

# Dodgeball tourney helps Crescent Town youth

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A fledgling charity will host a fund-raising dodgeball tournament to benefit Crescent Town youth programs this Sunday.

Nabeel Khan from the non-profit Chaara Fund Foundation, says 100 per cent of the proceeds from the event will go toward local charities, which benefit youth. The tournament runs Jan. 27 at St. Dunstan Catholic School, at 14 Pharmacy Ave.

The tournament, the first event organized by the Chaara Foundation, will feature teams made up of young adults from Crescent Town with ties to the neighbourhood who are looking for a way to support local youth programs.

"They are giving back through our organization by coming back to support the community," said Khan, founder and CEO of the foundation.

The foundation decided to raise money for an after-school program based on conversations with organizations like Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services and Action for Neighbourhood Change, a com-

munity engagement project spearheaded by United Way Toronto.

The after-school program would benefit youth between the ages of 11 and 14, who according to Khan are under served by current community programs. "These kids are too young for high school activities and too old for elementary school," he said. "They're right in the middle and at risk to become influenced by violence and drug use."

Khan said he founded Chaara Foundation last year, whose name comes from the Bengali word meaning seed, following a trip to Peru which he decided to visit after growing disillusioned working in the corporate world as an architect.

His experience there volunteering and helping to build housing convinced him to get more involved in charitable work.

The foundation's aim, he said, is to locate worthy Canadian charities that aren't as well known and raise money for their benefit.

Khan urged more residents to donate more of their time to charities. "Life isn't about just going to work," he said. "There are so many worthy initiatives out there to get involved in."



Photo/COURTESY

The Chaara Fund Foundation and its founder Nabeel Khan are set to host a charity dodgeball tournament to benefit Crescent Town youth. Chaara means seed in Bengali.

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