



THE DOLLAR DETECTIVES

STORIES OF IMPACT



Why The Dollar Detectives is Different



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Who Are The Dollar Detectives?

The Dollar Detectives Society (TDD) is an innovative, youth-focused, not-for-profit focused on enhancing youth's financial confidence, leadership, and sense of self-determination. Our experienced and knowledgeable team has over 50 years of collective experience supporting vulnerable families. As a proud immigrant to Canada from the beautiful country of Haiti, founder Guirlene Joseph transformed her negative experiences with discrimination, social isolation, food insecurity and poverty as the cornerstone and catalyst for TDD!

As a social purpose driven organization and living wage employer, all revenue is reinvested into our organization and our community providing free events, in-house financial mental health programs and by providing employment and volunteer opportunities for marginalized individuals.

TDD Vision is Three-Fold:

- Create safe, supportive, and inclusive spaces where youth from diverse backgrounds can have fun, learn about each other, foster empathy, unity and enhance social inclusion.
- Positively impact the success of youth by supporting their educational attainment, career aspirations, financial goals and overall economic achievement, promoting independence.
- Support youth to develop independence, strengthen coping and social-emotional skills and become more resistant to financial and economic crisis.

What Makes TDD Unique?

- TDD employs an exceptional educational delivery system that includes practical elements such as grocery shopping, preparing a budget for an event and meal preparation. Our program aligns its teachings with Alberta Education outcomes.
- TDD programs are co-created by an experienced teacher with over 12 years experience in math, growth mindset and mental health and an Accredited Financial Counsellor who has over 25 years of experience in social service. Curriculums blend essential components such as social-emotional, mental health, leadership and collaboration principles.
- TDD has a highly diverse group of professionals and embrace the value of diversity, we designed all our programs with a universal design and multicultural lens. Our varying perspectives, backgrounds, and cultures allow us to design programs to support the needs of diverse youth.

Our Community Challenge

Today's young people grapple with challenges such as financial insecurity, mental health crises, and future uncertainty in addition to their school and extracurricular commitments.

TDD Track Record of Positive Impact

In a short 36 months, TDD supported 450+ youth in navigating their financial journeys through essential and preventative programs building confidence and independence.

Outcomes

- 98% of our participants sharing their appreciation for our instructors.
- 92% of our participants are ready to recommend us to others.
- 88% of our participants finding our programs engaging and interactive.
- 87% of our participants feel more confident with financial subjects after our workshops.

Testimonials

*“The Dollar Detectives program is a really fun and interesting and informative way to learn about financial literacy. I wasn't anticipating to be given much new financial knowledge I didn't already know. But I was taken aback at how informative and valuable I found the program to be. I learned lots more about things such as tfsa's, resp's and credit cards and mortgages that I hadn't been aware of before. The Dollar detectives is truly a great organization that teaches valuable information about financial skills and literacy in a fun and interesting way.” - **Participant***

*“Thank you immensely once again for this fantastic opportunity and for allowing me to be a part of TDD. I thoroughly enjoyed completing every aspect of this project, and our shared laughter each week was a highlight for me. Your leadership is truly remarkable, and you serve as an inspiring role model whom I deeply admire. The positive impact you've had on my life in such a short time will always hold a special place in my heart. I'm certain that both your volunteers and the people you help through TDD's services feel similarly grateful.” - **TDD Haskayne School of Business Intern***

TDD & Partner Collaborations

Over the past 3 years, TDD collaborated with several organizations to co-design financial education curriculums which blends into their existing programs. Our team has many years of experience working collaboratively in service orientated partnerships as demonstrated below:

The Centre for Newcomers (CFN) - In 2024, TDD and CFN co-designed the Money Mystery Lifeskills Program together to suit CFN's client needs. The Director of Youth Services noted the program provided relevant life skills to vulnerable youth, strengthening their sense of community, identity, purpose and belonging.

Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth (CBFY) - In 2023, TDD and CBFY co-designed the Changemakers workshop together and TDD delivered this workshop in 10 CBE classrooms. Youth Lead noted TDD provided the group of youth with financial knowledge but also instilled in them a sense of empowerment and confidence when it came to handling money.

4H Alberta - In 2023, TDD and Prairie Winds 4H co-designed the Skills to Life workshop together to suit 4H's client needs. Program Lead noted the positive impact on their youth who not only eagerly anticipated each engaging session but also demonstrated substantial progress in their problem-solving and analytical capacities in relation to financial concepts.

Final Thoughts

TDD is dedicated to fostering profound, positive changes in youth. Our program arms them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to successfully navigate the complexities of personal finance, education and employment. More than just imparting skills, we are deeply committed to ensuring these translate into tangible and experiential benefits with real-world experiences bolstering resilience, confidence and success in both personal and professional areas.

Imagine what greater impact we can have with your partnership? Your support and collaboration enables us to be a catalyst for change, empowering the next generation. With your partnership, we can work together to cultivate a community of financially literate and confident young people.

Join us in making a lasting impact on the lives of young people in our communities!

How is **The Dollar Detectives** Unique?

Unique and Prevention Based Social Programs

TDD delivers specialized and certificated workshops covering essential life skills needed for self-sufficiency including financial skills training and employment readiness. Access to mentors help youth enhance these foundational skills.



Dedicated Youth Focus

TDD offers various programs tailored specifically for youth success at different stages of life. We provide comprehensive, age-appropriate services for their development.



Support for Equity-Seeking Communities

TDD has dedicated programs to groups including racialized and newcomer youth, addressing crucial gaps not covered by other financial focused programs.



Culturally Responsive

TDD's programming acknowledges and respects cultural backgrounds, languages, and traditions of youth. We incorporate culturally relevant content that help youth feel valued and supported in their communities.



Universal Design

TDD's inclusive design of our programs and services is usable by all youth, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.



Black-Led and Living Wage

TDD is a black-led grassroots not-for-profit organization who is committed to fair wages and providing meaningful work for equity-seeking individuals and those facing barriers to employment.



Experiential

TDD incorporated a learning process whereby youth "learn by doing" through experiences such as meal preparation, grocery shopping or preparing a customized budget.



Trauma Informed

TDD implements trauma-informed approaches that prioritize safety, trust, choice, collaboration, and empowerment in our programming design and delivery.



Free Community Resources

TDD supports and empowers our local communities by sharing free educational content and resources on social media, newsletter and on our website.



Empowering youth through quality education to build the relevant skills needed for financial success and to confidently navigate their world.



EXPERIENTIAL FINANCE EDUCATION

Financial literacy for youth with fun, hand-on, scenario-based activities to build interpersonal and problem solving skills.

FIELD TRIPS

Real world experiences and guest speakers.



SKILLS FOR LIFE

A unique program that combines budgeting, grocery shopping, and food preparation in a collaborative environment.

YOUTH SUPPORT

Opportunities for youth to build their skills and resume with volunteering opportunities.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TDD is out in the community engaging with youth and other agencies at trade fairs, speaking engagements, online webinars, and networking.

STAY CONNECTED



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