

# CHIP's Young Adults Attend CHHA Youth Forum

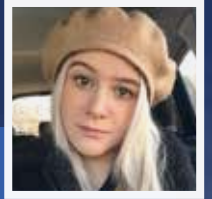
by Abby Stonehouse

In November 2018, the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) held its Youth Forum in Ottawa, Ontario. The theme of this forum was "Be Heard and Thrive". This was an exciting opportunity for young adults with hearing loss to meet individuals like them and expand their understanding on the topic. CHIP wanted to give two young members a chance to attend this forum. As someone who is hard of hearing, I knew what an exciting time this would be. And as most of our readers know, it is so beneficial to meet others who share the same challenges you face. It is a time to be inspired by the other attendees, meet new friends and learn how others might use their hearing loss as a strength rather than a weakness.

CHIP sponsored two of our young members to go to the youth forum: Ashley Mayoff and Tahsin Mohammad. Ashley was born with a hearing loss and wears a BAHA (Bone Anchored Hearing Aid). She was our Hear/Entendre animator in the summer of 2018 and is now in her last semester at Dawson College in Social Service. Tahsin was also born with hearing loss and received a cochlear implant during elementary school. Tahsin has been CHIP's graphic designer for over two years now. They are two very inspiring individuals. I cannot think of two individuals more deserving of attending this wonderful forum.

This Youth Forum is held every year by CHHA, in locations all across Canada. CHIP hopes to be able to send more young members in the years to come. If you would like to hear more about Ashley and Tahsin's experience, go to our Youtube channel and watch our interview with them.

CHIP is always on the lookout for more young adults who are affected by hearing loss. If you know of any — or are one yourself — and would be interested in hearing more about CHIP, please contact me. The more young adults, the better!



## Testimonial from Ashley Mayoff:

*The CHHA Youth forum was a very memorable experience. I learned about many different aspects of hearing loss and met youth from all over Canada. There were various guest speakers, such as deaf artists and others who shared their experiences with barriers within the education system and workforce. I learned a ton of new tips and tricks in regards to navigating the world as a youth who is hard of hearing. We had many discussions about what it means to be hard of hearing, and how everyone identifies with their hearing loss in a way that is unique to them. The experience and knowledge that I gained from this conference will be something that I will never forget, as well as the amazing people I met and the memories that I will cherish forever.*



## Testimonial from Tahsin Mohammad:

*I am very appreciative that I was able to go to the CHHA Youth Forum. It was definitely one of the highlights in my life. I learned each person has their own experience with their hearing loss journey, their education and life situation. I acquired knowledge about the guest speakers, how they adapted to their hearing loss in a work environment and what their main goals are in life. Their experiences made me learn so much and I gained in understanding what their hearing loss means to them. I will never forget and I cherish the moments. I met the most marvelous people ever. Be thankful for who you are now and keep moving forward in your career.*

