



Toronto Community Foundation President & CEO, Rahul K. Bhardwaj (L), and its new Board Chair, John MacIntyre (R), presented a commemorative award to SEDI's Director, Saving and Asset-Building, Barbara Gosse.

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Nancy Dale (Chief Operating Officer, Children's Aid Society of Toronto) (L), Farrell Haynes (Special Projects/ Service Administration, Children's Aid Society of Toronto) (M) and Barbara Gosse (R) at the Vital Toronto event.

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SEDI honoured with Vital Ideas award at Vital Toronto 2011

On June 22nd, 2011, SEDI was honoured for its receipt of a Vital Ideas grant awarded by the Toronto Community Foundation. Vital Ideas recognizes Toronto's most high-impact organizations and supports their work to stabilize, expand, or replicate programs with successful track records. The awards were distributed at the Toronto Community Foundation's annual Vital Toronto event, recognizing the achievements of a remarkable group of people and organizations who are working to make Toronto an even better city. Vital Toronto was hosted by Matt Galloway at CBC's Glenn Gould Studio.

The Vital Ideas grant supports SEDI in partnering with the Children's Aid Society of Toronto as well as the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto to implement effective financial literacy and savings programming aimed at youth in care that will break the cycle of dependence and poverty among this extremely vulnerable population.

The **Opportunities Account for Youth in Care** provides financial literacy education, matched savings accounts and individual supports to youth in care (i.e. youth living in group homes or foster care and for whom a Children's Aid Society has legal custodianship). In Ontario, there are over 27,000 youth in care. At age 18 most of these youth are expected to move to independent lifestyles.

This project is expected to be completed by April 1st 2012.