

# We Are Your Children's Aid Society of Toronto

## Amarjit & Iqbal

Adoptive Parents

"In the Sikh community it is not uncommon for one family to raise the child of another family member who is unable to do so, but we had never known anyone who had formally adopted. Our Children's Aid adoption worker was amazing and helped us understand that adoption is about meeting the needs of the child, not the parents. Children need a good home and a loving family in order to thrive and we knew that we could provide that. Our daughter is our princess, the first girl in both our immediate families. Harleen was meant to be our daughter."



## Heidi

Director, Volunteer Services & Community Development

"I know from experience, immigration is both inspiring and humbling. I am encouraged when I see newcomers to our city persevere and remain confident in their decision to come here. I am moved when I see families establish roots and a network of relationships that gives them the opportunity to be themselves, to celebrate their heritage and traditions. Working at Children's Aid Society of Toronto, my world is always expanding, enriched by different ways of thinking, warmed by sentiments of kindness, caring and love that are universal to us all."



## Alex

Adolescent Centre Worker, Pape Adolescent Resource Centre

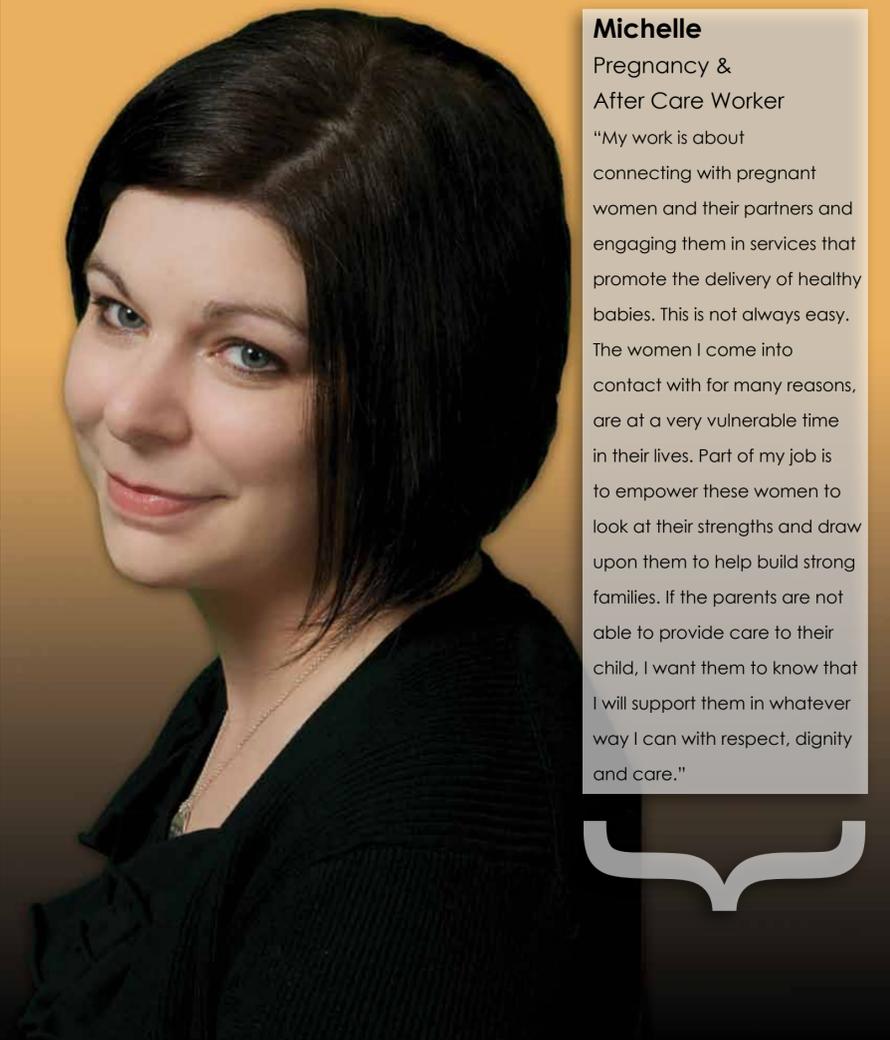
"I always knew I would work with youth. Contributing in a meaningful way to my community has always been important to me. I work with a diverse group of youth, 15-21 years of age, helping them transition to independence. Assisting them with access to employment, housing and education resources can be challenging, but very rewarding. I provide these youth with as much information and opportunity as possible, so they understand the importance of advocating for themselves in the future. I feel like a proud parent when I see them succeed knowing that I had a hand in their success."



## Michelle

Pregnancy & After Care Worker

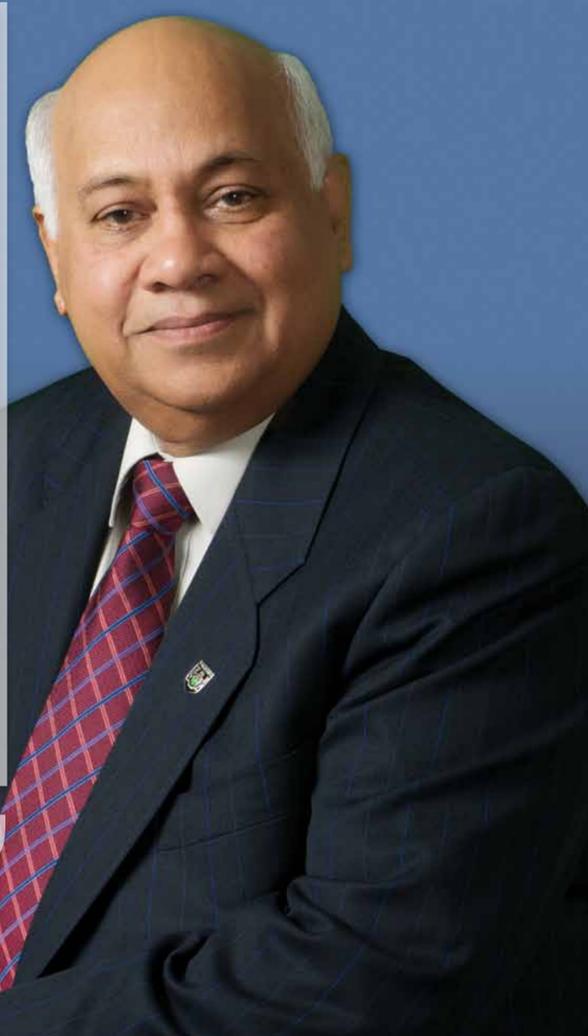
"My work is about connecting with pregnant women and their partners and engaging them in services that promote the delivery of healthy babies. This is not always easy. The women I come into contact with for many reasons, are at a very vulnerable time in their lives. Part of my job is to empower these women to look at their strengths and draw upon them to help build strong families. If the parents are not able to provide care to their child, I want them to know that I will support them in whatever way I can with respect, dignity and care."



## Genghiz

Community Partner

"I became involved with the Services to Muslim Families Advisory Committee at CAS of Toronto on account of their willingness to work toward a better understanding of the needs of Muslim children in their care. Over the past four years we have had remarkable success establishing partnerships and connecting with Toronto's large and diverse Muslim community. Being Co-Chair of this committee has allowed me to exercise my passion and commitment to the settlement and integration of immigrant families into this wonderful country."



## Lorraine & Krin

Coordinators, Out & Proud Program

"We love the diversity in our communities...including diversity around who we love, how we see our gender and how we like to express our gender. We love our work at Children's Aid teaching and mentoring staff and care providers to celebrate children and youth who may be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, Two-Spirit, intersex, queer, questioning and gender independent. Kids and youth can flourish when we, as communities, "expand the circle" to make room for everyone to simply be who they are, as they are - with PRIDE!"

