

## ALVIE KHANDAKER MEMORIAL AWARD

To the Khandaker Family,

My name is Salisha Purushuttam and I am a grade 12 student at Markham District High School. Alvie was a very dear friend of mine; we have shared classes together since Grade 6 at Boxwood Public School and throughout our years at MDHS, as well as many special memories. Something Alvie and I have always had in common is our passion to strive for excellence in our academics. Quite often we have worked together in math, science and English, and in several cases Alvie tutored me. Everything seemed to come to him so naturally, as I have always told him. But then he would reassure me that I can do it and that I have the potential to do it; with his help, I managed to keep my grades up and make my parents proud in the same way he has made his family proud.

I know how passionate Alvie was about a career ahead of him, and I share that same passion. I would be truly humbled and grateful to be considered for this award so I can serve in Alvie's memory. Knowing that I have the support of the Khandaker family will inspire and motivate me to reach new heights, as we continue to honour and keep Alvie's memory alive.

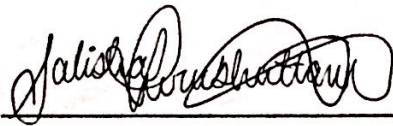
Another passion Alvie and I shared apart from academics was our desire to help others, and to seek opportunities where we could make a difference. I know Alvie wanted to pursue a career in medicine at McMaster University, and although I am pursuing a career in law, our main objective to help others is still the root of our career choices. He supported my choice as I supported his. I believe that Alvie and I are both well-rounded and balanced kids, with school, extra-curricular activities and our culture. These are the pillars which have made us into the individuals we have now become. In the same way Alvie helped others through tutoring and lifeguarding, I in my own way have contributed to the betterment of others by offering free tutorials and helping out other students on a regular basis where needed. As a Black Belt student of Martial Arts, I regularly take part in charity runs with all proceeds going to the Markham Stouffville Hospital. Also, as a professionally trained Indian classical dancer, I perform free of charge at numerous charitable events to help raise money to support victims of natural disasters and various medical conditions with the support and guidance of my family and teachers. Continuing to serve humanity and the community at large, I feel as though in some small way I am also serving in the memory of my very dear friend Alvie, who also felt the need to serve others.

I am asking that you consider me for this award so I may continue keeping Alvie's memory alive in my own way, while serving others. It is my passion and I strongly believe that

it will be an insult and disrespect to his memory not to continue doing what I'm doing and what Alvie believed in; to assist in the community as well as pursuing my academic goals. Regardless if I am given this award or not, I shall continue to aspire my visions; one which Alvie understood all too well. Nevertheless, I will forever be grateful and indebted not only to the memory of Alvie, but also to the entire Khandaker family for blessing me with this opportunity to attain my goals in life.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for your time and consideration; it truly means more to me than you'll ever know. This isn't just an award to me; this is something that has sentimental value to me which deserves and will receive my utmost respect in every way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Salisha Purushuttam', written over a horizontal line.

Salisha Purushuttam