



Alumni Profile

Amir Majid

BA '13 Social Justice & Peace Studies and Religious Studies

Current Career

Organization: The Community Foundation of Mississauga

Title: Manager, Grants and Community Initiatives

Career Overview

Currently, my work is centered on community development, funding, and data. I am responsible for creating a bi-annual research report for the City of Mississauga on different social indicators which provide an understanding of the overall community health in the city. Through this report we look at things like poverty, housing, safety, arts and culture, and the environment. It is provided to local government, social service agencies, charities and the general public in hopes that it can inform the programs and services offered in the city. I am responsible for community development through an idea of deepening community. A major part of my role is convening local stakeholders on given social issues. These meetings often result in collaborative impact projects and innovative charitable sector partnerships which deepen our community and make access to services easier. Finally, I am responsible for providing over \$800,000 a year in charitable funding to over 100 charities in Mississauga. This work is made possible through the generous contributions of donors across Mississauga to the Community Foundation. The work is guided by the knowledge gained through our community conversations, research and publications.

How has King's helped prepare you for your current work?

The Social Justice & Peace Studies (SJPS) program was uniquely able to prepare me for this role, as well as roles I held at Habitat for Humanity Canada and the United Way of Peel Region, as it was one of the only programs offered that provided an opportunity to study community work at the grass roots level. Introductory SJPS courses provided the framework I needed to develop an understanding of community development by presenting theories of justice and conflict resolution. This allowed me to develop tangible skills in working within the confines of a specific political and economic system to drive results for equity and justice.

Courses taken in social activism and political change provided the base I would need to take part in civic work. They provided a framework for understanding how social movements develop and grow, and provided resources in understanding the tools and tactics of social activists. Even further, these courses provided an understanding of differing levels of government and how they should be addressed while working to develop positive outcomes associated with social issues. Finally, courses that were research based and interdisciplinary in nature allowed me to develop the skills I need to work in the charitable sector. Working in community development is heavily research based and interdisciplinary. It is about knowing what the community needs and who has the ability to deliver it, as well as what resources the community needs for it to be delivered effectively. All of this takes qualitative and quantitative research skills, and I was able to develop this through my course work in SJPS.

“ My degree taught me how to mobilize people and execute plans on a bare-bones budget. These skills are incredibly important to have in the non-profit and environmental sector. ”

Have you volunteered with any organization or cause that seeks to promote social justice and peace?

I have volunteered and worked for charitable organizations of all shapes, sizes and stripes:

- Habitat for Humanity Canada
- United Way Peel Region
- Halton Learning Foundation
- Halton District School Board
- Erin Mills Youth Centre
- Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Mississauga Food Bank

Further Degrees /Certifications

Professional Certificate in Leadership

Western Continuing Studies