



EATALY

## **Villa Charities Announces Eataly Scholarship Partnership**

*Renowned Italian brands collaborate to help culinary students elevate their careers*

**TORONTO – March 4, 2024** – Villa Charities Inc. is excited to announce their partnership with Eataly, the largest Italian retail and dining experience in the world, in support of the Villa Charities Culinary Scholarship at George Brown College. This initiative strengthens the relationship between the two prominent Italian organizations launched in 2019, with a focus on supporting the next generation of culinary talent and helping to elevate their professional careers with invaluable experiences in the nuance of Italian cuisine and culture. To celebrate this new co-sponsorship, the 2023/2024 Culinary Scholarship will be renamed to the **Villa Charities & Eataly Italian Culinary Program Scholarship**.

The collaboration reinforces Villa Charities' commitment to supporting students in their academic endeavours who will help further their mission of enriching lives through experiences and services that honour Italian culture. As part of this partnership, Eataly will additionally provide in-kind support of Villa Charities Foundation's key 2024 fundraising events including *Ferragosto* and the new VCF signature event planned for the fall.

Prior to Eataly opening their first Canadian location in November 2019 in Yorkville's Manulife Centre, Villa Charities hosted an exclusive pre-opening event to welcome the global Italian food brand to the Italian Canadian community in Toronto. In March 2020, Eataly named Villa Charities as one of their official charities of choice and has supported the non-profit organization since then with food product donations and other collaborations.

"Eataly has been a great friend of Villa Charities since their opening in Toronto, and growing this relationship in support of our Culinary Scholarship at George Brown College is an exciting development," said Marco DeVuono, President and CEO, Villa Charities Inc. "We are grateful for their commitment to inspiring culinary students to explore their passion and achieve excellence in their academic and professional goals."

The **Villa Charities Scholarship Program** includes a total of 16 scholarships valued at \$60,000. Eight of the sixteen scholarships are awarded through Villa Charities Foundation in support of undergraduate and graduate-level studies in a variety of disciplines. The remaining eight scholarships are awarded through George Brown College in Toronto, in support of students pursuing a degree in Architectural Studies or Culinary Arts. Five



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students will receive The Villa Charities Renzo Pillon Memorial Scholarship and ten students will be the recipient of the rebranded Villa Charities & Eataly Italian Culinary Program Scholarship. Since launching the Villa Charities Scholarship Program in 2020, \$240,000 in scholarships have been awarded to students.

In October 2023, ten awards of \$2,000 each were presented to the following full-time students enrolled in the Italian Culinary Program at George Brown College:

- Govind Aggarwal
- Shivam Goyal
- Bhavuk Chugh
- Connor Richard McNichol
- Isabella Rosa Comello
- Vandit Chirag Vaishnav
- Ankit Dhingra
- Tanmay Chandrakant Vaity
- Andy Joseph Gonsalves
- Connor William Underwood

Eligible students were required to have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, demonstrate leadership through community involvement or volunteering, as well as exhibit strong interest for their field of study and passion for future academic and professional goals in relation to Italian heritage and culture.

The selection and adjudication process was conducted by the George Brown College Awards Selection Committee. Scholarships awarded through Villa Charities Foundation will support the students' tuition fees for the 2023/2024 academic year.

For more information about the Villa Charities Scholarship Program, please visit **[villacharities.com/scholarships](https://villacharities.com/scholarships)** or contact Lena Ciccotelli, Director of Development, Villa Charities Foundation at 416-789-7011, ext. 321 / **[lciccotelli@villacharities.com](mailto:lciccotelli@villacharities.com)**.

There are also opportunities to name a scholarship through sponsoring or alternate funding.

### **About Villa Charities Inc.**

Villa Charities Inc. (VCI) is a registered charity and non-profit organization that enriches lives through experiences and services that honour Italian culture and heritage. For more

than 50 years across the GTA, Villa Charities has provided cultural and educational programs and supported culturally sensitive long-term care and independent living apartments for seniors. VCI fulfills their mandate through a broad range of activities, services and facilities, both directly and in conjunction with its affiliates and independent organizations. Affiliates include Columbus Centre and Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery; Villa Colombo Homes for the Aged Inc. in Toronto; Villa Colombo Seniors Centre (Vaughan) Inc. Di Poce Centre; and Italian Canadian Benevolent Seniors Apartments Corporation/Casa Abruzzo Benevolent Corporation with apartments for independent seniors (Caboto Terrace, Casa Del Zotto and Casa Abruzzo). Each of these organizations is an integral part of the Villa Charities family with separate legal status and its own governance Board. Villa Charities has been certified as a Great Place to Work<sup>®</sup>, which recognizes the organization's commitment to creating an inclusive, positive and engaging workplace. For more information visit [villacharities.com](https://villacharities.com).

### **About Villa Charities Foundation**

Villa Charities Foundation supports experiences and services that honour Italian culture and heritage. As the charitable arm of Villa Charities, the Foundation provides crucial funding for areas such as senior care, youth services, education and scholarships, cultural programming, and capital needs. For more information, visit [villacharities.com/give](https://villacharities.com/give).

### **About Eataly**

Eataly stands as a distinctive brand with a high commitment to elevating the global presence of Italian food and wine excellence. Engaged in the distribution and promotion of premium-quality products, Eataly seamlessly integrates production, sales, catering, and educational components in its offerings. Distinguished as the sole genuinely international Italian food retail company, Eataly serves as an emblem of Italian culinary artistry and, more broadly, the essence of Made in Italy.

Since 2023, Investindustrial, a leading independent investment company in Europe, has held a majority ownership stake of 52% in the Group. Eataly presently boasts a workforce



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of over 5,000 employees and operates in more than 50 locations across 15 countries worldwide. These include Italy, the United States, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, Germany, Great Britain, France, Sweden, Brazil, Turkey, South Korea, and Saudi Arabia. The company is actively executing an ambitious expansion plan, with new openings slated for some of the world's major cities. Additional information is available at [eataly.ca](http://eataly.ca).

### **About the Italian Culinary Program at George Brown College**

The Culinary Arts - Italian Program allows postgraduate students to elevate their careers by learning specialized Italian culinary skills and experiencing Italian culture from experts in Canada and Italy. Students experience the special connection between food and life in Italy, while acquiring the techniques that make the cuisine famous around the world.

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