



HELP OUR STUDENTS (HOST) PROGRAM



December 23, 2011

REPORT TO DONORS – DECEMBER 2011

There are many reasons to celebrate the Christmas season; one of them is reading the letters from the recipients. It is clear that your generous donations have truly made a difference in the lives of these six young men and women. Whatever future they may have, we are helping them reach their goal of high school graduation.

We have also given them a message that there are people who care about them. I cannot imagine a better Christmas gift to them.

This year, we are providing financial support to six students from four different high schools. Since only one student is in Grade 12, it is becoming more important for me to plan ahead to ensure that the HOST Program can continue to provide its support through their remaining years of high school. I therefore ask you to seek out family members and friends who might wish to donate to help us assure our success. I have attached a Donor Form and an Information Sheet for your use.

I have also attached a financial statement for your review. Please let me know if you have any questions. You will note that I have already made the entire year's payment for one student. There was an issue with the student having sole access to the funds so the school created a locked-in trust account and I agreed to fund it in total immediately. Since the student has stated that our support will be used to pay for college tuition, the school's solution was in the student's best interests.

I have included excerpts from the six letters that I received from the recipients. I hope that they adequately convey their immense gratitude to you.

Finally, my wife and I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Richard Lussier
President, HOST Program
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613-830-3633

2011-12 Sponsoring Organizations

Cairine Wilson Parent Council

Lester B. Pearson Parent Council
Gloucester North Lions Club

St. Matthew Parent Council

Knights of Columbus – Council 7873

Catholic Women's League (Divine Infant)



Cairine Wilson
Secondary School



St. Matthew
High School



Lester B. Pearson
High School



St. Peter
High School

Excerpts from Recipients' Letters

"The HOST Program has been an amazing help to me this semester during my often difficult times of need and even when things are looking better but need a little boost. Between keeping me from being stranded or hungry to helping pay rent when necessary, I do not know what I would do without this extra help. If it were not for the help of the HOST program, I do not know where I would be and I would like to offer my thanks."

"I was shocked to hear when you were giving me this money as a gift to me. I didn't know what to say but I will tell you I didn't think I was much of a good student. I did a lot with the money like buy clothes and food when my mom and me needed it. It's a wonderful thing you're doing for a student like me. I can't thank you enough." (*see note below*)

"I just wanted to say thank you because I never really had a chance to buy my mom a nice gift. I was really shocked when I first heard there are still good people in this world. The money you give me I used it for basically food and some times I give myself a treat like a shirt. My thoughts of you guys are amazing because it sets yourself to do stuff in life because if you wanted to do something but got no money, you can't do it or wait until your mom has money. I wanted to say thank you and hope you enjoy Christmas as me and my mom will."

"With the help of the HOST Program, I was able to help buy food when the house needed it and when we needed gas I would help out and this year for the first time, I was able to buy Christmas gifts for my loved ones and get something for my best friend. Thank you so much for making this possible."

"I'd like to thank you very much for what you are doing for me. I really appreciate it and can't thank you enough for giving me the opportunity for a post-secondary education, which will make me the first in my family to receive this type of education. On my own, I would not financially be able to send myself to school. There are really no words to express how grateful and appreciative I am. A million times thank you, Merry Christmas."

"Because of your generosity and the kindness of all the sponsoring organizations, I have been given a gift that has relieved stress at a time in my life that can be anxiety filled. So far, I have not used any of the money, however I intend to use it in the months to come. I will be making many road trips to Montreal and Toronto in order to audition for theatre programs. These trips can be pricey and this money will really help in covering those costs. Any remaining money I intend to use towards tuition costs. It really does make a difference to receive help when you are in need of some financial assistance. It is also great to know of all the people in our community who have given to this program. One day I intend to do the same for someone in order to pay it forward."

Note: The school staff confirmed that this student works very hard.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT As at 23 December 2011

ASSETS

Donations on hand	\$	00.00
Royal Bank Main Account		603.25
Royal Bank Savings Account		<u>4,820.95</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		5,424.20

LIABILITIES

2011-12 Award to St. Matthew students (3 x 6 mos.)		1,800.00
2011-12 Award to Cairine Wilson student (see note 1)		0.00
2011-12 Award to Lester B. Pearson student (1 x 6 mos.)		600.00
2011-12 Award to St Peter student (1 x 6 mos.)		600.00
Restricted for administration		31.25
Restricted Reserve for St. Matthew HS		1,073.00
Restricted Reserve for Cairine Wilson SS		0.00
Restricted to Lester B. Pearson HS		0.00
Restricted to St. Peter HS		0.00
Unrestricted Reserve		<u>1,319.95</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	5,424.20

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DONATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS For the period 1 Feb 2010 – 23 December 2011

DONATIONS RECEIVED

Restricted for St. Matthew High School	\$	6,373.00
Restricted for Cairine Wilson Secondary School		970.00
Restricted for Lester B. Pearson HS		500.00
Restricted for St. Peter HS		0.00
Restricted for administration		100.00
Unrestricted (including interest earned)		<u>3,599.95</u>
Total donations received		11,542.95

DISBURSEMENTS

2010-11 Awards (3 students x 12 months)		3,000.00
2011-12 Awards (5 students x 4 months) + see note 1		3,000.00
2011-12 Emergency assistance (see note 2)		50.00
Bank fees		<u>68.75</u>
Total disbursements	\$	6,118.75

- Notes:
1. It became necessary to pay the entire year's award into a special school account to protect the recipient's interests.
 2. At the request of the school, a one-time assistance was provided to a student in need.
 3. If a donation is designated for a specific school, the amount is recorded as "Restricted for" that school. Otherwise, all donations are recorded as "Unrestricted Reserve".

HOST PROGRAM (Help Our Students)



A new Program that offers financial support to hard-working high school students in difficult financial circumstances.

The **HOST** Program provides ten monthly payments of one hundred dollars (\$100), from September through June, for a total of one thousand dollars per year. The criteria for selecting the students are:

- Student must have completed the first year of high school and must have demonstrated a high degree of commitment to school, a strong work ethic and dedication towards his/her academic program.
- Student must be in a difficult financial situation where financial assistance will have a significant impact on the student's quality of life.

Some important points:

- All donations are made directly through the participating schools. Since the School Boards are registered charitable organizations, they will issue a receipt for income tax purposes.
- Donations are deposited into a Trust Account at the Convent Glen Branch of the Royal Bank.

Donations may be earmarked for one specific school. Otherwise, the funds will be used as needed for students of any of the participating schools.

I am a retired federal public servant. My role as the HOST Program representative is to assist the schools in managing the Program, to solicit donations and to report back to all donors. I am doing this as a volunteer and 100% of all donations are given to the students. I cover all administrative costs.

When I was seventeen years old, I had decided to leave university for a number of reasons, including financial difficulties. A \$100 gift persuaded me to stay. I graduated, had a successful career and raised a wonderful family. I believe that the gift was a pivotal moment in my life.

Many years ago, my family and some friends started a Christmas tradition of anonymously offering Shopping Centre gift certificates to three High School students. They were selected by the school staff and the selection criteria were simple: the students had to be in difficult financial circumstances and had to have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies. Academic scores were not a factor in selecting the deserving students.

Based on the thank-you cards that we received, it is obvious that we made a meaningful impact in their lives. The current HOST Program offers financial support for deserving students for an entire school year.



HELP OUR STUDENTS (HOST) PROGRAM

Donor Form

Donor / Company name _____

Donor / Company address _____

Contact person (if different from Company name/Donor)

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

Amount of donation: \$ _____

Note: Please make your cheque payable to either the Ottawa Catholic School Board or to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

I wish to direct this donation as follows:

- to be used for students of any participating school as needed
- reserved for students of
 - Cairine Wilson Secondary School
 - Lester B. Pearson High School
 - St. Matthew High School
 - St. Peter High School

Please send the completed Donor Form, along with your donation, to either one of the participating schools:

Ottawa Catholic School Board

Ms. Leanne Bergeron Student Services St. Matthew High School 6550 Bilberry Drive, Orleans, Ontario K1C 2S9	Ms. Josephine Gifford Head of Student Services Lester B. Pearson High School 2072 Jasmine Crescent Gloucester, Ontario K1J 8M5	Mr. Brent Halverson Student Services St. Peter High School 750 Charlemagne Blvd. Orleans, Ontario K4A 3M4
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Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

Ms. Joanne Muir
Department Head of Student Success
Cairine Wilson Secondary School
975 Orleans Boulevard
Orleans, Ontario
K1C 2Z5