

June 2015 letters from HOST Program Recipients

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to you and the Host Program for all the good you have done for me. This year was a very stressful year, even with the extra help. I couldn't imagine how much more of a strain it would have put on me had I not had the money available. I have used the money for some important things for my final year: yearbook, prom, grad retreat, student fees, cap and gown fees, as well as for the basics, such as food. It has allowed me to feel more normal; that I could go out once in a while and relax was a stress reliever for sure. It has also allowed me to have the time for the help I need for my mental and physical health. Had I had a job I would not have been able to do so, and it has helped me greatly to be able to seek that support. I also found myself more able to focus on school and the things I love to do so much, such as painting and writing (I have been published a second time). This is just a small example of what that money has done for me this year. Thank you very much for what you have done. I am happy that there are people like you looking out for the youth.

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I have written this letter to thank you for everything you did for me and I would like to explain how greatly you changed my life through this program in both school and basic needs.

This year you have been my big supporter in a lot of things which all teenagers need. If I didn't have this chance of having \$100 every month, life would be a lot harder. Before being selected in this program my life wasn't easy at all. I walked to school every day but now I have managed to buy a bike with the money which you send to me every month. Sometimes life can be hard on someone's side if you don't have money to get all needs which you want. I purchased a chromebook recently which has allowed me to do more of my school work at home as well as in the classroom.

One day I did not know that I would have this chance to have Host program in my high school. I now have the confidence that one day I will be able to achieve all of my dreams and goals that I have. Helping poor families and young children who are lacking education in Africa and building schools is one future goal which I have. I found out that helping people, younger and older, is the only way I can pay back all of the good things which I had in my life.

I am very appreciative for all of the help that your program has given me. I know that you help many others in the same way and I respect that a great deal. Your work is helping us and I wish you continued success.

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Once again, I'd like to thank you for this amazing opportunity to participate in the Host Program. Over the course of the last 10 months, the Host Program has helped me in lots of ways, by being able to support my family better with groceries, rent, and living essentials.

By not worrying about my financial needs, my mom has been able to save money herself and move out of our apartment. The Host Program along with working two jobs has helped me support my little brother with his school needs such as field trips, school supplies, and lunches.

I will always remember my grade 11 year as one of the better ones due to The Host Program. Being able to be a part of such an amazing opportunity has made me shine and I want to pay it forward back into the community to help others in need.

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I greatly thank you for the support you have given me in my last high school year. I can safely say that without the donations I had received, I would not have been able to get to school, go to prom, or afford any extracurricular events outside of school. With the money, I was able to enjoy my final year and not

worry if I'll be able to get to school that day since I could afford a bus pass. Also, I was able to work less and that extra time allowed me to study and maintain my scholarship. Before this program came along, I worked 5 days a week and still had trouble keeping up with payments I owed. But, with the boost I received, I was able to pay what I needed to. I am extremely grateful for the support you have given me. Thank you so much and I hope you can even reach out to more students just like me in the future years because it really does help.

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Overall, the Host Program has been an extreme help all throughout the time that I have been receiving the money. I have used this \$100 a month throughout the school year for many uses varying from purchasing some new clothing, groceries, gas, a new school bag, and even printer ink. Thank you so much for all of the money and all of the help it has been over the past many months.

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As this is the end of the year, I want to take the time to tell you how grateful I am for the Host Program this school year. It has been a huge help for me and made it a lot easier on my entire family to have that financial aid.

The past few months, the money has gone into paying for my school transportation as well as affording medication that would otherwise be too expensive on my mother to afford for me. With such uses, this help has allowed my family to rest a bit easier as we have always struggled to afford transportation and medication for both my mother and me.

Over the year, the Host Program has helped both me and my family begin to thrive and the help it has given me has contributed to giving me a higher level of confidence to succeed in my education and complete my final year, and I feel more than ready to move on to the next level into college.

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I wanted to thank you for all you've done for me with this program. It has really helped me with my few bills to pay as well as help out a little with the groceries at my house. Ever since the program I have been able to afford things more easily without worrying as much as I used to. The money came in great use when someone stole my phone. Since I was able to use the money with my job for my new phone, the money I have gotten from the program helped me out with everything else and I wasn't totally broke. I'm extremely grateful you allowed me to be in this program. With the new arrival of a baby niece, I will be using the last transfer on her for baby stuff! Thank you for being so caring and helpful. Have a great year! Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

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These past seven months have had their ups and downs, but thanks to the monthly deposits I have been able to use the money for personal use i.e. clothes, shoes, food, school trip money, etc. Being in a family of four with only one supporting parent, times do get tough as money is always tight. School comes first in my family; therefore I have always worked my hardest to get good grades. I may not be fortunate to have everything that I would like to have, but the little things I do have I cherish. It took a very long time for me to finally get hired for a part time job, which in Ottawa it seems to be very hard. Now that I have a part time job I am able to earn some extra money, I can help out my mom at home with various costs, as well as make sure I am able to buy the necessities I need for myself. I would like to personally thank you for the generosity of what you do for kids like me and many others. I hope that only brighter better things come into my life from this day forward. I wish you all the best.

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I want to thank you and the host program for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime and for winning such an incredible award. In just one year with this program I able to pay for my college application, my tuition fee and other school accommodations. To be honest, high school has been one of the most challenging obstacles I have ever experienced. When my mother got sick, it's as if my entire life had been flipped upside down in a matter of two years. All the sudden changes and that's when I knew that I had to mature fast. There were so many things that I had to restrict myself from doing in order to help my mother, such as having fun with friends, going to movies, things that normal teenagers would do on regular basis. But when she saw how dedicated I was to helping her recover from her illness she sat me down and told me these exact words in French "La porte à l'opportunité ne s'ouvre pas avec une télécommande". Translation "the door to opportunity does not open with a remote control" meaning that she didn't want her disability to affect me in pursuing my dreams, and the true reality is that no one is going to come at my door and hand me a career or a job, I had to work for it, earn it. And today when I look back at all my accomplishments in my schooling career I think to myself "wow I really made it this far!" Yes there were times when I doubted myself and yes there was time when I wanted to give up but giving up is weakness and I didn't allow it. I struggled every step of the way and I challenged myself. If it wasn't for my teacher, my guidance counsellor and my mother's support I don't know what I would have done. I am just very pleased someone took a notice in all of my hard work and determination.

Thank you again; you will forever be engraved in my heart. This gesture of kindness has made a significant change in my year and has helped me so much, I am so grateful for that.

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Le 100\$ par moi m'a vraiment aidé cette année. Le 100\$ m'a aidé à garder mes obligations à dates. J'ai embarqué dans un programme d'hôtellerie et de tourisme et j'adore. Cela m'a introduit dans la profession que j'aime. Je vais maintenant travailler pour un hôtel et faire ma carrière là-dedans. Sans la bourse, je ne sais pas ce que j'aurais fait pour payer mes dépenses. J'aimerais vous remercier pour cette belle opportunité et je suis fier d'avoir fait partie de ce programme. Merci encore pour tout votre aide!

(Translation) The \$100 each month has really helped me this year. The \$100 allowed me to make sure my bills were paid on time. I studied hospitality and tourism and I love it. This is the profession I want to follow. I will now work in a hotel and do this as a career. Without the award, I don't know how I would have been able to pay my expenses. I want to thank you for this wonderful opportunity and I am proud to have been part of this Program. Thank you again for your help.

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As a recipient of the HOST Program Award, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the tremendous support that you have provided me through this award. The HOST Program has been an amazing help to me this year during my often difficult times of need and even when things are looking better but need a little boost. Between keeping me from being hungry to helping pay our 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.

With the \$100 I have been receiving from this program, I have been able to use it to buy groceries for my family when we needed them. I have even been able to buy things for myself like treating myself to lunch every once in a while. I have also been able to give my mom some money to help her out – for instance when times were tight, I would give her some money to help buy food or pay the bills.

The HOST Program has been one of the best opportunities I have had all year. Being in grade 11 and financially struggling, it allowed me to feel confident that I would be able to live life a little easier. For me, the HOST Program showed me that I meant something to the community and that there were people who cared about my well-being and the hard work I was putting into school.

The HOST Program gives me something to look forward to. It gave me hope and motivated me to do well in school so one day I can achieve my hopes and dreams. I look forward to successfully graduating high school and pursuing a career. Thank you once again for your generous support.

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This has been a most wonderful opportunity and a big experiment for myself. Not only have you been watching me through these letters but I myself have been observing my own self. When we met I had thought a very different way than I do now. As my thought process changed, I realized what more of an opportunity this was for me. I bought myself mittens on a particularly cold shopping trip during the winter. More recently I have used the money for an interesting school assignment, which involved buying a particular piece to mod my acoustic guitar so that it functions with an amp. One of the most important things as I mentioned last time was transportation. I was able to visit a rather close friend who lives farther away as well as visiting my mother and other family. For the past few months, I have been involved with a church. After observing and attending the youth events, I got involved with the Tech crew and eventually moved on to assisting and attending the main Sunday services. Having this money was vital for being able to make it most of the time to help out, have a good time, and enjoy rather meaningful preaches. This monthly allowance really has changed my life more than I thought it would and has inspired me to work hard to earn the things I desire, as well as to help the people in my present day and my future days. I am very thankful for all of your assistance and I hope you continue to influence the world with what you do. You have relieved my stress, expanded my hopes and my knowledge. I believe you have truly helped me become a happier person.

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I hope that this has been a great school year for you and certainly, of course, it was for me, but with the help of you and your organization, it not only provided me with an amazing year, it also helped me in different ways. The money you and your organization have contributed in making my school year easier and fun; it helped me with buying school supplies for my projects and assignments; but the most significant thing that happened to me was when I was able to go to Toronto, which was a first for me, for my school club field trip by using the money you have provided me. I am looking forward to spending the money in ways that could help my family and me in the future. Thank you again for the opportunity you have given me and I am sure that your organization will help a lot of youth today. Thank you!

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You inspired me by what you are doing to help many students and I hope that when I grow older I'll be able to do like you; really that money has done a lot to me and for my family it's hard to give me money whenever I need.

I would like to thank you so much for helping me and many other students through your amazing organization and your great efforts to make our lives easier. The money you send to me every month helps me in a lot of stuff, in my school by buying lunches, school materials and even school trips. In my daily life too and other stuff. A huge thanks to you!

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Thank you for everything this money has done for me. It means so much. With the money I have been able to help my family pay rent and buy groceries. This has been an amazing year, for many reasons. Thank you for everything.

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This year was my last year of high school and with that comes a lot of events and opportunities. This year I was able to go to prom, apply and get accepted to university and even go on a school trip to Canada's Wonderland. A lot of this would not have been possible without the help of the HOST program. Having an extra one hundred dollars every month that I could depend on made a world of a difference. Many things I was unable to normally do because of the lack of finances finally became possible. This money definitely made the biggest impact around prom season, when I was scrambling to get money for tickets, a dress, shoes and everything else that comes along with this big day. The monthly money helped out tremendously for this event and ensured that I was able to get everything that I needed. Prom was one of the greatest nights of my life and I am thankful towards the HOST program for giving me the opportunity to have a great night without financial worries. However, not only did this money help me out for prom, it also helped me in multiple occasions throughout the school year. Whenever there was something school related that required payment I always knew that I had this money that made me able to afford it. For example, some of the calculus and physics students were invited to go on a trip to Canada's Wonderland in order to study the math involved with roller coasters. Now, this trip was not immensely cheap so having money from the HOST program definitely made the difference which allowed me to go. This trip, just like prom, was one of the best days of my life and I owe it to this great program for giving me the chance to go. All in all, the HOST program has made such a positive impact in my life and I can't even imagine this year without the extra help. Although money isn't everything, it definitely allowed me to have unforgettable experiences and do things that before I would have never thought possible. Thank you HOST program for helping make my senior year successful and I know that other students will benefit from this program just as much as I have. Thank you for this great opportunity.

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Le programme ANET ma beaucoup aider avec beaucoup de choses cette année. Je me suis acheté un nouveau sac, des nouveaux souliers, des dîners à l'école et des vêtements. La meilleure chose c'est que j'aime vraiment avoir de l'argent et le programme ma montrer comment gérer mon argent donc, j'ai décidé d'aller chercher un emploi. Je remercie le programme ANET pour m'avoir donné beaucoup d'aide cette année!

(Translation) The HOST Program has helped with many things this year. I bought a new school bag, some new shoes, lunches at school and some clothing. I love having money and the Program has shown me how to manage my money. As a result, I have decided to find a job. I want to thank the HOST Program for giving me a lot of help this year.

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The money provided to me has helped me in many ways. For starters, it has allowed me a level of freedom that I would not be able to achieve during the school year; a job wouldn't fit into my busy schedule during the school year. Having this income has allowed me to focus on my schooling and improving my school environment. This has also allowed me to de-stress more in my otherwise hectic day. Most importantly though, it allowed me to apply for college. I was accepted into a computer engineering course, and am now on track to a better future for myself. Without this money, I would not have been able to afford the costs of the application process.

All together, the HOST Program has improved my life massively throughout the course of this school year. I can't begin to tell you how much better my life has been, in terms of both social life (getting to go out more) and academic life (paying for my college application process) and just making me happier and less stressed.

I hope you continue to provide other students with this opportunity. It has been an honor to be part of this and I wish you all the best in the future!

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I wanted to thank you for giving me financial support over the course of this school year. It has given me the opportunity to be able to enjoy some activities that I would not have been able to do if I did not have this support. I was also able to use some of the money to buy some clothes and other necessities. This is a great program and I hope you are able to continue it with other students in the Program.

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I am beyond grateful for all the money I have received from you and the Host Program. It has been a very eventful year and I have not let a single dollar go to waste. From my end of the school year trip, to Christmas and birthday gifts, to new sports equipment, I have made every cent count and thank you so much for choosing me and my family for your program. It has given me the opportunity to be able to afford things that we want as well as save up money for college through my own part-time job.

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I am pretty frugal so I don't spend very much money so I figured the money from HOST would likely just go to savings. I was wrong; the HOST program has helped me in ways I never could have imagined. Because I now have my own spending money, I was less reluctant to go out with friends, or attend the plays at my school. I'm an introvert which means I generally prefer to spend my spare time by myself; so although I can socialize with peers in class I didn't have much experience outside of school. However the HOST program changed that. It has helped me a great deal in learning how to socialize, which is just as important in my opinion.

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