



EMPOWERMENT
SQUARED

Community Report 2024



IN THIS REPORT

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO - 2

REFLECTION FROM OUR CEO - 3

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR - 4

2024 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS - 5

2024 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS - 6

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS - 7

OUR PROGRAMS - 8

EDUCATION - 9

SPORTS AND RECREATION - 12

SYSTEM NAVIGATION - 14

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS - 17

INTERNATIONAL - 19

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP - 21

VOLUNTEERS - 22

CELEBRATING SYSTEM LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS - 23

TIM HORTON'S BINBROOK - 24

PARTNERS, FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS - 25

THANK YOU TO THE BOARDS - 26

THANK YOU FROM THE TEAM - 27



WHO WE ARE

Empowerment Squared is a Canadian charitable organization rooted in the community values of UBUNTU. We are dedicated to empowering marginalized communities through education, mentorship, and access to opportunities. We support newcomers, youth, and marginalized families to build brighter futures.

WHAT WE DO

Empowerment Squared is dedicated to breaking barriers and fostering sustainable change through education, sports and recreation, thought leadership, entrepreneurship, and culturally relevant supports. From leadership development to international initiatives like the Liberian Learning Center and International Youth Internship, we equip individuals and communities with the tools to unlock their full potential. Through collaboration and innovation, we create pathways for success and lasting impact.





A REFLECTION

FROM OUR CHIEF EMPOWERMENT OFFICER (CEO)

As we reflect on 2024, we do so with immense gratitude and pride in the incredible strides Empowerment Squared has made in advancing our mission. Guided by our core value of UBUNTU, "I am because we are", this year has been a testament to the power of collective action and shared progress. Through collaboration, resilience, and vision, we continue to create pathways for success and opportunity for marginalized youth, families, and communities both locally and internationally.

One of our most defining moments this year was the Grand Opening of the Liberian Learning Center on December 13, 2024. This milestone represents a beacon of hope and transformation for Liberia, as the first-ever Learning Center and public library built in the country, serving as a hub for education, business incubation, and community development. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our donors, partners, and volunteers who helped bring this vision to life.

We also launched the International Youth Internship Program, a groundbreaking initiative that will see 100 Canadian interns of African descent live and work in Ghana and Liberia over the next three years. By immersing themselves in international development,

these young leaders will gain skills and experiences that will shape their futures and contribute to global equity and justice.

Our commitment to economic inclusion saw the successful completion of the Southwestern Ontario Black Entrepreneurship Network, which supported over 200 marginalized entrepreneurs and businesses in Hamilton and Windsor. Additionally, our Organization Mentorship Program empowered grassroots organizations by leveraging our expertise and mentorship to secure funding to build sustainable programs and operations. As we look ahead to 2025, we remain steadfast in our commitment to UBUNTU, uplifting each other, and empowering communities. Together, we are transforming lives, and we are just getting started.

With gratitude,
~ Leo Nupolu Johnson



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Empowerment Squared Board of Directors, it is with immense pride that we present the 2024 Community Report. We continue to witness the unwavering commitment of our staff, volunteers, partners and community members to move the mission and vision of Empowerment Squared forward.

As I reflect on 2024, I am reminded of the spirit of collaboration and resilience of the communities we serve both here in Canada and internationally in Liberia. Travelling to Paynesville, Liberia in January 2024 for the dedication of the Liberian Learning Center gave me a glimpse of the eagerness and desire for knowledge that the people of Liberia have and the sense of community that exists within the country. The dream that our Chief Empowerment Officer shared with us all those years ago was realized when the first phase of the Liberian Learning Center opened in December of the same year, the first operating public library in the country since before the civil war. These days libraries are so much more than rooms filled with books - the Liberian Learning Center has fast become a learning hub where people meet to share knowledge, explore opportunities, and build dreams.

Locally in Hamilton, Ontario we continue to grow our programs and activities; enhancing our Educational programs, increasing access to sports and recreation opportunities at the Babb Ubuntu Athletic Centre, and supporting young entrepreneurs in Hamilton and Windsor through the Southwestern Ontario Black Entrepreneurship Network. We also continue to develop pathways to access post-secondary education. Empowerment Squared remains committed to supporting and creating opportunities for marginalized youth and families to succeed and thrive.

We thank our many supporters, donors, staff and volunteers for helping us move our mission and vision forward and we thank the community for trusting us with their aspirations and dreams.

~ Trevor Jaundoo

675

PARTICIPANTS IN
OUR PROGRAMS

306

ITEMS AND PACKAGES
DISTRIBUTED

141

PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED
IN INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMING

56

ENTREPRENEURS
ENGAGED THROUGH
SWOBEN

128

PARTICIPANTS SUPPORTED TO
SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATE COMPLEX
GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS AND STRENGTHEN
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

2,210

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
ACCESSED THE BABB UBUNTU
ATHLETIC CENTRE OUTSIDE OF
OUR PROGRAMS

263

VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED

6,717

HOURS THROUGHOUT
THE ORGANIZATION.

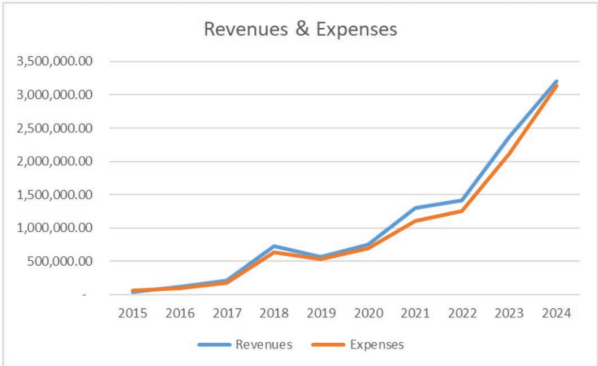
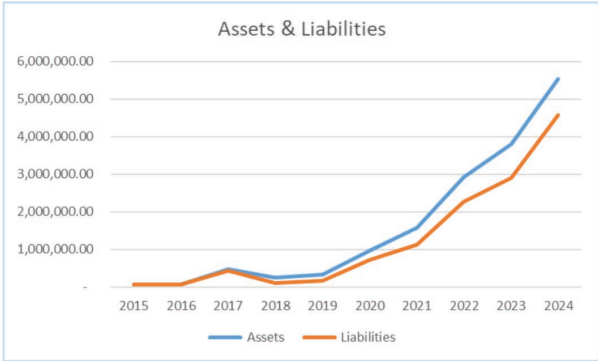
IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

2024

Empowerment Squared’s Board of Directors and management are committed to strong governance and responsible stewardship of resources in support of our mission and community impact. The organization maintains a balanced budget, with key investments directed toward programs, services, and sustainability. Transparent financial practices and strategic planning have positioned us for continued growth and resilience in the coming year.

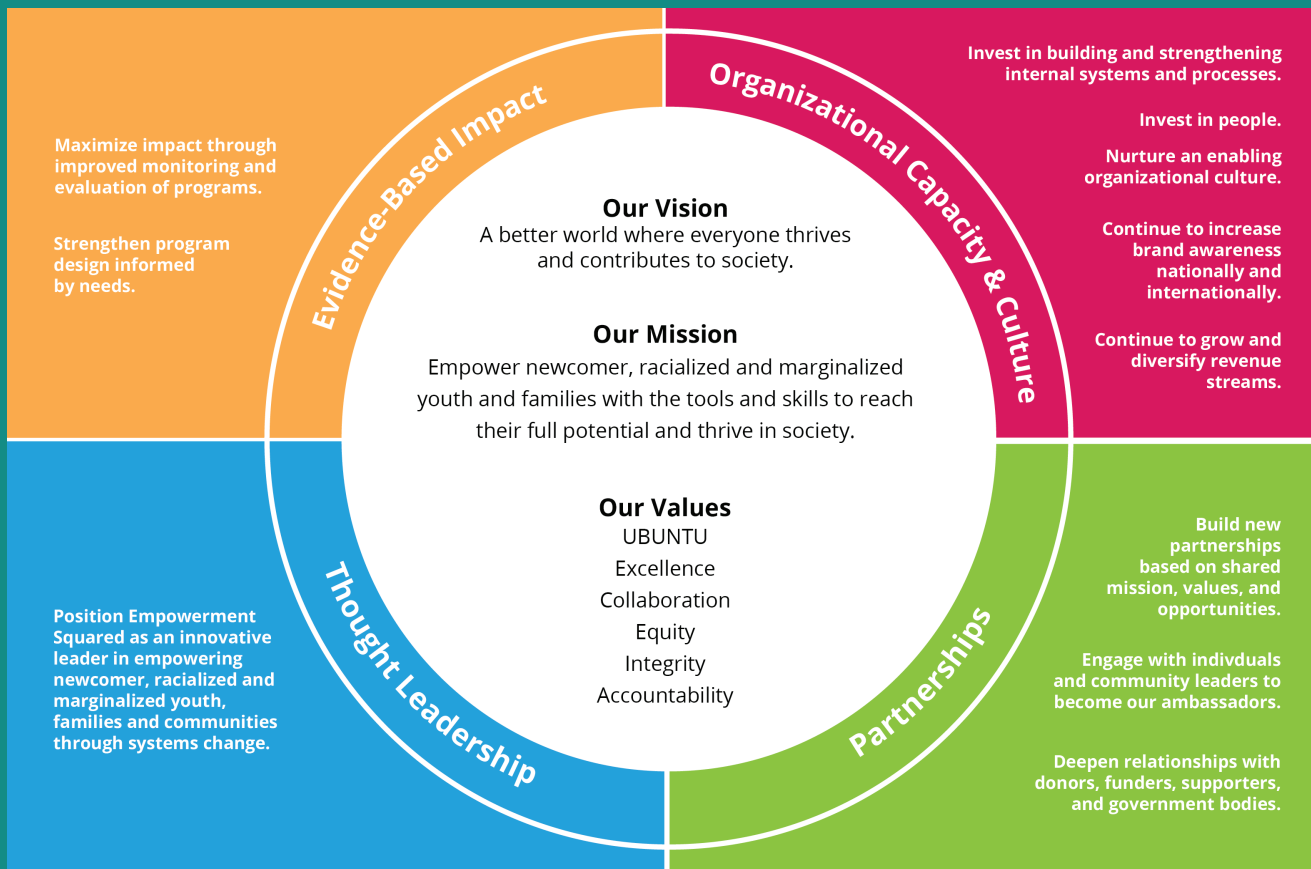
We are proud to have once again achieved a balanced budget while increasing our scope and impact. Our top line revenues for the 2024 (calendar) fiscal year were \$3.2M, which is a significant increase from the previous year’s \$2.3M.

Our financial statements are audited by Vine and Partners LLP. They have once again provided a qualified audit opinion for the 2024 fiscal year. Our financial information is viewable on the Canada Revenue Agency’s website.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2024



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

2023—2028

Since its inception in 2007, Empowerment Squared has evolved, deepening its scope and impact. The advancement of Empowerment Squared’s mission is a testament to the unwavering commitment and support of our teams, Board of Directors, volunteers,

donors, funders, partners, and supporters. We are excited to continue our five year Strategic Direction that is intended to guide our aspirations in building a better world.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

The 2024 programming year was one of incredible progress, marked by countless achievements both nationally and internationally. Although we continue to work through the impacts of COVID 19, our resilience and passion to support racialized and marginalized communities allow us to drive our mission and vision forward. As we reflect on our accomplishments in system innovation while being rooted in community values of UBUNTU, it's clear that we're building something extraordinary.

I am incredibly inspired by all we have accomplished together as a team. To the programming teams, your commitment to our participants, families and the greater community is unwavering. The following report offers a glimpse into the many programming successes across the organization, highlighting the impact of our shared dedication.

I am thankful to our Teams, Board Members, Volunteers and Partners. Thanks to you, Empowerment Squared has the power to innovate, be thought leaders, and support the needs of each participant and team member in inclusive, responsive, and collaborative spaces.

~ Ann-Marie Anie



EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT

HOMEWORK CIRCLE

Homework Circle is a program that aims to provide academic mentorship to immigrant and racialized youth from grades 1-12, encouraging positive engagement with the school system. This program fosters the development of self confidence and understanding of communal support through trusted, caring adults who act as role models and diverse mentors.

This unique opportunity enables youth to explore the pathways available to them in the future. We also offer a curriculum that is culturally relevant to participant's lives.

THE SCHOOL READINESS PROJECT

Adapted from the Homework Circle program, this support is targeted at recent newcomer youth to foster language development, diverse cultural knowledge, social skills, and other school-related skills such as reading and writing through a variety of interactive, engaging activities with mentors with meaningful shared lived experiences.

MISSION MOMENT

One of Empowerment Squared's Homework Circle participants shared with staff how they felt the program has been able to help them over time; they responded by sharing that "Empowerment Squared affected me by teaching my skills in a slower and more calm way than in the classroom; It definitely boosted up my grade to a new level" They also mentioned that they "love how we can play games after we finish [our work]. It gives me a good goal to look forward to".



SUMMER LITERACY

Empowerment Squared's Summer Literacy program employs a project-based learning approach targeting racialized and newcomer youth in Hamilton who will be entering grades 3 through 9 in September. Youth learn reading, writing, and research, practicing these skills broadly within a group, then attempting them independently. In their journey, participants wrote two brief articles; one about Empowerment Squared, and the other about a topic of their choosing. In undertaking this task, participants were assisted by volunteer mentors, who helped them navigate the nuances of creating research questions, finding answers from reliable sources, and sharing their information in both written and verbal forms. Participants were able to strengthen digital literacy, engaging in typing practice exercises, and applying those skills when conducting their research. Participants also developed a sense of environmental awareness



MISSION MOMENT

Empowerment Squared's Summer Literacy Program welcomed new participants to build reading, writing, and typing skills. One shy youth set a goal to make one friend—and ended the program with many. Through collaboration and outdoor play, he built confidence, felt supported, and left the program feeling happy and connected.



and respectful interactions in shared spaces, through walks to a local park and maintaining our classroom space. This purposeful engagement allowed participants to get active and enjoy the sunshine, while also developing their interpersonal skills within their peer group.

CAREER DISCOVERY INITIATIVE

The Career Discovery Initiative was launched in January 2024 to support newcomer youth aged 12–20 in exploring long-term career paths, building soft skills, and forging community connections. Centering self-discovery and culturally relevant support, the program combines group sessions and one-on-one guidance to help youth make informed career decisions. In addition to core programming, the team supported more than 15 walk-in participants with resume building, interview coaching, community networking, and career planning.

Introductory Networking Workshop

From April 15 to May 13, Empowerment Squared’s Networking Workshop engaged Grade 9–10 youth in exploring professional connections. Through guest speakers, activities, and discussion, participants learned social media etiquette, SMART goal setting, and more—building confidence, peer learning, and career readiness, all rooted in the Ubuntu spirit of shared growth and resilience.

Youth Experiential Learning: Focus on Youth/HWDSB Co-op Placement

In partnership with Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, Empowerment Squared’s Youth Experiential Learning programs offer ‘Focus on Youth’ and coop placements to high school students. Participants gain academic credit, hands-on experience, and career development support while learning about nonprofits, program facilitation, and EDI. Students supported summer programs and explored career paths with individualized coaching.

Community Development Leadership Program at KPMG

Launched in 2021, the Community Development Leadership Program supports early-career university students from low-income backgrounds through an 8-week KPMG internship with wraparound support. In 2024, students from McMaster and Western Universities gained professional experience, built leadership skills, and made community impact through this unique collaboration.



MISSION MOMENT

Before their co-op experience, one of our students had only “heard about EDI [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion]” and had trouble defining it, but they say after this experience, they felt that Empowerment Squared is “living EDI”.

WATCH VIDEOS

Learn more about this project on YouTube
youtube.com/@EmpowermentSquared



CAMP UBUNTU

Camp UBUNTU, Empowerment Squared's annual March Break Camp, offers a dynamic sports and recreation experience for youth. Over five days, participants engage in activities like basketball, soccer, and dodgeball, while connecting with mentors, our team, and volunteers who promote confidence, social awareness, and positivity. This year, youth collaborated with a local artist to create a community art piece now displayed in our gym. The camp runs five hours daily, includes two snacks and lunch, and provides transportation from a central location—ensuring accessibility and full participation for all youth throughout the week.

SPORTS & RECREATION

DEPARTMENT

SUMMER SOCCER IN CORKTOWN



Our Summer Soccer program is our largest Sports and Recreation initiative, drawing strong community participation in the heart of downtown. In 2024, we welcomed 155 youth and 25 volunteers over three days a week for six weeks. Participants benefited from advanced coaching and a structured, tournament-style format. To support back-to-school readiness, we distributed donated supplies including backpacks, water bottles, and writing materials. The program concluded with a neighbourhood pizza party, celebrating the youth's achievements and community engagement through sport.

FALL BASKETBALL

Our fall basketball fundamental program gives participants of all skill levels the opportunity to increase their physical skills and knowledge of the game. We create a positive learning environment while encouraging safe competition amongst participants. This program ran twice a week for four weeks.

WINTER VOLLEYBALL

The winter volleyball program introduced this year gave participants the opportunity to work on their individual fundamentals and team concepts. The program ran for six weeks and all participants gave positive feedback on increasing their skill set during the program. Participants are eager to come back next season.

SYSTEM NAVIGATION

DEPARTMENT

In 2023, Empowerment Squared's Student Navigation Program expanded into the System Navigation Department (SND) to respond to growing community needs. We now support newcomer and marginalized children, youth, and caregivers in Hamilton with culturally responsive advocacy, education, and system navigation. In 2024, two new programs were launched, including the UBUNTU Rites of Passage program and the Transformation Fund. The SND team provided students and caregivers with holistic 1:1 community based support. We also hosted workshops, and provided culturally relevant wrap around supports. In total, 128 individuals accessed advocacy, and information literacy workshops to support participants in successfully navigating complex government systems and strengthening community connections.

"I just want to thank you and your team for the University tour. It was greatly appreciated because since the loss of their dad, he has loved to be indoors but thanks to that visit he had another opportunity to meet and interact with people as well as have fun. God bless you and reward you for putting a smile on his complexion. Thank you one more time."

*~ Student and Family Advocate Participant
(Parent)*

STUDENT AND FAMILY ADVOCACY (SFA) PROGRAM

Our Student and Family Advocacy (SFA) program was created in 2021 to provide culturally relevant educational support for students, with an overall objective of creating more equitable educational outcomes for participants. The SFA program works collaboratively with students, caregivers, their school communities, and relevant community partners to create holistic, wrap-around support for families.

POST SECONDARY APPLICATION WORKSHOP SERIES

In September, the System Navigation and Career Discovery teams co-facilitated a Post-Secondary information session with representatives from McMaster University, Mohawk College, and Skilled Trades Ontario. Each partner gave a presentation, and answered questions from the 40 attendees. In November, participants who were ready to apply to university or college were invited to a follow-up workshop for support completing their applications, with a significantly reduced application fee, thanks to McMaster University's Access program team.

UBUNTU RITES OF PASSAGE PROGRAM

In Fall 2024, we launched the UBUNTU Rites of Passage Program, which supports youth aged 14–19 through the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Rooted in the African philosophy of UBUNTU, the program fosters interconnectivity and community connection while building life skills and information literacy. Participants explored themes like leadership, belonging, and community. Sessions included recreational activities and refreshments. The UBUNTU program empowers youth leaders to grow with confidence, purpose, and pride in their identities.



"You guys are the best 🙌 thanks for bringing such amazing opportunities for us to get better and get to know new people around us and to explore each other's experiences 😊"

~ UBUNTU Rites of Passage participant

PARENT SUPPORT WORKSHOP

Since 2021, Empowerment Squared and Hamilton Child and Family Supports (HCFS) have co-hosted the Parent Support Workshop following community engagement sessions with newcomer caregivers. The workshop offers a welcoming space for parents to build community, share experiences, and strengthen parenting skills while celebrating cultural traditions. Topics include healthy communication, discipline, and parenting in the Canadian context. In 2024 sessions ran alongside our Summer Soccer program to reduce childcare barriers, and included guest speakers, interpretation support, and shared meals. The workshop empowers caregivers with tools, knowledge, and connection-building for stronger families and communities.

"Thank you for running these workshops. It is so important. When I come here, I feel like I find myself"

~ Parent Support Workshop Participant

ACCESS PROGRAM - DISTRIBUTIONS

In 2020, Empowerment Squared began distributing household goods and supplies to our participants in an attempt to address challenges emerging from the rising cost of living in Hamilton during the pandemic. This initiative has continued, annually we facilitate numerous distributions for participants.



Backpack Distribution

In Summer 2024, every participant of our Summer Soccer and Summer Literacy programs received a backpack filled with school supplies.

Eid Distribution

In Spring 2024, all program participants had the opportunity to benefit from this distribution. 62 families registered in child and youth programs received grocery gift cards. Adult participants from the Professional Skills & Entrepreneurship Department were able to “shop” for professional attire that was donated to Empowerment Squared.



Bike Distribution

In Summer 2024, 31 bicycles and helmets were distributed to community members in our programs. We are grateful to Bikes Without Borders for the donation of bicycles and to United Way for their contribution of helmets.

End Of Year Distribution

At the end of the year, 58 families from among our program participants registered in child and youth programs received grocery gift cards as part of this distribution.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DEPARTMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL MENTORSHIP

This program provides culturally relevant development support to grassroots and community organizations that align with the organization's mission and vision. We offer tailored mentorship to build capacity, enhance organizational effectiveness, sustainable growth, and access essential tools and resources. This year, we have been proud to work with:



Transitions Housing

Transitions empowers at-risk youth with life skills programming that includes group sessions on topics such as financial literacy, post-secondary life, cooking, tenancy rights and responsibilities, healthy relationships and navigating community supports. Their goal is to foster independence and success through essential skills, mentoring, and a safe, supportive environment for true youth-led transformation.



Guided Roots

This grassroots, not-for-profit is dedicated to research, advocacy, and education on mental well-being and healthy families within the Canadian Muslim community. Their Parenting Space Family Wellness Project creates culturally-anchored healing, learning spaces and systems navigation support for racialized and newcomer families impacted by intergenerational, migrational and cultural trauma.

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO BLACK ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK (SWOBEN)

Since 2023 SWOBEN has supported 252 Black entrepreneurs across all stages of business development, including 56 in 2024, through weekly workshops on key topics like financial forecasting, marketing, and business planning, and monthly in-person networking events. Participants gained

access to expert coaching, community-based growth opportunities, and self-paced online modules building skills, networks, and confidence. Entrepreneurs were empowered to thrive, grow sustainable ventures, and contribute to the economic strength of their communities.



INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

EMPOWERMENT SQUARED, LIBERIA

The headquarters of Empowerment Squared Liberia is the transformational Liberian Learning Center (LLC) located in Paynesville, adjacent to Paynesville City Hall - a direct response to one of Liberia’s most strategic needs: educational infrastructure and resources.

Empowerment Squared Liberia Team

Ama Tukas Harris
Manager

Sele Max Fuah
Senior Program Coordinator

Christopher B Jones
Coordinator

Joseph Teddy Smith
Coordinator

LIBERIAN LEARNING CENTER

Liberia’s first state of the art comprehensive learning center, the LLC serves a catchment area of more than 250,000 community members. The first public library since Liberia’s civil war, this vibrant hub offers access to resources, educational, and entrepreneurship programming targeted at the needs of the communities it serves.

Within two months of opening our doors on December 13, 2024, we have registered over 150 new members, recorded 131 visits across 36 communities monthly, and hosted a range of educational activities and events.

LEARN MORE

Read more about the Liberian Learning Centre at empowermentsquared.org/project-overview

HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE ENTREPRENEURSHIP (HOPE)



This program, funded by the Mastercard Foundation, empowers 200 youth and young adults with culturally relevant training in entrepreneurship, digital and financial literacy. Participants receive mentorship, develop business plans, and access seed grants with partial repayment to launch small businesses. To date, 132 participants have enrolled, with 42 students from Voker Mission School graduating and starting businesses. Cohorts 2 and 3, currently serving 90 community-based entrepreneurs, are underway. The final cohort will return to student participants, welcoming 68 more. The program aims to impact 1,000 lives across 55 communities through sustainable economic development.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROJECT (IYIP)

The International Youth Internship Program (IYIP), funded by Global Affairs Canada, offers Canadians aged 18–30 from equity-deserving groups the opportunity to gain international work experience. Empowerment Squared's IYIP, in partnership with McMaster University and supported by the Liberian Learning Center, Schools of Dreams, and The Youth Bridge Foundation, places interns in Ghana and Liberia to participate in community-driven projects and research. Interns develop professional, intercultural, and soft skills that build career clarity and resilience in the job market. More than just a work placement, the program offers a transformative journey through cultural immersion, real-world problem solving, and mentorship. It's designed to equip participants with the tools to bridge systemic barriers and grow as future leaders. Our supportive team helps interns navigate challenges while reinforcing the personal and professional skills needed for success. With preparation completed in 2024, cohort 1 departed on January 17, 2025, and returned on April 18.



MISSION MOMENT

Almost 100 students from colleges across Liberia visited the Liberian Learning Center to participate in the community-led Scholarly Path College Mentorship event designed to share learning opportunities outside Liberia with local youth. The facilitator was Mr Wantoe Teah Wantoe and, when he discovered that the interns were working at the center, he invited them, without prior preparation, to engage in the conversation and share their firsthand insights with the students present. The interns demonstrated immense personal growth by taking on the challenge courageously, something the group may have found difficult in the first weeks of their arrival in Liberia, when they were still reserved and unfamiliar with their new home and community. They formed a panel, shared their insights, and fielded questions from the audience on topics ranging from good practices in shortlisting potential study options, to internet safety and navigating the scams rife in online searches. We are proud of Team Kúkaa Tononj (Kukatonton)!



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH JUDGE APPELT

We are committed to continuously investing in our team's professional and leadership development. On September 17, 2024, we hosted a fireside chat with Judge Pamela Appelt, the first female Afro-Canadian to serve on the Court of Canadian Citizenship.

Appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in recognition of her dedication to uplifting Black communities, particularly through education and mentorship, Judge Appelt has dedicated her life to building a better and just world, with an unwavering commitment to helping young people to reach their full potential.

Our team appreciated the opportunity to gain insight, learning and inspiration from her life's journey as a strong advocate for social justice and a Black woman leader and community builder.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In collaboration with Hillfield Strathallan College (HSC) and the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), we celebrated Black Excellence by hosting a conversation with Canadian author Lawrence Hill. Students at HSC and program participants from Empowerment Squared facilitated a discussion with Hill, who generously shared his experience as a Black author, and the systemic challenges that impact Black communities.

Hill also reflected on his inspiration for writing, particularly his internationally acclaimed novel 'The Book of Negroes'. While this event took place in-person at HSC's campus, we also extended a special invitation to other guests and students, teachers and staff from HWDSB schools to attend virtually.



VOLUNTEERS

The dedicated support of hundreds of volunteers each year enables Empowerment Squared to continue to sustain our community programming. Our volunteers support us in a wide range of areas, including administration, academic mentorship, and research, to name a few. We are grateful for the invaluable contributions of time and expertise from these students, professionals, and community members. Without this bedrock of support, the amplified impact of our programs would not be possible.

In 2024, our valued 263 volunteers contributed 6,717 hours of service and talents, impacting 675 participants and enabling us to enhance organizational capacity to continuously provide cost-free and responsive programs. For every hour invested by a volunteer, the return on impact investment is exponential.

LEARN MORE

Read more about this opportunity at empowermentsquared.org/volunteer



CELEBRATING SYSTEM-LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS FOR LONG TERM IMPACT

Empowerment Squared continues to deepen its commitment to transformative, cross-sector partnerships that tackle root causes of systemic inequities. Through a collective vision for innovation and sustainable impact locally and internationally, we are working alongside system-level partners to move beyond short-term interventions and drive long-term change. These partnerships integrate education, child welfare, workforce development, international development and community empowerment responsive to local and global contexts.

Key system-level partners include: Hamilton Child

and Family Supports, Hillfield Strathallan College, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, Tim Hortons – Binbrook, Rotary Club of Hamilton, KPMG Foundation, The Other Bird, McMaster University, and Hamilton Public Library. Together, we are reimagining systems to be more inclusive, culturally informed, and equity-driven—supporting newcomer and marginalized communities through collaborative innovation. These alliances reflect our shared and evidence-supported belief that systems can evolve and change when empowered communities, bold leadership, and shared resources converge with the purpose to build a more just and empowered future for all.



TIM HORTONS BINBROOK

Smile Cookie Campaign is Tim Hortons' national fundraising initiative that raises millions of dollars each year to support local charities across Canada. In partnership with Tim Hortons Binbrook, our 5th consecutive Smile Cookie Campaign was another great success. We are grateful for the support of over 30 volunteers who helped to bake, decorate, sell and distribute thousands of cookies. Together,

our collective efforts exceeded our fundraising goal of \$30,000.

Over five years, this incredible partnership has raised over \$150,000, impacting thousands of newcomer and racialized youth through our holistic and free programs such as mentorship, sports and recreation, and leadership development, all while making a sweet difference.

PARTNERS, FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all our donors and funders for their incredible contributions to our collective impact.

Our collective impact is made possible as a result of the generosity and investment from individuals, corporations, foundations, and governments.

We want to express our deep appreciation to Global Affairs Canada for their contribution of \$4.9M in support of the Youth International Internship Program (IYIP). This program offers Canadians aged

18-30, from marginalized groups that commonly face barriers to employment, the opportunity to gain hands-on international experience in Liberia and Ghana.

A special thank you to Tony Anderson for his matching commitment of \$150,000 which enabled us to launch our Double Your Impact Campaign. We are grateful for all who contributed to this campaign, including from Canada and around the world.



THANK YOU TO OUR BOARDS

EMPOWERMENT SQUARED BOARD CANADA



Trevor Jaundoo – Chair
Kate Lazier – Vice Chair
Rebecca O'Connor – Secretary
Krystena Wan – Treasurer
Francis Hinnah – Director
JoAnne Barresi – Director
Ryan Rosko – Director
Reverend Emmett Dunn – Director

EMPOWERMENT SQUARED BOARD LIBERIA



**Reverend
Emmett Dunn** –
Chair



**Dr. George
Fonderson,** –
Director



**Deontee
King – Sackie**
– Director



MAY, 2025

THANK YOU FROM THE TEAM



EMPOWERMENT SQUARED

Empowerment Squared | 26 Arrowsmith Rd. | Hamilton, ON L8E 4H8, Canada
info@empowermentsquared.org | +1 (905) 393 5370 | empowermentsquared.org



Empowerment Squared is a registered Canadian charitable organization. Charitable number: 80658 2896 RR0001