care about what I was doing. There is no option to simply go through the motions when another individual is depending on you to help them, rather you must care enough to give them whatever it takes to make their life better than it was before the interaction. You need to care, otherwise you fail them, you fail the team, you fail the community, and you fail yourself.

GYL exists because people care enough to provide an opportunity for growth, an opportunity to become more than what we are by daring to become what we can be. Conventional wisdom would have us believe that, whenever one door closes, another opens, so I like to see the end of my high school adventure as more of the beginning of a challenging new story just waiting to be written. It is a tale, however, that must be written with care. In everything we do, we touch the lives of others. In explaining the complexities of long division to third graders, I was not just teaching them fundamental mathematical skills, but helping them see the value of hard work and dedication, encouraging them to face challenges head-on and with courage, and letting them find value in themselves. In caring for them, we teach them to care for others, and suddenly the world is a much better place. That is worth caring about.

SUHYEON KIM During a GYL public speaking meeting, a question Manish had brought during the group discussion truly resonated with me: "If you had the whole world follow you, would you be happy with where you took them?" In other words, if everyone viewed the person I have become, would I be proud of who I am today? GYL brings me the pride to show the world who I have become in the past few years of being a dedicated member. From peer tutoring students to helping members improve their public speaking, I have not only gained crucial traits of a global youth leader, but also gained life-long skills and meaningful relationships amongst peers, and mentors.

The first year I joined GYL, I was a shy student, unwilling to take initiative; I had little ambition to support my community because I was afraid of embracing my discomfort. However, the valuable, first-hand opportunities I was exposed to enabled me to see a different perspective of volunteering. The realization came from simple, warm gestures of "thank you"s from students and seniors. I understood the impact that taking a few hours of my day could have on individuals in the community. Furthermore, GYL's public speaking club has strengthened my ability to consistently challenge myself. Being discouraged by my underperformance compared to my outgoing peers in my first year motivated me to continue practicing. My journey has reshaped me from stuttering in every speech to confidently speaking in front of a large audience as the club's senior head. GYL has given me a whole new sense of belonging, purpose, and growth that I will take with me after high school. As the world continues to follow me to where I take them, I hope they see the impact that GYL has on me moving forward.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
DR. CHO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!



We are proud to present the Dr. Raymond Cho Scholarship, named in honour of Dr. Raymond Cho - founder of Global Youth Leaders(GYL), Member of Provincial Parliament for Scarborough North, and Ontario's Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. Dr. Cho also holds a Doctorate in Social Work, and has dedicated his life to serving vulnerable communities, promoting youth empowerment, and advancing public service.

This scholarship recognizes outstanding Grade 12 GYL members who demonstrate strong personal growth, leadership, teamwork and meaningful community engagement through their participation in the GYL community.

Cummerlodge



Spreading love and putting a smile on someone's face. Our goal this year at the Cummer Lodge elderly home was to make the most out of the one hour volunteering session for the residents. To do this, bi-weekly on Mondays, we hosted activities such as drawing, bingo, and painting. We chose these activities based on the feedback and reactions from the residents from past sessions. For the bingo sessions, we provided small prizes to make it more exciting. To help the residents have the best time during our activities, the volunteers treated others with warmth and a helping hand, whether that may be small conversations or getting the residents excited to play. Through these loving actions between the residents and GYL volunteers, we were able to forge deeper relationships and spread warmth to our community.



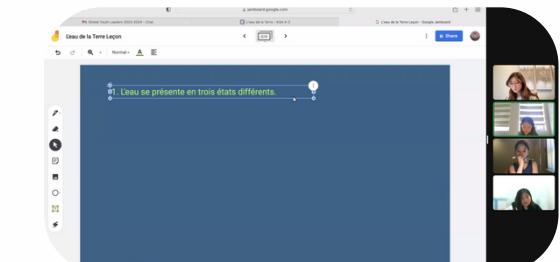
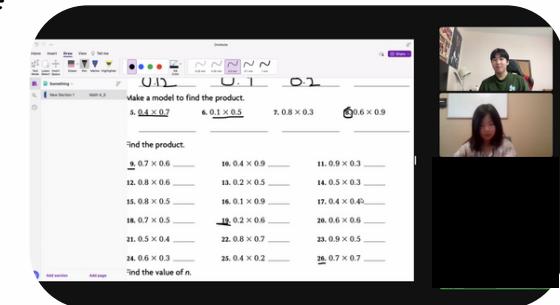
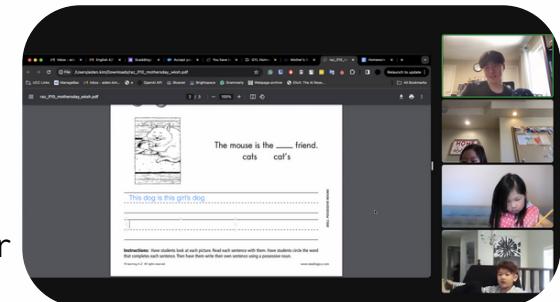
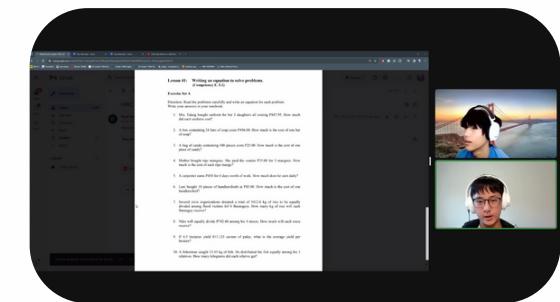
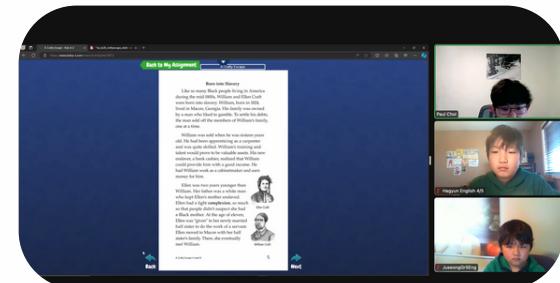
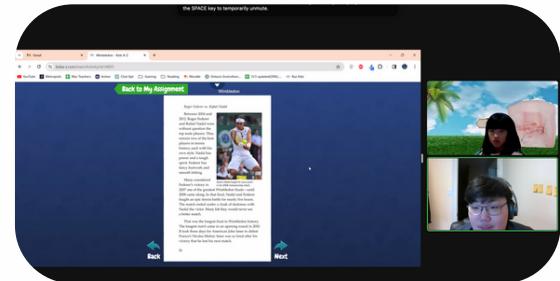
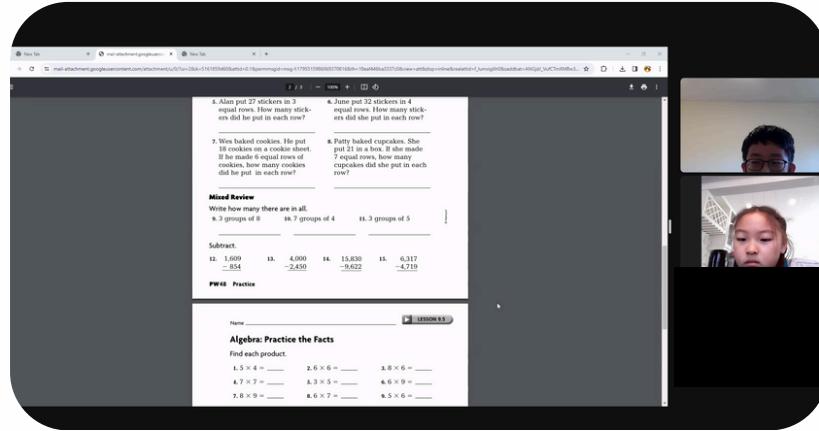
We also initiated the first ever Korean Culture Programs that were integrated in the Cummer Lodge sessions. We introduced Korean culture through drawing cultural patterns and flowers on a traditional-style fan and hosted a Korean traditional game called "Yutnori". In doing so, we were able to provide cultural experiences to both the Korean and non-Korean residents. As GYL is a Korean organization, we believe that we had a big impact on the cultural aspects of the Cummer Lodge program.



Overall, as we volunteered at the long-term care home, we were able to provide an enjoyable time for the residents and create a heart-warming environment for small relationships to grow.



Homework Club



GYL Homework Club is an academic tutoring session for students ranging from grades 1-6. Using Zoom, homework club took place online every Saturday from 3:00-4:30 pm where volunteers taught different subjects including Math, English and French. Throughout the year, 45 GYL members dedicated their time to helping students with their academics. During these sessions, volunteers developed and strengthened their leadership, initiative, critical thinking, and responsibility, as they led classes and interacted with their students.

The GYL members not only provided prepared materials for the students to learn, but also offered guidance regarding their schoolwork, tests, presentations/assessments, and other extracurricular work. In doing so, students created a stronger personal connection with the volunteers who considered the needs of each student and modified their methods to help the students learn as effectively as possible and make new friends.

Using Zoom, volunteers used features such as screen sharing to enhance the learning experience for the students. As the students started coming in at 2:45, they were put into their respective breakout rooms and the volunteers began teaching their prepared materials from Raz-Kids and the Harcourt Workbook. Through the online sessions, students were able to easily join the class and receive help while being in a fun and encouraging learning environment.

Public Speaking

The inspiration for GYL's public speaking class is for students to improve their public speaking skills, as it is a crucial skill for leaders in society. Public speaking class encourages students to push boundaries and increase their confidence. This year, the public speaking classes were held on Sundays from the months of February to April, with a total of 5 meetings. Classes ran from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

This year, meetings were held at the Alpha Korean United Church. Public speaking classes are led by Manish Sawhney, who is Ontario's head of operations for Senior and Accessibility. Manish has been assisting students in the public speaking classes for 3 years. He is a supportive, encouraging, and inspiring mentor whom students can rely on for guidance.

This year, students drastically improved their public speaking skills by learning various techniques. Students learned to overcome nervousness when speaking in front of an audience and control aspects like tone, speed, volume, and hand gestures. For every meeting, students were assigned a certain topic to give a speech about. Following every speech, students would be able to gain feedback from Manish and other students on how to refine and enhance the speech.

Furthermore, for many of the sessions, students had the honour of hearing from the Minister Raymond Choi. He often spoke to students about his journey as Ontario's Minister and his personal motivations. We encourage students to sign up for public speaking classes next year. We look forward to seeing you!



Ensemble

GYL's Ensemble is a passionate group of musicians made up of string, piano, and woodwind instrumentalists who come together to rehearse, perform, and bring joy to others. We meet biweekly for two hours at Edithvale Community Centre, diving into everything from traditional Korean music to movie soundtracks and seasonal tunes.

Over the past year, we have had the opportunity to share our music beyond the rehearsal space and into the community. During the winter, we visited places like Cummer Lodge Long-term Care and Castleview Wychwood Towers, where we played pieces such as It's Beginning to Look a lot Like Christmas, Let it Snow, and Silent Night. These visits allowed us to connect with seniors and caregivers through heartfelt performances that brought joy. As the year went on, we kept pushing ourselves with challenging pieces like Palladio 1, Kiki's Delivery Service, and Arirang. These selections helped us grow not only in musical ability but also showed us how music can bring emotions to life.

With each rehearsal, the energy and talent in our group grew stronger. We acknowledge all of our amazing members' efforts playing these pieces as well as their determination coming to every practice. We also thank our conductor, Kim Sung-Joon, for making all of this possible. We hope to see new members join us next year in this great opportunity.



TIMELINE

July, 2009 Initiated a Community Clean-Up led by Toronto City Councillor Raymond Cho

July - August, 2009 Provided a free summer camp to children from low-income neighborhoods

September, 2009 Travelled to Jamaica in the winter of 2009 to visit the Dare to Care Children's Home

Oct. - November, 2009 Raised funds to assist typhoon victims in the Philippines.

December, 2009 Organized a Christmas party for children of single parents.

Nov., 2009 to Present Initiated Homework Club

November, 2011 Six GYL members revisited Jamaica reuniting with children born with HIV/AIDS.

December, 2011 GYL participated in numerous events at Castleview Wychwood Seniors' Home.

January 7, 2012 Initiated the Public Speaking Workshop

April 14, 2012 Participated in the Annual/Spring Summer Community Clean-up in the neighbourhood of Scarborough Rouge-River.

April 27, 2012 Hosted the GYL Ensemble Concert at the Castleview Wychwood Seniors' Home.

April 29, 2012 Hosted the 3rd Annual GYL Forum.

May 12, 2012 Planted approximately 500 trees close to the Toronto Zoo.

June 9, 2012 Held the monthly GYL General Meeting at the North York Civic Centre

June 8-9, 2012 Participated in the overnight Toronto Zoo Camp.

June 18-22, 2012 Travelled to the Philippines to build houses as part of the relief effort for victims of typhoon.

July, 23-29, 2012 Visited South Korea for the Gangneung Camp.

July 28, 2012 Volunteered with the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF)

September 1, 2012 Held the Annual Picnic at the Bloor-Christie Park for the seniors.

September 15, 2012 Volunteered for the North Korean Refugee's Group Wedding Ceremony at the Council Chamber of the Toronto City Hall.

October 21-24, 2012 Participated in the 2012 Gangneung Inter-city Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network (ICCN) Conference.

December 1, 2012 Welcomed the inspiring speech of Senator Paul Shin (Washington States, USA) with 260 guests who attended the GYL General Meeting.

December 1, 2012 Began the Weekly English as a Second Language (ESL) Program to teach the North Korean refugee children at the Alpha Korean United Church.

December 14, 2012 Hosted the Special Concert, organized by GYL Ensemble and Samulnori, at Castleview Wychwood Seniors' Home

December 22, 2012 In cooperation with H-Mart, held the Making Kimchi with Love Event and delivered 200 cabbages of Kimchi to the Sharon Nursing Home while performing a concert.

January 13, 2013 Participated in the 2013 Gangneung Inter-city Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network (ICCN) Conference.

March, 2013 Hosted the 4th Annual GYL Forum.

April, 2013 Members of GYL planted approximately 500 trees at 1156 Sewells Rd.

July-August, 2013 2nd visit by members of GYL Korea, from Gangneung, South Korea, made a week-long visit to Toronto.

August, 2013 Initiated six-week long GYL leadership camp program to help all the GYL members improve their leadership skills.

TIMELINE

November, 2013 Initiated GYL essay contest to bring recognition to student writers.

December, 2013 Member of GYL hosted The Making Kimchi with Love Event with H-mart and delivered cases of Kimchi to the Sharon Nursing Home.

December, 2013 Members of GYL volunteered to host an Ensemble Concert and Samulnori for the seniors in Castleview Wychwood Senior's Home.

February, 2014 Initiated various GYL clubs (Sports Club, Baking Club, Movie Club, Issue Club, etc) to learn important leadership and management skills.

March, 2014 Special March break event - Invited by Toronto International Film Festival to tour and watch movies.

April, 2014 GYL received an Annual Volunteer Recognition award from Castleview Wychwood Senior's Home.

May, 2014 Annual Tree Planting Event.

June 6th, 2014 The introduction of 30 new GYL members.

July, 2014 Two parents of students and 11 students, and Councillor Raymond Cho embarked on a journey to the Philippines to deliver funds and help construct houses for the victims of the typhoon.

July, 2014 The students of GYL Canada participated in an international camp hosted by our friends and family at GYL Korea.

December, 2014 With the help of the Canadian-Korean supermarket H-mart, the GYL students created 400 cabbages worth of kimchi to donate to the less fortunate communities.

December, 2014 The students of GYL regularly host a movie night for the seniors of the Castleview Seniors Home.

December, 2014 A homecoming party was organized to connect the current GYL members with the members who have graduated and have gone to university.

January, 2015 Resumption of the Castleview movie night, and homework club programs.

January, 2015 In collaboration with the Muslim Welfare Centre, GYL has contributed to the creation of another well in Pakistan, our second contribution after a well was created in May 2014

February, 2015 GYL members donated 800 Korean books to the North York Library.

March, 2015 The GYL members created sandwiches to distribute to the homeless.

May 3, 2015 Hosted the 6th Annual GYL Forum.

May 9, 2015 Annual Tree Planting Event.

May 23, 2015 The GYL bazaar took place. The proceeds went to purchasing goods for typhoon victims in the Philippines, low-income neighborhoods, and flood victims.

July 31 - August 1, 2015 Participated in the overnight Toronto Zoo Camp.

September 14 2015 Held the Public Speaking Workshop

September 26, 2015 GYL Bazaar was organized which raised funds for GYL.

September 26, 2015 Members of GYL volunteered to host an Ensemble Concert for the seniors at Rose of Sharon Retirement

November 7, 2015 Participated in packing supplies such as winter clothing etc. for Syrian Refugees at the Muslim Welfare Centre.

November 11, 2015 Held the GYL Essay Contest to bring recognition to student writers.

TIMELINE

November 27, 2015 Hosted the GYL Ensemble Concert at the Castleview Senior's Home.

December 5, 2015 Members of GYL hosted the Making Kimchi with Love Event with H-mart and delivered Kimchi to the Nursing Home.

December 28, 2015 Hosted the GYL Year-end Party with former GYL members.

January 16, 2016 Held Candlelight rally against the experimentation of hydrogen bombs, appealing the release a Pastor Lim from North Korea, and the comfort women issue.

March 21-22, 2016 Participated in Korean Canadian Student Scholarship Foundation Leadership Camp.

April 30, 2016 Participated Habitat for Humanity on GTA Build Day.

May 14, 2016 Tree Planting at Casebridge Ct., Scarborough

May 21, 2016 The 7th GYL Forum at KCCA May 21, 2016 Creation and circulation of the GYL newsletter

June 7, 2016 Orientation for the new GYL members at North York Civic Centre

July 29, 2016 GYL Bush Camp at Toronto Zoo

August 29, 2016 Castleview Senior Home Orientation

September 3, 2016 Organize weekly Homework Club at North York Civic Centre

October 2, 2016 Visit to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice at Brampton which visit is being hosted by the Honourable Justice Ricchetti

December 2, 2016 Christmas party at Castleview Wychwood Towers

December 3, 2016 Kimchi making in coordination with H-Mart, Richmond Hill and donates 50 boxes to Rose of Sharon Senior Home and Rainbow Information and Social Services

December 11, 2016 GYL Scholarship award presentation at North York Civic Centre

December 28, 2016 GYL Christmas party at KCCA

May 6, 2017 Annual Tree Planting Event

May 20, 2017 GYL 8th Forum

June 17, 2017 GYL Annual General Meeting August 27, 2017 Pow Wow Festival (First nations reserved area in Hamilton)

September 2, 2017 GYL Picnic at Bruce Mill Conservation Area

September 7, 2017 Orientation for volunteering at Cummer Lodge Long Term Care Nursing Home

September 8, 2017 Orientation for volunteering at Castleview Seniors Home

September 16, 2017 GYL General Meeting at Queen's Park

October 8, 2017 Corn Sale fundraiser for Rose of Sharon

October 14, 2017 GYL Garage Sale & Corn Sale fundraiser for Rose of Sharon

October 23, 2017 Helping seniors at Korean Canadian Alzheimer's Society & Donation Made to Rose of Sharon

November 18, 2017 GYL General Meeting at Queen's Park December 1, 2017 Christmas Party for Castleview Senior Home

December 3, 2017 We One Festival (North York Civic Centre)

December 11, 2017 Christmas Party for Cummer Lodge Nursing Home

December 16, 2017 Kimchi Making for Rose of Sharon Senior's Home

December 28, 2017 Christmas Party for GYL Members

TIMELINE

- January 20, 2018** GYL Annual General Meeting
- April 28, 2018** 9th GYL Annual Forum
- May 12, 2018** Beare Road Landfill Tree Planting
- September 14, 2018** Orientation for volunteering at Castleview Seniors Home
- September 16, 2018** GYL General Meeting
- September 17, 2018** Orientation for volunteering at Cummer Lodge Long Term Care Nursing Home
- October 14, 2018** GYL Garage Sale
- November 4, 2018** Garage Sale Donation
- December 3, 2018** Christmas Party at Castleview Seniors Home
- December 7, 2018** Christmas Party at Cummer Lodge Long Term Care Nursing Home
- December 8, 2018** Kimchi Making
- December 27, 2018** Christmas Party for GYL Members
- February 9, 2019** Lunar New Year Celebration Performance.
- March 16, 2019** General Meeting
- March 30, 2019** Music without Borders Fundraising Performance
- April 27, 2019** 10th GYL Annual Forum
- May 11, 2019** Point Rouge Trail Tree Planting
- May 25, 2019** GYL First General Meeting
- August 14, 2019** Ontario Court House Visit
- August 17, 2019** GYL Introductory Picnic
- August 30, 2019** Orientation for Volunteering at Castleview Wychwood Seniors Home
- September 16, 2019** Orientation for Volunteering at Cummer Lodge Long term Care Nursing Home
- October 13, 2019** GYL Garage Sale
- December 2, 2019** Cummer Lodge Christmas Concert
- December 8, 2019** Castleview Christmas Concert
- January 25, 2020** Sunnybrook Concert for Veterans
- March 1, 2020** GYL Second General Meeting
- September 13, 2020** General Meeting
- November 22, 2020** General Meeting, High School Success Seminar, University Preparation Seminar
- February 28, 2021** General Meeting, Careers and Aspirations Seminar
- May 30, 2021** GYL Annual Forum
- September 19th** General Meeting, Picnic & Clothing Drive
- January 30, 2022** General Meeting, High School Success Seminar, University Preparation Seminar
- April 10, 2022** Raised money for and participated in Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Fundraising event
- May 29, 2022** 13th GYL Annual Forum
- December 17, 2022** Created over 200 care packages for gender-based violence shelter, the Yellow Brick House
- February 26, 2023** General Meeting, High School Success Seminar, University Preparation Seminar
- June 17, 2023** 14th GYL Annual Forum

TIMELINE

- September 2, 2023 GYL 2023-2024 First General Meeting**
- September 16, 2023 GYL Homework Club Information Session**
- September 30, 2023 Physical Wellness Workshop**
- September 30, 2023 GYL Holland Bloorview Kids Hospital Lemonade for Possibility raising over \$750**
- October 12, 2023 GYL Cummerlodge Long-Term Care Home Orientation for new and returning volunteers**
- October 16, 2023 GYL Castleview Long-Term Care Home Orientation for returning volunteers**
- November 13, 2023 Holland Bloorview Kids Hospital Visit**
- November 18, 2023 Mental Wellness Workshop - Surviving Highschool Years**
- December 11, 2023 GYL Cummer Lodge Long-Term Care Home Christmas Concert**
- December 16, 2023 GYL Christmas Social**
- December 16, 2023 Donation Drive for Yellow Brick House, a Shelter for Victims of Domestic Abuse, collecting care packages**
- December 21, 2023 Visit to Yellow Brick House to deliver Care packages**
- February 17, 2024 University Preparation Seminar**
- April 6, 2024 Communication Skills Workshop**
- April 20, 2024 Mock Interview Workshop with Minister Raymond Cho**
- May 18, 2024 15th GYL Annual Forum**
- August 10, 2024 First General Meeting For Year 2024-2025**
- September 7, 2024 GYL Zoom 1-Year Activity Overview and Information Session**
- September 14, 2024 Meet the Founder Minister Cho and Paralympics Champion Dean Dwyer + Book Drive to Children's Book Bank Charity**
- September 28, 2024 GYL Picnic Social**
- October 5, 2024 Children's Book Bank Charity Book Drive Drop-Off**
- October 7, 2024 Cummer Lodge Long-Term Care Home Orientation With Activity Coordinator and Behavioural Specialist**
- October 26, 2024 Samulnori Workshop**
- November 23, 2024 Mental Wellness Workshop**
- December 9, 2024 Cummer Lodge Christmas Concert**
- December 20, 2024 Castleview Christmas Concert**
- December 21, 2024 GYL Christmas Social and Donation Drive to Richmond Hill Community Food Bank**
- December 23, 2024 GYL Christmas Card Drop-Off to Cummer Lodge**
- February 1, 2025 Minister Cho Election Campaign Support**
- February 8, 2025 Minister Cho Election Campaign Office Open House**
- March 1, 2025 University Preparation Seminar**
- April 5, 2025 Communication Skills Workshop**
- April 27, 2025 Tree Planting With Tamil Community Seniors and Friends of the Rouge Watershed**
- May 31, 2025 16th GYL Annual Forum**

"The horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change." - Maya Angelou



Brian Song



Chloe Kim



Haena Yoon



Heavin An



Jaedam Kim

Congratulations GYL graduates of 2025!



Joanne Kim



Julian Kim



Junseok Kim



Justin Kim



Katie Kim



Keilyn Ahn



Lauren Kim



Nick Jeong



Noah Seo



Suhyeon Kim



Soungwoo Lim



Sungwoo Park

Wishing you
well on your
future
endeavours!



GYL



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