



15th Annual Surrey's Top 25 Under 25 Award Winners

The Surrey Board of Trade and South Surrey & White Rock Chamber of Commerce recognize business and community-minded youth under the age of 25, working in Surrey/White Rock or working on a business or community project in/for Surrey/White Rock.

Co-Presenting Sponsor: KPU Melville School of Business

Community Sponsors: Futurpreneur Canada, Glen Traffic, KidsPlay Foundation, Prism Construction, Semiahmoo Rotary Club, and Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel

Media Sponsors: CBC Vancouver and the Surrey NOW-Leader

Name: Ahmed Khan

Organization: Surrey School District

Age: 23

Ahmed is an Integrated Child and Youth Peer Support Worker and Safe School Liaison within the Surrey School District. He connects at-risk youth with vital resources, collaborating with organizations like Surrey RCMP and Surrey Police Service. He mentors Indigenous youth through the Blue Eagles Cadet Program, focusing on culture, wellness, and leadership. Recognized as a 2024 BC Lions Community Hero and featured by the Metro Vancouver Transit Police, Ahmed's impactful work provides mentorship, conflict resolution, and emotional guidance, helping vulnerable youth build brighter futures. He is currently pursuing a law enforcement degree at the Justice Institute of BC.

Name: Akanksha Gopal

Organization: KidsPlay Foundation

Age: 21

Akanksha is a dynamic leader at the KidsPlay Foundation, where she serves as Director of Operations. Her dedication extends to spearheading impactful initiatives, including the foundation's first environmental program, which teaches young individuals about environmental responsibility and social values. Her commitment to service has earned her multiple accolades, including the Times of Canada Youth Environment Leader Award and Top Youth Leader by the Surrey Now Leader. Currently pursuing a Psychology degree at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Akanksha is also driving KidsPlay's expansion internationally to countries like India and Colombia, demonstrating her exceptional commitment to creating positive global change.

Name: Anamika Sangar

Organization: Surrey District School

Age: 23

Anamika is a passionate community leader and educator currently serving as a Community Schools Facilitator with the Surrey School District. She designs and leads impactful youth programs focused on leadership, equity, and student well-being. A former President of the SFU Punjabi Student Association, she has championed cultural inclusion and community engagement. Anamika has earned numerous accolades, including the Surrey Women in Business Emerging Leader Award. Through her work in education, advocacy, and mentorship, she continues to inspire youth and foster inclusive, connected communities across Surrey.

Name: Aryan Bansal

Organization: Provincial Health Services Authority

Age: 22

Aryan has made significant contributions to healthcare technology through his work with the Provincial Health Services Authority. He played a key role in a global-scale IT remediation effort during a CrowdStrike security event, helping secure over 70,000 devices across hospitals including Surrey Memorial and BC Cancer. He supported PHSA's \$200 million Technology Refresh Program, deploying over 2,000 clinical devices and working with the Ministry of Health to align tech upgrades with healthcare priorities. He also founded the Kwantlen IT Club, mentoring 350+ students and raising \$50,000 for student-led initiatives. Aryan volunteers with the Surrey Board of Trade's Health and Technology and Youth Entrepreneurs teams. He is currently completing his Bachelor of Information Technology at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Name: Bhuvnesh Kaushal

Organization: Punjabi Community Health Association

Age: 20

Bhuvnesh is the Vice-President and Co-Founder of the Punjabi Community Health Association, where he leads bilingual health education campaigns to improve health literacy among South Asian communities. He also serves as Vice-President of Next Gen Canada, helping students access post-secondary opportunities through mentorship and scholarships. As a Crisis Line Call-Taker at Fraser Health, Bhuvnesh supports individuals facing mental health and social crises. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science at the University of British Columbia, combining his academic focus with a deep passion for advocacy and community wellness.

Name: Gurbaj Singh Nanhar

Organization: HelloHi Audio Guestbook

Age: 23

Gurbaj co-founded HelloHi Audio Guestbook, a company established in 2023 that provides unique audio guestbook services, primarily for weddings. He held leadership roles in SFU's Punjabi Student Association, where he fostered community and belonging among students. A strong commitment to community engagement balances his entrepreneurial spirit. He currently works as an Accountant at Avisar Chartered Professional Accountants.

Name: Gurleen Sran

Organization: BC's Childhood Cancer Society

Age: 19

Gurleen Sran is the Co-Founder and Vice President of BC's Childhood Cancer Society, a not-for-profit supporting children with cancer by raising funds and providing essential resources. Since 2021, she has led numerous community projects, including donating gift bags, wigs, educational kits, and back-to-school supplies. She's received multiple accolades, including the Seva Award, Canadian Federation of Fiji Organizations Scholarship, and Youth Volunteer Honourable Mention. A second-year Political Science student at UBC, Gurleen remains committed to advocacy, academic excellence, and improving the lives of children and families in need.

Name: Hamza Saqib

Organization: OTO Hearing Products

Age: 23

Hamza Saqib is the Vice President of OTO Hearing Products, where he has led major technological upgrades, including introducing 3D printing to reduce production costs by 34% and a new B2B website that boosted revenue by \$300,000. He also launched a mobile app to help prevent hearing loss in high-noise environments. A former advertising agency owner, Hamza won multiple scholarships and a product innovation award at the Surrey Health Tradeshow. He graduated with Honours from Simon Fraser University's Beedie School of Business.

Name: Harkirat Singh Walia

Organization: SFU Senate

Age: 23

Harkirat Singh Walia is a Student Senator at Simon Fraser University, where he played a leading role in establishing the SFU School of Medicine in Surrey—the first in Western Canada in over 50 years. He identified a \$5 million budget miscalculation, helping secure funding for the project. Harkirat also interned at a U.S. private equity firm and the Vancouver Foundation, contributing to the management of over \$1 billion in assets. He is completing his BBA in Finance with a minor in Economics at SFU's Beedie School of Business.

Name: Justin Cheung

Organization: Second Savour

Age: 20

Justin Cheung is the founder of Second Savour, a student-led venture turning surplus produce into sustainable snacks, such as their flagship Citrus Treats. Through partnerships and community education, he's reducing food waste and carbon emissions while raising awareness on sustainability. His leadership earned Second Savour top placements at Opportunity Fest and Enactus competitions, as well as support from the Charles Chang Institute for Entrepreneurship. He mentors youth through YELL and Enactus SFU. Justin is currently completing his BBA in Entrepreneurship and Finance at Simon Fraser University.

Name: Meharban Singh Hundal

Organization: Future Focus Mentorship

Age: 20

Meharban Singh Hundal is the Co-Founder of Future Focus Mentorship, a nonprofit that has empowered over 300 students through seminars on post-secondary planning and academic success. A passionate advocate for accessible education and healthcare, he also volunteers as a medical translator and supports youth through various leadership roles. Meharban interned at SkyAcres Agrotechnologies and completed research ethics training to support clinical work. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Applied Biology at the University of British Columbia, with aspirations in pediatric medicine and clinical research.

Name: Nausheen Dhanda

Organization: KidsPlay Foundation

Age: 18

Nausheen Dhanda is a Program Coordinator and Senior Management Team member at KidsPlay Foundation, where she has led major initiatives like the KidsPlay World Cup and the 2022 Drug and Gang Forum, impacting thousands of youth. Her leadership in organizing community programs has gained provincial media recognition and driven real change in violence prevention. Nausheen has mentored countless youth over seven years with the organization. She is currently studying in the Faculty of Science at the University of British Columbia, with aspirations to pursue medical school and transform healthcare accessibility.

Name: Navpreet Boyal

Organization: MISL Hoops

Age: 23

Navpreet is one of the Founding Members and Director of MISL Hoops, a not-for-profit that empowers South Asian athletes through sport-centered community engagement and policy advocacy. She also works as a Legislative/Constituency Assistant for a Member of Parliament, managing national events, stakeholder relations, and policy initiatives. Her leadership extends to roles with the World Sikh Organization and the Sikh Heritage Society BC, which was awarded the Surrey Civic Distinction for Heritage Education and Awareness in 2024. She recently earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with distinction from the University of British Columbia.

Name: Navtej Kaur Kang

Organization: Youth Health Literacy Network

Age: 22

Navtej Kaur Kang is the Founder and Executive Director of the Youth Health Literacy Network, a nonprofit empowering youth through workshops, forums, and social media to make informed health decisions. Under her leadership, the organization reached over 1,000 participants in 2024 and received a City of Surrey Certificate of Recognition. Navtej has collaborated with groups like PICS and iCON to promote culturally relevant health education in the South Asian community. She graduated in 2024 with a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science from the University of British Columbia.

Name: Pari Soni

Organization: PowerPlay Young Entrepreneurs

Age: 14

Pari is the founder of Note Well Notebooks, a youth-led business she launched in grade 7 through PowerPlay Young Entrepreneurs. She has sold over 500 products and donates a portion of her profits to Cloverdale Traditional School, her former elementary school. A member of the PowerPlay Youth Advisory Council and Accelerator program, Pari also mentors peers and speaks at major community events. Pari is a black belt in Taekwondo, a former competitive ballet dancer, and currently a grade 9 student at Clayton Heights Secondary School.

Name: Ritu Mehra

Organization: Let's Do Breakfast

Age: 24

Ritu is the Team Lead and Co-Founder of the Let's Do Breakfast program, providing healthy breakfasts to underserved elementary students in Surrey. In 2023, Let's Do Breakfast won the SFU- Student Community Engagement Award where her team was awarded \$2,000 to support the program. Ritu has also been recognized as a Top 10 Leader in Surrey. Ritu obtained her Bachelor of Education in International Baccalaureate Secondary Biology at the University of British Columbia.

Name: Riya Virdi

Organization: Volentia Translation

Age: 23

Riya Virdi co-founded Volentia Translation, a non-profit providing free translation services to immigrants and newcomers for healthcare appointments. This initiative addresses language barriers in accessing equitable healthcare. Riya has demonstrated academic excellence, consistently ranking in the top 5% of her undergraduate program at University of British Columbia. She has received multiple awards, including the UBC Trek Excellence Scholarship and the Doctors of BC Excellence in Health Promotion Award. Riya is currently pursuing her Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree at UBC.

Name: Rosarita Beatrice Correa

Organization: Himig Kabataan Cultural Society

Age: 19

Bea is the Founder, Executive Director, and Conductor of the Himig Kabataan Cultural Society. Established in 2022, HKCS shares Filipino choral music and artistry, teaching members Philippine songs and culture. Through the songs, she also educates her peers on Philippine history, art, geo-politics, and sociology, fostering a sense of heritage among second and third-generation Filipino Canadians. Himig Kabataan actively performs in the Lower Mainland and engages in community outreach, including food drives for the Surrey Food Bank and other charities, and collecting school supplies for children in the Philippines. Bea is currently pursuing a Chemistry degree at Simon Fraser University.

Name: Sebastian Greaves

Organization: Surrey Hearing Care

Age: 24

Sebastian is a trailblazing Hearing Instrument Practitioner, licensed after graduating from Douglas College. He leads Surrey Hearing Care, managing multiple clinics and mentoring future professionals. Inspired by his mother's hearing loss, Sebastian blends personal passion with expertise, enhancing patients' lives. He collaborates with nonprofit organizations such as the Lookout Society, Options Community Services, Surrey Urban Mission, and Union Gospel Mission to provide essential hearing care to individuals facing homelessness, financial hardship, and social isolation, empowering them to reconnect with their surroundings and improve their quality of life. Deeply committed to accessibility and compassionate service, Sebastian is shaping the future of hearing healthcare in his community.

Name: Shreya Rao

Organization: Planted Youth Opportunities

Age: 21

Shreya is the Founder of Planted Youth Opportunities, a platform that helps young people build careers with social impact. Planted connects youth to internships and provides resources for navigating the job market. Shreya has been recognized for her leadership and was named an Emerging Leader in Sustainable Finance at GreenFin '23. She is a student at the University of Waterloo, pursuing a degree in Environment, Resources, and Sustainability with a Minor in Entrepreneurship.

Name: Shreyanshi Vala

Organization: BOLT Safety Society

Age: 18

Shreyanshi is the Co-Founder and Operations Director of BOLT Safety Society, a federally registered not-for-profit focused on building safer and more equitable communities. Bolt Safety combats violence and harassment through programs like The Hub and Project LyghtNyg, impacting over 30,000 people across several countries. Shreyanshi co-authored a statement read in the Canadian House of Commons, which led to the tabling of Bill C-28. This legislative milestone highlights her dedication to amplifying survivor-centric narratives and advocating for systemic change. She is a first-year Bachelor of Science student at the University of British Columbia.

Name: Simran Garcha

Organization: GenConnect

Age: 19

Simran co-founded GenConnect at 15, creating intergenerational connections after seeing seniors' isolation during COVID-19. GenConnect evolved from GenTech, which offered Zoom guides and virtual events to help elders connect. As Partnerships Director, Simran expanded GenConnect by networking with organizations. Most recently, she was a TEDxSurrey speaker, sharing her personal experience growing up around domestic violence and how she positively channeled her painful experiences and lack of resources to grow GenConnect. Simran is currently a student at the University of British Columbia, majoring in Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice and minoring in psychology.

Name: Simranjit Gill

Organization: GenConnect

Age: 19

Simranjit co-founded GenConnect, a non-profit connecting youth and seniors through shared activities. GenConnect's programs include workshops, heritage trips, summer camp, and school partnerships. Simranjit's ability to connect with seniors has been crucial to GenConnect's growth, now serving over 600 seniors. She also volunteers with Elections Canada and Elections BC. Recently, Simranjit was awarded the Lion Heart Award for Perseverance, recognizing her resilience and determination in overcoming challenges. She is currently studying Political Science, Sociology, and Criminology at Simon Fraser University.

Name: Sukhman Grewal

Organization: HelloHi Audio Guestbook

Age: 22

Sukhman is a co-founder of HelloHi Audio Guestbook, a company offering unique audio guestbook services for events like weddings and parties. Guests record messages on a phone, and these are compiled into audio keepsakes. Sukhman has collaborated with Sikh Heritage BC and Simon Fraser University. He has consistently achieved academic excellence, earning Dean's List honours at Queen Elizabeth Secondary, Douglas College, and the University of British Columbia. Sukhman is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Kinesiology at University of British Columbia.

Name: Zohra Khawaja

Organization: Hearts Against Homelessness

Age: 16

Zohra is the Founder of Hearts Against Homelessness, a youth-led organization supporting unhoused youth in British Columbia, particularly in the Vancouver and Surrey areas. Her organization distributes necessities, connects with local businesses for donations, and runs education and awareness programs on youth homelessness. Zohra has been recognized for her leadership, receiving the "Golden Grizz" award at her secondary school. She is in the process of publishing her research concerning the impact of the opioid crisis on healthcare costs in British Columbia.