

Donor Profile

St. James Burgers & Chips Co.



Local business leads the way investing in community grads

The recently established burger joint on the corner of Ness Avenue and Collegiate Street weaves generosity into their business plan.

St. James Burgers & Chips Co. opened in October of 2017. Inside the building, once home to the Red Boot Drive Inn and Pop's Burgers, the new eatery serves up a variety of gourmet burgers, fat boys, fries and more. Best of all, the business is open all-year round.

"We are really happy and pumped to be here," shared co-owner Ravi Ramberran (pictured on the left). "The community is so strong and the support has been great."

St. James Burgers & Chips Co. is quickly making a name for themselves both in the community and across Winnipeg. To date, they've earned accolades such as 1st place in La Poutine Week 2018 and Virgin Radio's Best Fries in Winnipeg 2019. While the new business is flourishing, they are determined to bring more than great tasting eats into the community.

"We don't hire anyone unless they want to give back to the community," said Ravi. "If you don't have it in your blood than you aren't the right fit."

The business donates 25% of the tips they receive to help support local causes in the community. The staff team, made up of five members, works together to decide on where to donate the funds. They all take part in earning the tips and make sure everyone is on board deciding

which causes they help to support. With this system in place, the business has been able to donate more than \$12,000 to local charities since they opened, with a strong emphasis on helping veterans.

Co-owner Sanjay Sewpaul (right) brought the idea forward to create a scholarship opportunity for local youth. As a graduate of St. James Collegiate, he knew about the St. James Scholarship Foundation and thought it aligned well with the business's aim to make a difference in the local community. Through partnering with the Foundation, St. James Burgers & Chips Co. sponsored two new scholarships, each in the amount of \$500. The awards will be presented to deserving candidates at the two closest high schools - St. James Collegiate and College Sturgeon Heights Collegiate. The criteria for the scholarship is centred on citizenship, requiring the individual to be active in the community as well as to be a positive advocate for women's rights.

"We both have little girls," explained Ravi, referring also to Sanjay. "For this specific scholarship, we want to give to students who give back to the community, help others in need and who display some kind of equity role."

Both scholarships will be presented for the first time in June of 2019 at the corresponding schools graduation ceremonies.