

MAYA CHIVI

Speaker | Gender Equality & Child Rights Advocate | Change Agent

PROFILE

- Inspiring speaker, gender equality and child rights advocate, change agent, and social entrepreneur
- Eight years of program and service delivery and management experience with Canadian and international non- and for-profit organizations
- Passionate about conceptualizing, developing, and implementing programs, products, and services
- Quad-lingual in English, French, Arabic, and Aramaic

EXPERIENCE

Talking to Strangers, Founder

May 2016 – Present, Toronto, Canada

- Assist entrepreneurs and professionals focus and leverage their network-building intentions based on career and business-trajectory mapping
- Train clients on how to research and grow a strong network, how to attend the right events, and what to do pre-, during, and post- making a connection

Bilingual Professional Practice Analyst College of Early Childhood Educators

February 2014 – September 2015, Toronto, Canada

- Worked on the development and implementation of Canada's first professional development program for ECEs across Ontario
- Researched and reported feedback on impact of College programs and projects
- Assisted in developing professional practice guidelines, policies, procedures, and programs
- Wrote articles for the College's newsletter reaching over 40,000 members and for internal communications to keep all staff up to date with our department's ongoing projects
- Interviewed members for digital marketing campaign on YouTube and Twitter for College events and launch of the Continuous Professional Learning program

Child & Youth Development Specialist, Social Entrepreneur

January 2012 – April 2013, Beirut, Lebanon

- Empowered community members with knowledge and skills on healthy child development
- Developed outreach strategy to connect with community stakeholders in Lebanon
- Introduced emergent child development ideologies through seminars, social media, several TV and magazine interviews
- Created the "The Children's Etiquette Series", a life skills program for children and youth with an emphasis on problem-solving, assertiveness, safety, and empathy
- Developed "The Family Dictionary: An A-Z Guide to Parenting", a seminar aimed at empowering parents with tools to enhance children's development and raising happy healthy children
- Designed and implemented early childhood educator professional development trainings
- Consulted with parents through one-on-one sessions on a range of parenting issues including dealing with suicidal youth, regulating toddlers' sleep, and challenging behaviours
- Conducted a review of U.S. government programs, Building Blocks, and, Smart Parents, for Mentor Arabia, aimed at drug prevention among children and youth and adapted for the MENA region.

Development Associate, McGill University

May – August 2011, Development and Alumni Relations, Montreal, Canada

- Trained on donor relations, development, and fundraising for an \$850 million capital campaign
- Conducted prospect meetings with university alumni

Child Rights Consultant, UNICEF Quebec

July 2010, Montreal, Canada

- Established connections between the Convention of the Rights of the Child, Quebec's Education Program, and the Education Act within the Rights Respecting Schools project.

Policy Fellow, Equity & Civic Participation, Institute for Health and Social Policy

January 2009 – June, 2010, McGill University, Montreal, Canada & Amman, Jordan

- Collaborated with a team of fellows and IHSP staff to systematically select 10 global best-practice case studies to study innovative programs reflecting a variety of social determinants of health
- Developed detailed case study protocol and designed research evaluation guidelines to conduct a case study on the Queen Rania Family and Child Center (QRFCC) within Jordan River Foundation
- Studied the child and youth abuse prevention model adopted, including methods of increasing women and girls' involvement in the community and participation in physical activities, while engaging men and boys in social change
- Conducted over 60 interviews in Arabic with program participants and key stakeholders including youth, parents, and community leaders
- case study results to the, including policy makers.
- Presented case study results and provided recommendations at various conferences including the Agha Khan Foundation's Canadian Council National Social Welfare Board and all Council Board members and the panel "Universal Policies, Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health" at Canada's Public Health Association (CPHA) Centenary Conference in Toronto

Child Rights Consultant, UNICEF Quebec

July 2010, Montreal, Canada

- Established connections between the Convention of the Rights of the Child, Quebec's Education Program, and the Education Act within the Rights Respecting Schools project in Canada

Educator, Concordia University Department of Education Observation Nursery

September 2008 – May 2009, Montreal, Canada

- Taught three to four year old children at the department's laboratory school
- Participated and answered undergraduate students and professors' questions on teaching methods.

Manager, Favourite Things Mother & Child

November 2006 – November 2007, Dubai, U.A.E.

- Managed twenty-two full-time staff, focused on employee training, satisfaction, and retention
- Handled customer relations of the edutainment area, boutique, and café
- Created an infrastructure and implemented new procedures that led the team to organize and host over 300 events a year and bring in 80% of top line revenue.

Educator, K.I.D.S. Westmount

July 2005 - June 2006, Montreal, Canada

- Enhanced 3-year old children's development and learning of artists through appreciation programs
- Led change within the daycare towards the development of positive and nurturing classroom environments

Orientation Assistant, International Students' Office (ISO)

Aug, 2004 – Jan, 2005, Concordia University, Canada

- Assisted ISO advisors with setup of international student orientation in the fall and winter semesters
- Answered basic questions on student visas and study permit applications and documents

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- Introduced international students to the Concordia International Students' Association through a presentation during the orientation sessions

Research Assistant, 'Introduction to Visual Popular Culture' Course

Sept 2003- Nov 2003, Concordia University, Canada

- Gathered material and information for an upcoming new course on popular culture.
- Generated visual, electronic & print research material independently for a total of 40 hours in the course of relevant information gathering.

SPEECHES, CONFERENCES, & SEMINARS

Panellist, McGill University and LinkedIn Networking Event

May 2016, Toronto, Canada

- Discussed strategies I developed to build a strong network, through LinkedIn and in-person, how I leverage my network to grow my career and how I did so when building my business

Guest Panellist, McGill Principal's International Advisory Board

May 2016, Toronto, Canada

- Invited to provide the Board, including Fortune 500 CEOs and entrepreneurs, with recommendations on the role McGill should play in developing entrepreneurial skills in students
- Discussed ideas on how the university can enable students from various disciplines to collaborate on business projects

Panellist, Live Your Potential – A Career Development Program for Women Professionals

April 2016, Toronto, Canada

- Shared insights on building a network as a social entrepreneur in Lebanon and on using one's network to advance their career or grow their business

Keynote Speech, Desautels Women in Business

July 2015, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

- Gave a speech on experiences as a social entrepreneur, workaholism, burnouts, and the importance of taking care of oneself to be able to take care of business while leading a healthier and happier life

Keynote Speech, Council of Europe, Gender Equality Commission

Oct 2014, Helsinki, Finland

- Delivered a speech on the rights of all children to equality and opportunities regardless of gender

Conference Speaker, Technology in the Classroom & School-Home Communication

February 2014, Quebec Association for Preschool Professional Development, Montreal, Quebec

Leadership Panellist, McGill Women's Alumnae Association

November 2013, MWAA's 125th Anniversary High Tea, Montreal, Quebec

- Invited to speak on experiences as a social entrepreneur who pioneered healthy child development ideologies in Lebanon

TEDx Talk, Let's Raise Girls Outside the Pink Box

Dec 2013, TEDxMontrealWomen Conference, Gender & Positive Disruption, Montreal, Quebec

- Spoke about girls' rights and the importance of raising them with equal opportunities as boys as well as the impact of media on mental health and future outcomes on businesses and board rooms

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30th Birthday Fundraising Initiative

Nov 2013

- Celebrated by donating my hair in honour of Reuben, a 3-year old who won his battle against cancer
- Raised over \$600 for Leucan, an organization that provides free support services to families with children undergoing cancer treatment in Quebec

Conference Speaker, The Classroom Environment & Problem Solving

Dec 2012, Syndicate Nurseries' Owners Professional Development Conference, Beirut, Lebanon

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- 2010 Master of Arts, McGill University**, Educational leadership, *Dean's Honour List*
Thesis: "Policies, Leadership, and Private Daycares". Research focused on leaders' implementation of policies and the impact on children and teachers' rights in private daycares across Montreal
- 2005 Bachelor of Arts, Concordia University**, Child Studies, *Distinction & Dean's Honour List*
Concentrations in Administration and Exceptional Children in Childhood Settings
- 2016 Become a User Experience Designer program**, Lynda.com
- 2016 Photoshop, Illustrator, & Sketch for beginners**, Lynda.com
- 2013 HTML & CSS for Beginners**, Toronto, Canada, Ladies Learning Code
- 2012 Breastfeeding Essentials, La Leche League Lebanon**, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2011 Business Skills Certificate**, McGill Teaching & Learning Services, Montreal, Canada
- 2009 International Development Training, YMCA**, Montreal, Canada
- 2006 Starting Your Own Business Certificate**, Youth Employment Services, Montreal, Canada
- 2004 Leadership Training**, Concordia University Counselling & Development, Montreal, Canada

AWARDS

- 2013 Appointment, National Child Care Policy Evaluation Team Lead**. Selected by the Lebanese Ministry of Health's Mother & Child Department through funding from the Italian Embassy in Lebanon, to evaluate national child care policies and provide recommendations to enhance quality of care (*Note: due to safety concerns in Lebanon, I could not accept this appointment*)
- 2009 Affiliate, McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism**
- 2008 Provost Graduate Fellowship, McGill University**
- 2008 International Student Tuition Fee Remission Award, Concordia University**
- 2005 Malone Medal, Concordia University**, Awarded to a graduating student in recognition of great dedication to the service of others and for outstanding contribution to university's community

2005 Arts and Science Federation of Associations Award, Concordia University

GIVING BACK

Early-Stage Startup Mentor

June 2014 – Present, Canada & International

- Guide first-time entrepreneurs as they shape and build their business pre- and post-launch
- Focused meetings, milestone setting, check-ins to follow-up on progress
- Refer mentees to tailored list of articles/books to help focus on growing the business

Businesses mentored include blogging and social media, PR, and fashion.

Volunteer, Chocosol Traders

February - March 2016, Toronto, Canada

- Assisted with wrapping chocolate, packaging dry goods, ingredient preparation, and chocolate production to learn about the food business industry

Program Director, Small Print Toronto

2013 – 2014, Toronto, Canada

- Assisted with the development of interactive literary programs for children in Toronto and met with community members to develop needs-based programs

Workshop Facilitator, UNICEF Quebec

2008 – 2010, Montreal, Canada

- Led and presented workshops for the program Education for Development
- Translated the Girls' Education workshop materials from French to English and assisted with fundraising initiatives.

Fundraiser & Volunteer, World University Services Canada (WUSC) at McGill University

2008 – 2009, Montreal, Canada

- Organized fundraising activities for the Student Refugee Program to support a student's arrival in Montreal and the Shine A Light campaign to deliver solar lamps to girls in Kenya

Volunteer Coordinator, Cupcake Camp

Oct - Nov, 2010, Montreal, Canada

- Organized and led a team of over 50 volunteers at event attended by 2,500 individuals
- Event by over 3,000 individuals raised \$36,000 for the Kids Help Phone and La Tablee des Chefs

McEntyre Children's Writing Competition Judge

2010 & 2011, Westmount, Montreal, Canada

- Volunteered as a judge for Grades 6 & 9 students' stories on Community and Heroes

Participant, The Weekend to End Breast Cancer

Aug 2005, Montreal, Canada

- Raised over \$2,000 in six months and walked over 60km in two days for breast cancer research benefitting the Jewish General Hospital's Segal Center

Speaker, Alliance for the Mentally Ill - AMI Quebec

Feb - July 2005, Montreal, Canada

- Volunteered by speaking about personal experiences with eating disorders and mental health issues

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President, Concordia University International Student Association

2004-2005, Montreal, Canada

- Led and managed team of twelve executives to meet association's goals and objectives including the budgets, marketing, operational planning, and implementation of over twenty events
- Assisted international students in adjusting to life in Montreal by organizing social trips and activities

Terry Fox Run

1996, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2010, Dubai, U.A.E., and Montreal, Canada

- Began raising funds and participating in the Terry Fox Run at the age of 10