

Winner

The Annual Rise Volunteer Award



James Stuart

Volunteer Role:
Youth Coach

Background

Since September 2016, James has been an active Rise Youth Coach. During that time he has worked with four different mentees to help them develop their business ideas. James has contributed his specific apparel industry experience and understanding of design thinking to help develop mentees apparel and fashion business. In addition, James also volunteered as a judge during the pilot of our high school design-thinking program and has also facilitated introductions on behalf of Rise to other not-for-profit organizations.

A Little Bit About James

- BKin from Brock University and an MBA from Rotman
- 10 years of experience working in operations and supply chain management in the apparel industry
- On a mission to drive innovation and sustainability in the apparel and fashion industries as an advisor with Ryerson's Fashion Zone
- Passionate about supporting the Toronto arts community as an executive on the Youth Leadership Council with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra
- Avid rock climber in the summer and ice climber in the winter
- Can often be found in the west end of Toronto running around in circles training for the next half-marathon

Why James Volunteers

"I volunteer because I recognize and am thankful for the opportunities and support that I was given when I was growing up. I am now in a position, and believe I have a responsibility, to contribute my knowledge and skill sets to programs that provide similarly valuable experiences and opportunities for others."

Why James Chose Rise

"I chose Rise because it is a rare organization that believes mental health challenges should not stand in the way of fulfilling entrepreneurial ambitions. I support how Rise embraces the different ways its participants view the world as assets and helps them see that entrepreneurship is not out of reach. I believe in how Rise leverages the power of design thinking to help participants not only grow their businesses, but also their confidence and self-esteem."

Rise Asset Development is a registered **charity** that provides low interest small business loans, training and mentorship to men and women with a history of mental health and addiction challenges.

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