

## SHAYAN MUBARAK

*"I fled Pakistan because, as a member of an often-persecuted faith, I feared for my safety. But most of my family stayed behind and didn't come with me. I was on my own in a new country.*

*When I arrived in Canada, I didn't expect to have a job handed to me. I had in the back of my mind that it's a really difficult job market here. But starting my career in Canada turned out to be even harder than I expected. I started applying for jobs, putting out résumés and always getting that same email saying, 'You have potential, but unfortunately...'*

*With a degree in economics from a respected university in Pakistan, I had hoped that I would find a job in my chosen field. But no one in Canada had heard of my school*



Newcomers like Shayan make our country strong and more diverse. COSTI provides opportunities for success, helping to make Canada one of the greatest countries in the world.

Visit [iamanewcanadian.ca](http://iamanewcanadian.ca) to learn how COSTI's mentoring programs helped Shayan make connections that are empowering him to fulfill his dream of becoming an economist at a leading financial institution.



*and I had no Canadian work experience. And, like many newcomers, I had no professional networks in Canada.*

*As time passed, I started feeling depressed that there weren't many opportunities, but then I heard about COSTI Immigrant Services, an organization that provides supports to a variety of immigrant communities, including newcomers like me. It was my only hope.*

*Tejal Solanki, COSTI's Youth Mentoring Coach, told me that in order to land a job in my field, I needed to start making connections. She recommended United Way's netWORKS Program, which would help me build a better résumé, do practice interviews and, most importantly, meet contacts at job fairs and networking events.*

*I threw myself into the workshops and improved my job-hunting skills. I made friends, met potential employers and landed a position in my field just two months after my first meeting at COSTI!*

*I now work as a contact centre service representative, helping bank clients sort out credit issues. I'm certain that netWORKS made the difference in my job search!*

*I'd like to apply for a financial analyst position in a year or two. Then I'll go for my dream job: an economist at a leading financial institution. What I learned from this experience is that any connection can be helpful, and with the right contacts, you'll find opportunities."*

The netWORKS, a program funded by United Way of Greater Toronto, helps youth like Shayan Mubarak build professional networks to support their job search and find employment in their dream job. At COSTI, we want to help more young people like Shayan achieve success by enhancing the services available through private donations.

COSTI's Children and Youth Services are designed with the understanding that all young people have the right to be provided with support and guidance. The goals of our programs are to inspire confidence in youth, ensure that they stay in school, secure employment and become successful role models for other young men and women.

A number of our Children and Youth Services, such as the Art Therapy Program for traumatized refugee children, rely solely on donations. Our hope is to expand the program so that traumatized children have access to the Art Therapy Program on a daily basis.