



Testimonial: Samidha

Spring 2019

**OUR SHARED
VISION**

**Safe and
thriving
children and
youth**

**Empowered
families**

**Stronger
communities**

Born and raised in India, Samidha's life changed forever when her mother passed away when she was only seven years old. She immigrated to Canada with her family at 12, but after such devastating loss and adjustment to a new country, her family struggled. After two years of this continuous struggle, the CCAS of Hamilton stepped in and she entered foster care, where she moved between three high schools and four foster homes, all within a two-year span. Keeping friends was always difficult, and she suffered from emotional abuse, neglect and depression.

Despite these challenges, she promised herself she would continue to keep moving forward, and strives to live life by her favorite quote from Harry Potter: "It is our choices that show us who we truly are, far more than our abilities." Samidha has made the choice to persevere and advocate for current and former children and youth in foster care and has joined the Youth Advisory Council at the agency along with youth councils and ambassador teams at the Children's Aid Foundation and OACAS Foundation to raise awareness, to ensure there's adequate support, to pay it forward, and, most of all, to stand by those who feel that they are alone, because they are not.

Now Samidha is attending McMaster University for an honours bachelor degree in business and philosophy. She is an active volunteer within both the McMaster and Hamilton communities. Even though she is aged out of the system, she continues to receive support through the CCAS bursary program.

