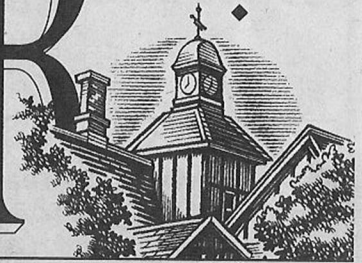


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Runnymede Collegiate student kicks off AIDS awareness campaign

While most high school seniors fret over holiday exams and party plans, 17-year-old Shamin Mohamed Jr. is busy tackling global concerns.

The Runnymede Collegiate Institute (569 Jane St.) student, who founded the registered non-profit Children's AIDS Health Program (CAHP) last year, recently kicked off an AIDS awareness campaign directed at university students across the city.

"We're not trying to find a cure, we're trying to prevent people from getting it," said Mohamed.

Mohamed and members of his organization launched their campaign on World AIDS Day (Dec. 1) at the University of Toronto. The group advised students to use protection and get tested.

The CAHP regularly raises money to purchase AIDS medication for several children's AIDS orphanages in third world countries, and members hope to travel to Africa next summer to oversee their work in person.

The group also is planning an event called the 24-hour Wake on Mar. 10. A twist on the well-known 30-hour Famine campaign, students will stay awake for 24 hours to promote AIDS awareness.

And as if that doesn't keep Mohamed busy enough, he is also president of the Toronto District School Board SuperCouncil, which represents 86,000 students in 103 schools.

"Time management is the key to it all," said Mohamed. "If someone has a dream or objective, anything can happen."

For more information on the Children's AIDS Health Program, please visit www.LetsStopAIDS.org.