


BLOOR WEST-JUNCTION-RONCESVALLES

# THE VILLAGER



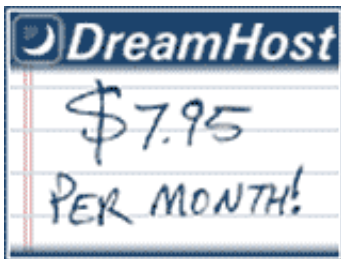

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## Runnymede student on mission to inspire

LISA RAINFORD

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It only takes one action to make one dream a reality.

That was Shamin Mohamed Jr.'s philosophy when he founded the Children's AIDS Health Program.

The Runnymede Collegiate Institute student was just 15 when he decided he wanted to make a difference.

"I really wanted to do something different," said Mohamed. "I wanted to create an organization that would get youth in Canada and in other countries working together."

Mohamed, now 18, and Betty Chiu, 19, a University of Toronto student, are leading a mission to South Africa this summer to work with South African youth living with HIV and AIDS. Their mission begins July 1 with the goal to educate and inspire young people to take on much needed



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leadership roles within their communities.

Mohamed's Children's AIDS Health Program has become known internationally. Founded in October 2004, it has raised more than \$12,000 to help children under the age of 16 who are living in poverty and are infected by HIV/AIDS. A non-profit organization, it is run solely by youth. Its membership is about 100, but it is "scattered across the country."

It is Mohamed's belief that Africa's HIV/AIDS pandemic must be answered with practical change. The country's population has reached more than 44 million - 5.3 million of those are infected with the disease. In addition to leading arts- and sports-themed workshops, Mohamed will be helping to purchase vitamins and anti-retro viral medication for AIDS orphanages across the country.

"We really want to make an impact on as many people as possible," he said.

Mohamed is a recipient of Canada's Top 20 under 20's award for innovation, leadership and achievement. He is also the recipient of the DAREarts leadership awards.

A diary of Mohamed's mission will be available online at [www.LetsStopAIDS.org](http://www.LetsStopAIDS.org) and updated daily with photos and video while he is in South Africa.

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