

TESTIMONIALS

"It [the Award] gave me a high self-esteem. I am proud when I stand among these people, to share my journey. It shows me I can be successful. To keep doing more and more".

- Maha EIMahi, 2010 Recipient

"I can't thank you enough for giving me an opportunity to get the Ari Ariaratnam Education and Training Award. Without your help, it wouldn't be possible. Thank you again. I hope Focus for Ethnic Women will be more prosperous in the future".

-Sonya Lim, 2009 Recipient

"I was the first recipient of the Award. I owe so much to Focus to help me find what I wanted and to achieve my goals. It encouraged me to pursue higher studies and I earned my Master's in Social Work".

- Leena Jayakumar, 2008 Recipient



Recipient gives words of thanks

ABOUT FEW

FEW was established in 1987 in the Kitchener-Waterloo region, one of Canada's most culturally diverse communities. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors and is staffed by women dedicated to helping immigrant women succeed in Canadian society. Over the years, programs and services have changed, but what always remains the same is FEW's commitment to the lives of immigrant women and their employment opportunities. We believe in helping deserving women meet their goals and by using their unique talents and enterprising skills, become valuable members of the community.

Our Vision:

We believe in the holistic nature of women's needs – physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual. This holistic vision enhances self-esteem and promotes personal empowerment.

Our Mission:

The mission of Focus for Ethnic Women is to enhance the participation of immigrant and visible minority women in Canadian society through innovative and collaborative efforts among the board, community partners, funders, participants and staff.

ARI ARIARATNAM EDUCATION

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ARI ARIARATNAM
EDUCATION & TRAINING
AWARD

Do you value the importance of receiving education and training?

Do you wish to overcome the financial obstacles to reach your career goals?

Do you want to help immigrant and visible minority women succeed?



Opening a world of opportunities for immigrant women

www.few.on.ca

HISTORY OF THE AWARD

The Ari Ariaratnam Education and Training Fund was established by the Board Members of Focus for Ethnic Women (FEW) in 2003. This fund is to honour Ari Ariaratnam, one of the founders of FEW and the first Executive Director, upon her retirement after 15 years of service. It was set up to celebrate



her commitment to assisting immigrant and visible minority women and is also consistent with the vision, mission, and values of FEW.

Immigrant and visible minority women face multiple barriers to education which prevent them from achieving their educa-

Ari Ariaratnam tional goals to improve their quality of life. The Ari Ariaratnam Education and Training Fund bestows awards annually to address these obstacles on a continuum of needs basis. The flexible approach to awarding is based on the principles of equity, unique life situation, and clearly established goals. Award recipients are then able to use the award to assist with the financial costs that come with gaining higher education and training.

ELIGIBILITY

The applicants should be living in Waterloo Region and will include immigrant, refugee, or visible minority women who have participated or are currently participating in any program offered by FEW.

Applicants should meet the pre-requisites of the education and training program being offered by an accredited Canadian institution. The Award will be granted upon acceptance into the education and training program.

FREQUENCY

The Award will be presented annually, with up to three awards granted per year. The amount given to each successful applicant will be at a maximum of \$ 500.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Forms can be found on our website or at our current office. The forms need to be filled out and submitted by April 30th each year. Applicants must also provide a resume and up to two references where possible.

DONATIONS

In order to provide immigrant, refugee, and visible minority women with financial assistance to reach their educational goals, we rely on the generosity of employers, businesses, and community members to support these women in their endeavours. You can make an incredible difference in the lives of these women with your contribution towards their education and training, enhancing the participation of immigrant and visible minority women in Canadian society.

We would be grateful for your interest, support and financial contribution, which will make this important work possible. If you would like to make a donation to the Ari Ariaratnam Education and Training Fund, please feel free to visit our offices or mail us a cheque made out to Focus for Ethnic Women. A receipt for donations of \$10.00 or more will be issued to all donors. Donations are also tax deductible. By making a donation, you are helping immigrant and visible minority women realize their potential and achieve their dreams.

Ari Ariaratnam Education & Training Fund Donation Form

Amount: \$ _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please make all cheques out to:
Focus for Ethnic Women.

An official receipt for donations of \$10.00 or more will be mailed to you.

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