

Networking for Newbies

- ✓ **Find an event to attend:** There are lots of events happening all the time! A good place to start might be a netWORKS networking event.
- ✓ **Research, research, research!** Once you're registered for an event, try to find out who else will be there and look them up on LinkedIn.
- ✓ **Actually GO to the event!** Nervous, scared, worried, or stressed about it? You are not alone! Networking can seem like an unpleasant alternative to an afternoon of Netflix, but nobody ever landed a first job from their couch. If you are afraid of having a bad experience, try to remember that you will meet fantastic new people, mentors and mentees alike, and that they all want to meet you!
- ✓ **Don't forget to make eye contact.** Yes! Make sure to look mentors, mentees, and the random person in the elevator in the eye and say hello! You never know who you will meet and the fascinating work or life story they may have.

“United Way and the netWORKS program give youth, like myself, the opportunity to go out there and find a passion, find what they want to do, and make it easier to navigate the job market.” – netWORKS mentee

About netWORKS

Launched in 2015, netWORKS, is a youth networking and mentoring initiative for the Greater Toronto Area that connects young people to volunteer professionals so that they can build skills while learning to make the kinds of connections they need to find meaningful career opportunities.

Are you excited about starting your career but finding it challenging to obtain your first job, or find yourself facing multiple barriers to employment and in need of ways to navigate the job market?

Then netWORKS might be for you! Contact us at networks@uwat.org or visit unitedwaygt.org/networks for more information.

Made possible by:

CivicAction



For more YouthConnect resources please visit leadership.civicaaction.ca/youthconnect.

netWORKS

**Building Connections.
Creating Opportunities.**



Shayan's story

Shayan didn't come to Canada expecting to be handed a job. "I had in the back of my mind that it's a really difficult job market here," he says. But starting his career in Canada turned out to be even harder than expected. "I started applying for jobs, putting out résumés and always getting that same email saying, 'You have potential, but unfortunately...'"

As the rejections mounted, so did Shayan's despair. To gain leverage, he joined netWORKS, which helped him meet contacts at networking events. At the events, he made friends, met potential employers and—to his delight—landed a position in his field just two months after his first networking event. Instead of reading rejection emails, Shayan now spends his days working as a contact centre service representative, helping bank clients sort out credit card issues. He's certain that netWORKS made the difference in his job search.