

## **Youth Initiative provides opportunity with scholarship program**

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The For Youth Initiative (FYI) is once again inviting applicants for a scholarship in memory of two local youth slain by gun violence.

FYI created the scholarship program in the wake of the deaths of Amon Beckles and Jamal Hemmings, who both died in 2005. Beckles and Hemmings were participants in FYI's programming, which aims to increase community participation and enhance access to employment, educational, recreational and cultural opportunities for Toronto youth.

The scholarship program will provide two or three bursaries of \$2,000 to go toward post-secondary expenses such as tuition and textbooks.

The scholarship covers various forms of education, including college, university, training, trades and certificate programs. Recipients can also be eligible for a second-year continuation bursary of up to \$2,000 if they attend a local partner post-secondary institution.

To qualify for FYI's scholarship program, applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 24, be first-year or entry-level students, use the money for education purposes and live in the area bounded by Oakwood Avenue to the east, St. Clair Avenue to the south, Scarlett Road to the west (including Scarlett Manor) and Hwy. 401 to the north.

Applicants are invited to submit a written application along with a creative component, which can consist of filmed submissions on DVD in which the applicant explains why the scholarship is important to them, spoken word performances on DVD, poetry or artwork. A camcorder and recording equipment will be made available for applicants' use on May 7 from noon to 7 p.m. at the FYI offices at 1652 Keele St.

Eligibility for the award is not based solely on academics; leadership skills, community involvement and need will also be assessed. Recipients will be selected by a community-based committee.

Application forms can be picked up at the FYI offices. Completed application packages can be dropped off there or submitted by mail to Scholarship Committee, For Youth Initiative, 1652 Keele St., M6M 3W3. The deadline for applications is May 7 at 7 p.m.