

## **Ms. Nora Elmi, 2016 Dr. Graham Chance Award Recipient**

Ms. Elmi has been an enthusiastic and effective champion of community and youth in Ottawa and across Canada for nearly a decade. She demonstrated at an early age her commitment to empowering youth, volunteering for numerous organizations starting at age 14 – and never stopping since.

Ms. Elmi's efforts are deeply rooted in a progressive understanding of the relevance of the social determinants of health to the lives of the children and youth she engages. Her work has focused on developing youth-facilitated, girl-centered programming and promoting awareness of youth refugee issues. She is the founder and driving force of *Beautifully Me*, an innovative annual empowerment conference that inspires and motivates young women to pursue education, employment, entrepreneurship and healthy lifestyles.

Currently, working at the Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Center in the Parent-Support Worker program at Pathways to Education, Ms. Elmi is putting her many skills to work helping students in low-income communities graduate from high school and successfully transition into post-secondary education, training, and employment.

Enrolled in the Master of Social Work program at Carleton University, Ms. Elmi has a Bachelor of Social Work from Carleton and a Social Service Worker Diploma from Algonquin College.

In the words of her nominators, 'Ms. Elmi stands out as a person of unlimited energy and capacity' and 'is a community champion.'

Canadian Institute of Child Health 2016