



Rise Asset Development | Annual Report 2014 - 2015
Supporting Business Growth. Investing in People.

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.

www.RiseAssetDevelopment.com

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rise

Our Knowledge Partners



Our Donors



RBC Foundation

Citi Foundation



100%

Founded in 2010, Rise exclusively serves people with a history of mental health and addiction challenges with supported entrepreneurship services



93

youth received free Rotman DesignWorks business design training



118

men and women completed free small business training with additional support from their peers



211

emerging entrepreneurs received start-up support from a Rise grant



105

volunteer entrepreneur coaches and mentors



117

entrepreneurs supported by a Rise low interest small business loan



74%

growth in the loan fund over the last two years



more than
\$445,000
in capital disbursed



7%

default rate

From the Chair of the Board of Directors



This past year has seen tremendous growth at Rise, with many stories of personal and collective accomplishment that continue to serve as testament to the countless possibilities for individuals facing mental health and addiction challenges. As you discover the recent success of our entrepreneurial programs and the influence of our elaborate support network, throughout this annual report, I hope you will be inspired, share in our vision, and realize a role you can play in furthering that vision.

Among several highlights that define Rise's past year, we grew our Loan Fund to over \$445,000 dispersed, successfully introduced our Youth Small Business Program to 4 new Ontario communities, introduced an online Mentor Hub connecting volunteers, and incorporated a Personal Goal Setting Tool into the entrepreneurial development process. I'm pleased to state that our success in Ottawa continued, and that we've expanded our services to Kingston this past year. With these accomplishments, Rise is strengthening its foundation of services and has increased awareness in our communities. We are very proud of this progress.

Over 100 aspiring entrepreneurs benefited from Rise's support this past year. Congratulations to all our successful training and entrepreneur clients, who have built networks of valuable relationships, developed viable business plans, and started thriving businesses.

We are very grateful for all of those contributors who helped create a meaningful, lasting experience for our entrepreneurs. Thank you, to Rise's wonderful Executive Director, Jodi Butts, and her exceptional staff; to Rise's coaches and mentors, local partner agencies, and members; your efforts are making a difference, and you each share in our success from this past year. Thank you to Sandra Rotman, for her constant enthusiasm, support and vision in helping drive Rise to new heights. It has been a pleasure working alongside all of you, watching Rise take remarkable steps forward the past few years.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Golden,
Chair of the Board of Directors

From the Executive Director



It has been inspiring to observe another year of strong growth at Rise, with so many talented, resilient entrepreneurs realizing their goals. This past year, Rise had its highest annual program participation rate, with our Youth Small Business Program, Peer Supported Lending Program and Individual Lending Program all producing robust business plans, with many already becoming successful businesses. I'm thrilled that Rise can continue to assist individuals in pursuing dreams, gaining confidence, and establishing an increased quality of life, and meaningful career paths.

I'd like to thank our fantastic team of coaches, mentors, and members, for the empowering role you continue to play in helping aspiring entrepreneurs through the entrepreneurial process. Your knowledge and experience is invaluable, and has helped over 100 new entrepreneurs grow. Furthermore, a special thank you to our community partners who help connect Rise with great participants, while offering insight and support throughout the process. The corporate and government funding Rise receives is also integral to the organization's success, and much appreciated; thank you for your support.

Rise expanded its Youth Small Business Program this past year, to include services in Ottawa, Kingston, London and Windsor. This was an exciting challenge, met with enthusiastic participation, and the successful offering of six sessions within the four regions. This success is indicative of Rise's growing reach, and the meaningful work we have accomplished in recent months, and years. We continue to explore ways to reinforce the momentous impact of the entrepreneurial process, and reach more entrepreneurs.

Our conversations, programs, and relationships at Rise challenge our contributors and entrepreneurs in a way that encourages unbiased support, acceptance, education, and reason to believe in the possibilities of dreams that are considered. I look forward to continuing to witness the benefits of this collaborative approach with you. On behalf of all the Rise staff, I offer you our sincere thanks and gratitude.

Sincerely,

Jodi Butts,
Executive Director

From the Chair of the Investment Committee



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Rise presents an opportunity for clients facing unique mental health and addiction challenges. We offer these individuals a chance to realize their entrepreneurial dreams, by developing solutions and a framework for success that links the client's vision and their capabilities. Ultimately, we continue to search for doors to open, while balancing the risks to Rise.

With an exceptional and deeply valued staff and supporters, Rise helps clients throughout the entrepreneurial process, encouraging personal growth that leads to clients becoming business and community leaders. Some individuals might even become mentors to future Rise clients, as we have witnessed over this past year. I am very pleased to see the recent progress, and believe it's an indication of traction we will continue to gain, as we continue to learn from our experiences with clients.

I am a firm believer in the empowering impact that can be made by a positively influential figure in someone's life. I believe at Rise we continue to allow individuals to explore and realize their potential, by providing guidance and mentorship as they reach various goals. There is a real beauty to that process, the confidence it instills, and the various relationships that are formed through Rise.

My colleagues and I on the Investment Committee look forward to another year of great triumphs, as we continue to demand the most of ourselves, and continue to be inspired by those who we passionately and carefully support.

Sincerely,

David R. Smith,
Chair of the Investment Committee

Rise Board of Directors

Dr. Brian Golden, Chair
Sandra Rotman, Vice Chair and Founder
Rod Lohin, Treasurer
John Trainor, Secretary
Robert J. McGuire, Director

Rise Team

Jodi Butts, Executive Director
Sally Wilkie, Program Manager
Ari Cohen, Community Outreach & Business Advisor
Geff Stutman, Lead Strategic Projects
Barb Williams, Peer Supported Lending Program Facilitator
Mary Ross, Youth Small Business Program Facilitator & Expansion Lead
Naomi Muise, Entrepreneur in Residence

Rise Ottawa:

Don Palmer, Executive Director, Causeway Work Center
Douglas Pawson, Causeway Director of Social Business and Social Finance
Lana Hann, Community Outreach & Business Advisor

Rise Kingston:

Glenda Carter, Services Director, AMHS-KFLA
Kim Fraser, Supervisor Vocational Services, AMHS-KFLA
Lee Aubin, Community Outreach & Business Advisor

Youth Small Business Program Facilitators

Justin Carter - LONDON
Beth Breckenridge – OTTAWA
Melanie Janisse – WINDSOR
Felica Kelso – KINGSTON

Rise Investment Committee

David Smith, Chairman
Kathleen Coulson, Vice-Chair
Moez Bawania
Lothar Fritsch
Frank Hall
Jay w. Lee
Bernard Lewis
Leslie Lewis
Drew Marshall
Mathew Moore
Salima Rawji
John Wong



*“It was very empowering to have Rise believe in my business and I look forward to working with them further!”
- Rise entrepreneur*

Entrepreneurial Achievement

Dr. Paul E. Garfinkel Awards

We are thrilled to celebrate the winners of the 2014 Dr. Paul E. Garfinkel Awards, in recognition of three entrepreneurs' outstanding business achievements. Rashma Manjra, owner of Dandelion Sun Tea; Onesha Morgan, owner of Rainbow Kisses Cosmetics (RKC); and Chris Ralph, co-owner and Artistic Director of The Acting Company (AC), were this year's recipients. In recognition of their inspiring entrepreneurial achievements, each winner received a grant of \$1000 to support their business.

In addition to three 2014 Dr. Paul E. Garfinkel Award winners, there were five individuals who demonstrated a strong entrepreneurial acumen that earned them a Garfinkel Award honourable mention. Congratulations to Beth, Greg Baumhour, Apanake Minerve, Laura Sultan, and Adina Zaiontz, this year's Dr. Paul E. Garfinkel Award honourable mention winners.

Rashma Manjra, a graduate of Rise's Youth Small Business Program (YSBP), has grown her gourmet tea company, Dandelion Sun Tea, to a current retail system that includes three stores, online and local markets, with multiple partners.

Rashma's business concept uses all natural products to make hand-blended wellness tea blends. She credits the YSBP with accelerating the development of her

business, stating, "The program helped me visualize the future of my business, once I was able to overcome the things I was afraid of." Rashma adds, "I was so happy to participate in the program and meet such good people."

Over the next year, her goal is to introduce the company's product line into more brick and mortar stores, and build on her early success.

Onesha Morgan is a graduate of Rise's Peer Supported Lending Program (PSL), and owner of Toronto-based Rainbow Kisses Cosmetics (RKC), a lip and lip-care cosmetic line.

In 2013, through personal experiences, Onesha identified a need for bright and bold-coloured, reasonably priced lipsticks, in the Canadian marketplace. RKC was born, and currently provides lipsticks that are bright, bold, vibrant and uniquely-colored, offering clients an opportunity to stand out.

Onesha credits the PSL program with teaching her fundamental business skills, including marketing and budgeting, and analysis of the macro-business environment. Furthermore, she states, "The program has made me more trusting of others, while offering great ideas and constructive criticism that is supportive."

Onesha received a low-interest \$1500 loan from Rise, which she used towards securing product, and for marketing and product-testing purposes. She is currently leveraging her knowledge of positioning strategies, as she prepares to market her cosmetic line at events that are consistent with her target markets. This includes Toronto's Gay Pride Parade, which supports the LGBT community that Onesha is actively involved with.

Chris Ralph is a client of Rise Ottawa's individual lending program, and co-owner of The Acting Company (AC), an Ottawa-based performing arts school.

Chris graduated from the National Theatre School of Canada in 1993 with the dream of becoming a professional actor. In the following decade, he ultimately worked jobs unrelated to his passion, and in 2004, his recreational drug use brought him to rehab. Since then, Chris has made a remarkable recovery that has included rediscovering his love of acting and performance.

In 2013, with the help of Rise, his family and a wonderful landlord, Chris and his partner converted an abandoned 1930's movie house into Ottawa's largest creative centre for theatre education and perfor-

mance. Rise provided Chris with a \$7000 low-interest loan, used towards signage, furniture, marketing and printing.

"Like many recovering addicts, the financial wreckage of my past lingered well into my sobriety," Chris says. "When no bank would assist us, Rise stepped in and made our business a reality; additionally, my mentor Ross Kouhi has offered expertise, knowledge and humility that I am grateful for."

These annual awards acknowledge the leadership and inspiring contributions of Dr. Paul E. Garfinkel, through his role as founding President and CEO of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). Dr. Garfinkel is also recognized for his leading role in the advocacy for psychiatric science and reducing the stigma associated with mental health challenges and addictions.

Due to various societal influences and stigma, traditional means of business start-up are not offered to those who perhaps have the most drive to become financially independent. The Garfinkel Awards are part of a strategy to raise awareness surrounding this issue, and inspire future entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams.

2014 Awards Recipients

Youth Small Business Program



Rashma Manjra,
Dandelion Sun Tea

Peer Supported Lending Program



Onesha Morgan,
Rainbow Kisses Cosmetics

Individual Lending Program



Chris Ralph,
The Acting Company

2014 Honourable Mentions

Peer Supported Lending Program



Apanaki Designs

Apanaki Minerve,
Apanaki Desings

Individual Lending Program



napkinmarketing
on-demand advertising and design

Adina Zaiontz,
napkin marketing

Individual Lending Program



Greg Baumhour,
Mohawk Grill

Peer Supported Lending Program



Laura Sultan,
Design by Nature Gems

How Can Rise Help?

LENDING



Low interest loans for starting or growing a business or selling products at an event.

FREE TRAINING



Youth Small Business Training Program; Peer Supported Lending Program.

MENTORSHIP



Coaching and support for long-term success.

Loan Fund

Bigger and better!

It was a year of continued growth for Rise's Loan Fund, with the addition of 48 new clients (a Rise annual record), representing 69 % growth in the lending client base. The Loan Fund grew by 47.5 % in fiscal 2014-15, reaching a total of \$447, 265. Amidst the success of its Loan Fund this past year, Rise maintained its commercially competitive 7 % default rate.

Thanks to increased awareness and referrals from a range of agencies, Rise continues to expand its regional services in Toronto, and beyond, with Rise Ottawa experiencing lending growth in its third year, and Rise Kingston already offering excellent loan recipients and applicants in its first year.

An integral new initiative – a Personal Goal Setting Tool- has strengthened Rise's overall relationship with its clients and volunteer mentors and coaches. Thanks to much appreciated support from Citi Foundation and CAMH, the Personal Goal Setting Tool was introduced by Rise this past year, allowing clients to identify potential improvement areas in personal performance that can be evaluated by both the cli-

ent and Rise as a measure of success throughout the entrepreneurial journey. Clients are presented with 26 potential goal areas, and choose 3 that will serve as central goals in developing their business plan. In addition to introducing this invaluable tool, Rise has added a web-based Mentor Hub that connects volunteers, increasing Rise's reach and encourages professionals and members of the community to get involved, educate themselves, and support Rise clients.

"The Rise Loan Fund has continued to experience strong growth," says Sally Wilkie, Program Manager. "We're receiving more and more interest from clients across Ontario, and are constantly looking for solutions to support these clients, to help them reach their goals. We look forward to realizing continued growth in the Loan Fund, and with our arsenal of resources building, we believe even greater heights can be reached."



Rise in Ottawa

Keeps growing!

Rise Ottawa experienced an impactful and successful second year, with increased lending activity, a positive introduction of Rise's Youth Small Business Program, and recognition of excellence amongst its clients. Impactful collaboration with the Causeway Work Centre continued in fiscal 2014-15, and this partnership remains integral to our success, providing clients with a wellness approach, resources, and encouragement throughout their growth as entrepreneurs. While initially relying on significant outreach, "Awareness has risen and referrals have grown at Rise Ottawa," says Community Outreach and Business Advisor Lana Hann. This heightened interest in the program led to 11 loans granted in the past fiscal year, matching the combined total from Rise Ottawa's first two lending years.

Rise's Youth Small Business Program launched its inaugural Ottawa session in September, 2014, receiving enthusiastic participation and impressive personal growth amongst individuals in its fall and winter cohorts, including two students who ultimately had their businesses plans approved for loans. According

to Lana Hann, "It's a very transformational process, and entrepreneurs have access to resources that escalate that process."

Rise's collaboration with Causeway Work Centre continues to provide clients with personal support, business mentorship, and tools that encourage individuals with entrepreneurial ambitions to pursue their passions, presenting a "potential opportunity that is appealing to people who might otherwise hesitate to pursue a business idea," according to Douglas Pawson, Causeway's Social Business and Programs manager.

Exemplary Rise Ottawa client Chris Ralph received a \$7000 low interest loan that aided in the development of his performing arts school, 'The Acting Company,' and was a Dr. Paul E. Garfinkel award winner this year. Chris remains an active Rise ambassador in the Ottawa community, and role model to individuals overcoming mental health and addiction challenges.



Douglas Pawson, Director Social Business & Social Finance, Causeway and Don Palmer, Executive Director, Causeway

Rise in Kingston

We're launched!

It was an exciting inaugural year in Kingston, with incredibly positive reception from the community in the greater Kingston area. Rise is thrilled to collaborate with Addiction & Mental Health Services - Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington (formerly Frontenac Community Mental Health & Addictions Services).

A first loan was granted to a Kingston based entrepreneur on February 11, 2015, with 3 loans issued across the fiscal year, and additional loan applications in progress at fiscal year's end. Furthermore, Rise's Youth Small Business Program was successfully introduced to the Kingston area, with an outstanding graduation rate of 77 %.

"People involved are passionate about making a difference, and I've witnessed strong growth in personal

confidence and skills amongst clients here; it's really a powerful impact that we're able to have, and we look forward to continuing what we've started, providing an outlet and a path for success to clients," says Lee Aubin, Community Outreach & Business Advisor at Rise Kingston.

In its first year, there have already been remarkable success stories at Rise Kingston, including two loan recipients, "who have each expanded their business with Rise's support, and now serve as mentors to new clients," according to Lee Aubin. She adds, "It's about honest conversations at Rise. I run into so many people with challenges, and, ultimately, they seem to just face those challenges."



LAACMHS & FCMHAS
Amalgamate April 1st
2015

As of April 1st, Lennox & Addington Addiction and Community Mental Health Services and Frontenac Community Mental Health & Addiction Services will amalgamate to become one streamlined agency: **Addiction & Mental Health Services - Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington**

Youth Small Business Program

Supporting youth in Kingston, London, Ottawa, Windsor, Toronto

Tremendous expansion and participation characterised fiscal 2014-15 for Rise's Youth Small Business Program (YSBP). Toronto's program achieved an average graduation rate of 68%, up from 57% average graduation rate for all previous sessions. Meanwhile, the YSBP was introduced in 4 new Ontario communities – Kingston, London, Ottawa and Windsor – where it experienced tremendous reception across six total cohorts of graduates.

“The Youth Small Business program saw more business starts this year than any other year, with two incredibly tight knit classes in Toronto serving as an indicator of present and future success,” says Mary Ross, Youth Small Business Program Facilitator & Expansion Lead. “The expansion was also a huge success. We were trying something for the first time, and proved we can successfully replicate the program. Essentially, we proved the program's transferability, and strength of materials. Students made incredible progress, with great facilitators. The expansion program created 35 new jobs for communities outside of Toronto, nearly double our Ministry goal.”

The Youth Small Business Program helps provide individuals with a valuable sense of purpose and accomplishment, at a critical time in personal development. It also allows students to connect with like-minded peers facing similar circumstances.

“We understand the particular need for a program that supports young adults with mental health and addiction challenges, as this demographic is often facing these challenges for the first time,” adds Mary Ross. “We let them realize they can continue to lead productive lives, despite their personal struggles. Many of the students help each other develop their business plans, and remain in contact when a session ends.”

A special congratulations to former YSBP graduate, Rashma Manjra, a 2014 Paul E. Garfinkel Award Winner. Rashma leveraged the program's tools and mentorship to help grow her gourmet tea company, 'Dandelion Sun Tea,' and she now serves as a mentor to a recent YSBP graduate.

We wish to extend our thanks to Ministry of Children and Youth Services for their continued support of our Youth Small Business Program in Toronto; thank you to the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade, and Infrastructure for their support of our Youth Small Business Expansion Program in our new Ontario communities; thank you Rotman Designworks, our content provider, and in particular Grace Park, for sharing and adapting Rotman's Business Design curriculum for use in small business.

Huge thanks goes to the agencies who collaborated with us to deliver the YSBP. Enormous thanks to the Rotman School of Management for providing us with world-class caliber classroom space every year in Toronto. Thank you to our exceptional local delivery partners: Causeway Work Centre in Ottawa; YOU: Youth Opportunities Unlimited and the Centre for Entrepreneurship at the Ivey School of Business in London; Downtown Business Accelerator in Windsor; and Addiction Mental Health Services – Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington.

Finally, Rise would like to thank the many referral sources, and 68 youth coaches who support Rise students throughout their journey in its YSBP; thank you for your impactful devotion in helping aspiring young entrepreneurs reach their goals and dreams!

powered by: **Rotman**
designworks



Peer Supported Lending Program

Better with peers!

Rise’s Peer Supported Lending Program (PSL) continues to unlock the potential of peer collaboration, with strong support networks that assist individuals who often face greater challenges. The program graduated two cohorts of students for a second consecutive year, with much appreciated referrals from social service agencies across the Greater Toronto Area, including continued support from the John Howard Society of Toronto (John Howard). Thank you John Howard for the vital role you continue to play in energizing Rise’s PSL program with wonderful participants.

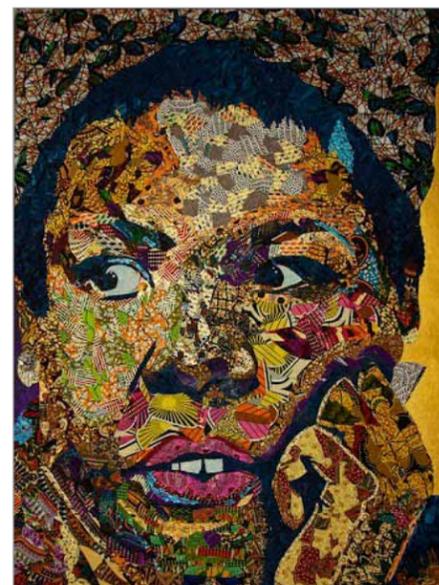
During the PSL program, Rise facilitates collaborative peer groups of aspiring entrepreneurial participants, based on relationships formed in the first couple weeks of a nine session class structure. Individuals work closely with their peers in the assigned groups, which are further connected with industry professionals who serve as mentors for the students, as they develop their business plans.

“There was a strong diversity to the businesses pursued in this year’s cohorts,” says Barb Williams, Peer Supported Lending Program Facilitator. “Some students have developed businesses that already thrive, while students also gain invaluable skills and

confidence that helps them obtain full time employment. The program’s particularly suitable for those who require flexibility in their work hours and work styles. I was really impressed with the perseverance exhibited by the students this year.”

Rise would like to offer its congratulations to recent PSL graduates, Onesha Morgan and Apanaki Minerve, winner and honorable mention recipients, respectively, of a Dr. Paul E. Garfinkel Award this year. Apanaki’s acrylic artwork business, Apanaki Designs (AD), was featured in spring 2015 at the annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition in North Charleston, South Carolina, where she was the only Canadian Fiber Artist chosen to showcase an artwork. Apanaki’s Mama’s Watching, a work that honours Maya Angelou, was impactful at the exhibition, and led to a request from Charleston to use her artwork as a healing piece, in the wake of the 2015 tragedy at the city’s Emmanuel AME Church; Apanaki was honoured to create healing art, in memoriam of these victims. Congratulations, Onesha and Apanaki!

Rise would like to offer a special thank you to RBC Foundation for its support of the PSL program this year.



Apanaki Designs' "Mama's Watching"

Mentorship

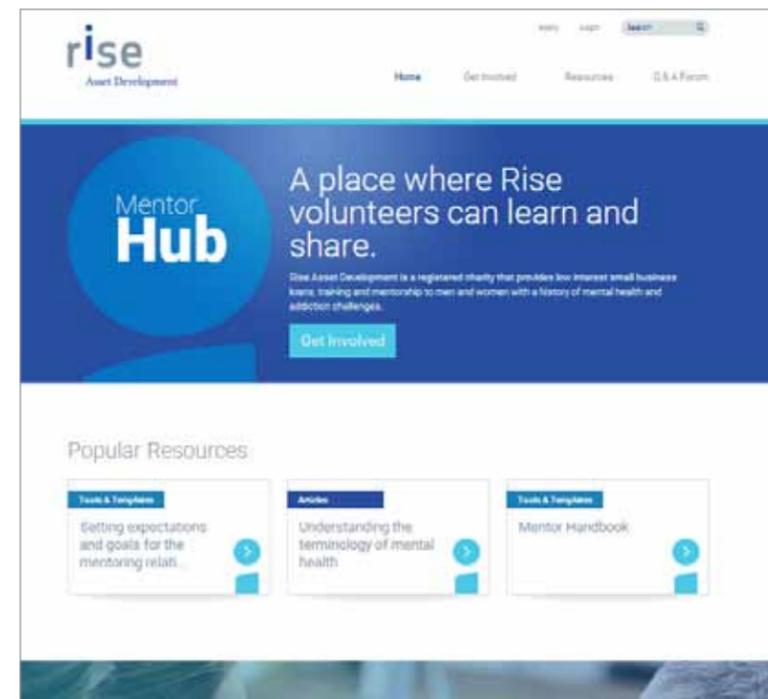
Giving back with impact!

Rise is excited to have launched an online Mentor Hub in 2015 that connects volunteers, extends reach, and encourages learning, sharing, and passionate involvement in supporting Rise’s students and clients. Volunteers can now access educational tools and templates concerning the mentorship process, articles and videos that explain the impact of mental health challenges, and a detailed, downloadable Mentor Handbook that efficiently summarizes the resources offered throughout the Mentor Hub. For those interested in contributing to the Rise cause, each unique volunteer opportunity – mentor, coach, committee member – is outlined, with commitments and benefits explained. Furthermore, prospective volunteers can read the perspectives of current and past contributors, to gain

insight into an invaluable opportunity.

Rise’s new online space encourages open dialogue that is critical to eliminating stigma associated with mental health and addiction challenges. It ultimately helps empower individuals who are impacted by these personal obstacles. This conversation and devotion to collaboratively improving lives is integral to Rise’s mission, and with the addition of a Mentor Hub, Rise’s support network now has an accentuated influence in helping resilient individuals overcome mental health and addiction challenges.

Rise would like to send a special thank you to Citi Foundation for the ongoing support, and for making the Mentor Hub a reality.



Give back! Rewarding Impactful Fight Stigma

Become a Rise Mentor

How Can You Help?

MENTOR

Support Rise entrepreneurs as they start and grow their businesses.

COACH

Work with youth as they build business plans in our award-winning Youth Small Business Program.

ADVISE

Share your expertise with Rise clients to help them overcome common business challenges.

Citi Foundation



“The continued support of [the Rise] program will not only make the reality of having my own store front and gallery a dream come true, but it will change mine and my family’s lives.” - Rise entrepreneur

**Fuelled by Volunteers
& Community Collaboration**

Mentors

Thank you to our mentors and coaches!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Rise mentors and coaches, who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to their benefiting entrepreneurs. You offer guidance that continues to help build businesses and character, while exhibiting a powerful example of compassionate, non-discriminating support that inspires communities. The motivational impact that Rise mentors and coaches have is essential to the success of our programs, and regularly acknowledged by students and clients as vital to growth. Thank you for your dedication. We are grateful for your volunteer efforts.

Furthermore, thank you to the volunteering mentors and coaches who agreed to let us capture their reflections on their volunteer experience. A few of these perspectives are highlighted below:

“Supporting Rise’s courageous and creative participants in turning their dreams into reality has been an incredibly rewarding experience.” Basak Yanar - Ph.D.

“I became involved with Rise because of personal experience with mental health challenges in my family and with friends. Rise has provided a wonderful experience to see both people and ideas grow.” Franklin Hall - Martin & Associates Ltd.

“Rise is an amazing example of how will and determination can overcome any obstacle. Anyone looking for a place to give back, Rise is the place to do so.” Stewart Hayes - TD Bank’s Social Strategy and Digital Communications team.

Investment Committee

Thank you for your leadership!

It was fantastic to observe our Investment Committee’s contributions being honoured with a well deserved June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism, particularly since we can’t thank them enough ourselves for their incredible contributions at Rise! The Investment Committee continues to identify ways of improving relationships with clients, offering invaluable insight into the potential of prospective individuals and business plans, and then advising us on appropriate lending arrangements. The Committee uses the Rise design principles to guide their decisions, and ensure a positive outcome for the client, while minimizing the risk for Rise.

In this past year, the Committee granted a record number of low-interest loans to Rise clients, with many smaller loans that help ensure a positive, confidence- building start to business developments. The committee leverages Rise’s supportive and evaluative resources that strengthen a client’s journey, while helping Rise balance its risks.

Thank you, Committee members, for your diligent work in crafting client options and solutions, with an immeasurable commitment to the cause. We value your shared wisdom, and have enjoyed realizing the rewarding impacts of your work, alongside you.

Give back!

Become a Rise Mentor

Visit the new Mentor Hub
for more information,
mentor profiles and resources!

www.RiseMentors.ca



Left to right: Frank Hall, Kathleen Coulson, David R. Smith, the Honourable Michael Chan, Deputy Minister Helen Angus, Drew Marshall & Bernard Lewis
Absent: John Wong, Leslie Lewis, Lothar Fritsch, Matthew Moore, Moaz Bawania & Jay Lee

Community Partners

Thank you to all the agencies who refer entrepreneurs to Rise!

Local partner agencies connect us with people who benefit from our services; they provide us with safe spaces in which to provide programming, and trust us to serve as ambassadors for their communities. Thank you to all our local partner agencies, who share a

common vision of supporting individuals with mental health and addiction challenges, as they overcome financial and other barriers, and pursue entrepreneurial dreams. Rise can't execute on its mission without your incredible support.



Remembering Joseph Rotman

A remarkable visionary and leader, but most of all a cherished friend, Joseph Rotman will be missed by the communities of individuals he inspired. With Joe's recent passing, we lost a tremendous ally to our cause at Rise, and the greater area of mental health initiatives. Joe's integrity, drive, and loyalty to the causes he supported, friends and family he grew with, remain valued by those fortunate to have known him.

Joe always demanded hard work, and it was simply because he was so convinced that together we could make a difference, and needed to make a difference. Joe loved helping others succeed, and always believed in the mutual benefiting from success. In Rise, Joe saw an organization that could bridge the gap between promise and triumph; between self-doubt and confidence; and between doubt and understanding. And he knew this meant inspiring entrepreneurs, and those who can compassionately support those entrepreneurs.

In 2015, Rise continues to grow its reach, and influence; we know Joe would be proud of where Rise stands today. His warm greetings are no longer among us, but his character and wisdom continue to impact those who knew him, and the organizations he passionately supported. We are grateful for having known Joe, and are thankful for the incredible voice he had in helping Rise gain traction, and still has, as Rise will continue to honor his legacy, moving forward.



Our Knowledge Partners



Our Donors



it means being productive. Participating in society. Paying taxes. I like that...I mean, you took a little for when you needed it, but you want to give back when you can.” “I want to live a healthy life. My goal is to be mentally, emotionally and spiritually healthy.” “If you’re sick, even for a year, your finances change drastically.” “I have no clue what’s gonna happen, and that’s a fear and excitement at the same time.” “Yes, the payments can sometimes be challenging, but that is all a part of business. I am doing my best and hope to continue to do that.” “Everyone has something.” “Deciding that I wanted to get back out there, I completed a business plan to become the photographer that I always wanted to be.” “I felt I could fast track my business results with the funding. People believed in me and my ability to become independent of government support and run a successful business.” “Rise will help us achieve a better future.” “The program has helped me to envision a successful road ahead.” “I feel like Rise believes in my work, that’s pretty amazing, you know?” “My definition of success is anything that allows you to pay your bills.” “Because I was treated so well, it motivated me to pay it back faster” “It’s a different language, and I didn’t know it. So I had to learn it.” “I create my home in a very artistic way just to reflect the beauty of me, because it’s rarely seen.” “I want to live