

Markham teens honoured with top 20 under 20 awards

Two Markham residents received Youth in Motion's Top 20 Under 20 award, given yearly to a selection of Canada's youth for innovation, leadership and achievement.

Youth in Motion is a charitable organization dedicated to developing beneficial programs for Canada's young people.

Marshall Zhang, 17, was awarded the honour for his work to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis research.

Mr. Zhang has won the Canadian Sanofi-aventis BioTalent Challenge for his own CF research, and has raised more than \$5,000 for research at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

He was also the keynote speaker at the 2011 Cystic Fibrosis Canada Key for a Cure

Gala, and in the 10 minutes after his speech more than \$10,000 was donated.

Miriam Dang, 18, was honoured for her efforts to reduce stigma about mental health issues and treatment. She started the educational Discovery Days in Mental Health program, which has so far been presented to more than 600 elementary, high school and university students.

Ms Dang also organized the first ever Symposium on Youth Mental Health, hosted in Markham.

The Markham teens and 18 other recipients were presented with their awards Thursday at the ninth annual Top 20 Under 20 Awards Breakfast Celebration in Toronto.

— Aaron Zaltzman