My name is Nifemi Abolarinde and I am a grade twelve student at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in Brampton. This fall, I intend to continue my learning at a post-secondary institution in which I can pursue studies in Business. I am passionate about entering a career in which I can own and manage a business in the non-profit sector, and attending university will help me see this through. A major barrier to me achieving this goal is the high cost of pursuing a post-secondary education. I am applying for this Award/Scholarship because of my need for financial assistance. The generosity of your organization would relieve my mother of the both financial and physical strain that comes with having two sons in post-secondary, and allow me to be able to focus on my undergraduate degree and learn freely without anything holding me back.

I come from a single income family in which my mother takes care of all the finances, although we try to support her the best we can. I have an older brother in university who has been relying on student loans. My mother tries her best to cover the costs of education, but doing it alone is not easy. Our financial situation is not desirable, as I have lost many opportunities in school simply due to the fact that my family could not afford them. Despite the roadblocks to accessing education that I encountered growing up, I remained resilient. I know I have the power to be successful in the career path I choose, and I have several goals that I hope to accomplish.

During highschool (pre-COVID), I played on several sports teams, including soccer, basketball, and volleyball. I am passionate about athletics and staying fit, and being on sports teams allowed me to be active in my school community. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to play sports in school, as I was never able to participate in leagues outside of school due to the cost. I also love music -- I play the saxophone, trumpet, and piano. In school, I play the alto saxophone for our band, and have been able to do freelance work as a saxophonist outside of school. At church, I use my passion for music to assist our choir. As the musical director, I plan out weekly songs, coordinate our singers, and am the lead pianist, a responsibility I had the courage to take on at the age of 14 . I have been playing music for as long as I can remember -- I went from performing in my bedroom, to my family, all the way to performing on big stages and events. Music and sports allow me to express myself in ways that I could not do speaking. They have had such a huge impact on my life, and I hope to enter the non-profit sector so that I can give children who don’t have access to these opportunities a chance to explore.

I am also a regular volunteer at the North York Harvest Food Bank. In this position, I collect donations, spread awareness and, overall, help the community. This experience has made me more aware of the vulnerability and poverty that exists in my community and do my part to help those in need. Additionally, I helped coordinate summer camp at my church, and was in charge of the music portion of the camp. I taught the kids music theory, and how to play the piano and the recorder. This opportunity gave me the chance to build my leadership and teaching skills.

I hope to one day pursue a career in Business Administration and Accounting. One major goal of mine is to start a foundation for children in which they can come and play the sports they love free of charge or at a subsidized cost. I know the struggle that comes with paying for sports outside of school and I would love to make a difference by giving children the chance to play and improve their skills without having to worry about money.

Receiving this scholarship would mean receiving the major financial support that I truly need. It would relieve stress that would have otherwise been put on my family and help me kickstart my education and overall career. I know I have the potential to be successful in the field I choose, so receiving support from this generous organization would play a major role in allowing me to reach my definition of success, for which I would be so grateful.