



Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada  
Clubs Garçons & Filles du Canada

## Media Release

### **Boys and Girls Club Youth Headed Toward Brighter Futures, thanks to 'Future Shop Future Leaders Scholarships Program'**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Toronto, ON, September 20, 2007)** — Thanks to Future Shop, promising hundreds of Boys and Girls Clubs alumni who might not otherwise get a chance for higher education, are fulfilling their potential as scholars and community leaders.

Over the past seven years, the Future Shop Future Leaders Scholarships Program has awarded 385 deserving BGCC youth with \$3,000 towards post secondary study. In a time of climbing tuition and an emphasis on higher education as a pre-requisite for skilled work, the Scholarship is vital. For many Scholarship recipients, it has meant the difference between facing limited possibilities and fulfilling their dreams.

"As a child raised in a poor neighbourhood, there were three options: drugs, crime, or the Boys and Girls Club. Without the Club, I believe I wouldn't have gone to university or graduated from high school," says Steve Smith, who is in his final year of Chemistry at Memorial University, and is also completing two minors in Biochemistry and Math.

Steve is the first member of his family to graduate from high school and go on to post secondary education and he was delighted when he received the Scholarship in 2003. "It provided confidence both in myself and in my ability to complete university. It helped me develop on a personal and professional level."

Unlike many scholarships which reward only the small percentage of students who have the highest marks, Future Shop Future Leaders Scholarships recipients are selected for their financial need, more than their grades.

"When a young person works so incredibly hard to overcome obstacles and work toward an educational goal, Future Shop is honoured to help," says Rick Lotman, Senior Vice President, Customer Experience, Future Shop. The company's cumulative investment in Canadian youth through the Future Shop Future Leaders Scholarships Program is well over \$1.2 million.

"Many of the youth we serve are fantastic candidates for further education and are ready to make the most of their opportunities after university," says Pam Jolliffe, President and CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. "Future Shop Future Leaders Scholarships can be the difference between the end of an education and the start of a strong future," says Jolliffe.

Recipients of the Future Shop Future Leaders Scholarships are also selected for their dedication to their local Boys and Girls Club and community, which means that the Scholarships benefit the community overall, not just the winning student.

Amaal Shahin, a second year Pharmacy student at the University of Manitoba and a 2004 recipient of a Future Shop Future Leaders Scholarship, is now a volunteer leader at the Boys and Girls Club in Winnipeg where she spent so many hours as a child. "Victor Mager Boys and Girls Club is one of the ways I stay connected to that community," she says.

Medin Admasu, a 2001 Future Leaders Scholarship recipient who graduated from Carleton University in 2004, is also passionate about making a contribution, locally and globally. Medin is currently volunteering with children in Africa, while planning for future studies in law with a focus on children's rights. He also donates his time to the Community Foundation of Ottawa, the organization TakingItGlobal and is the Vice President of YOUCAN, volunteering in the area of youth governance in the field of conflict resolution and youth engagement. "I'm also looking at ways to leave a legacy locally, in my old neighbourhood of Foster Farm in Ottawa and in my native land, Ethiopia. But those things are to come," he says.

For now, Medin hopes to encourage more students to apply for the Future Shop Future Leaders Scholarships Program. "I wish the program could expand and provide more youth with the opportunity to go to school," he says. "It can be life changing."

### **About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada**

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is a leading provider of programs that support the healthy physical, educational and social development of more than 200,000 children, youth and their families each year. In 700 community locations across Canada, clubs offer after-school programs in physical recreation, technology, the arts, personal growth and more. Many clubs also provide meals, emergency shelter, family support programs and other supports to children and youth at risk. Boys and Girls Clubs have been helping young Canadians to discover, develop and achieve their potential for over 100 years. To learn more, visit [www.bgccan.com](http://www.bgccan.com).

### **About Future Shop**

With more than 127 stores across the country and the nation's premier web store [www.futureshop.ca](http://www.futureshop.ca), Burnaby, BC-based Future Shop is Canada's largest national retailer and e-tailer of consumer electronics.

Future Shop and its more than 10,000 employees are dedicated to providing consumers with expert service and offer the latest digital products including a wide selection of brand-named televisions, computers, audio, entertainment software and hardware plus appliances—all backed by a low price guarantee.

The Company is committed to kids and communities, supporting non-profit organizations that help youth develop their skill set, discover their talents and sustain a lasting interest in education. For more information about Future Shop, including store locations, visit [www.futureshop.ca](http://www.futureshop.ca).