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Greg Matthews, Junior Achievement volunteer



As a Tech Banker and Start-up Enthusiast, Greg's career path has been an interesting and rewarding journey. Greg earned an Executive MBA through the *Telfer School of Management* and is Commercial Account Manager, Knowledge Based Industries with *RBC Royal Bank*.

In terms of giving back to the community, Greg leads by example. Since joining RBC, Greg has been creating "aha" moments for his Junior Achievers for the past eight years. He has facilitated numerous deliveries of JA programs which include JA Economics for Success and JA Dollars with Sense. "Paying it forward" is a concept that Greg embraces.

We asked Greg what motivated him to volunteer with JA Ottawa and what insights he has gained through educating our next generation of leaders. "Given my strong focus on budgeting and financial wellbeing, I felt JA was a means to share this with the next generation. I've had the pleasure of delivering JA programs with bank colleagues, Telfer Undergrads, and professionals in our community. Everyone brings a unique delivery style, story and life experience that makes each delivery completely different from the last."

Asked about something funny that a child said while volunteering, Greg recalls a discussion from delivering *JA Economics for Success* where students are asked to prepare a personal budget to simulate the costs of living independently. Upon being required to revise their budgets to live within their means, one of the more free spending students declared "**Oh man... I can't afford the Aston Martin!**"

This winter, Greg envisioned and spearheaded an innovative pilot that engaged *Telfer Executive MBA Alumni* to help increase youths' understanding of personal finance and career options. This volunteer opportunity was a 'Mentor / JA Delivery Day' wherein EMBA Alums partnered with the *Telfer School's Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) students* to deliver JA programs. This initiative reached an estimated **290 youths** by engaging 9 EMBA's and 13 Telfer Undergrad mentees -- our community's next generation of business leaders.

As long standing partner with Junior Achievement Ottawa, RBC JA volunteers, like Greg Matthews, are investing in local business education, helping develop young talent, and cultivating the next generation of entrepreneurs that will stimulate the local economy and help ensure our long-term prosperity.

Junior Achievement programs inspire youth to make better financial decisions, start up a business and create a career plan. For more information about volunteering with Junior Achievement, please visit our website www.jaottawa.ca

Written by Albert Wong CPA, CA, Director - Junior Achievement Ottawa