

Email to Parents

Please consider supporting the HOST Program (**Help Our Students**) at our school.

The HOST Program gives financial support to hard-working high school students who are in difficult financial circumstances to help them graduate high school. Each recipient receives \$100 each month, from September through June, for a total of \$1,000. This year, the HOST Program will give 23 \$1,000 awards to students from 18 Ottawa high schools.

The HOST Program is a registered Canadian charity (CRA 814474730RR0001). You will receive a tax receipt for your donation.

There are no salaries and all administration costs are paid by the Board of Directors. 100% of all donations go directly to the students.

As a condition of receiving a HOST Program award, each recipient is required to provide a letter to the President twice each year describing how the financial support has impacted his/her life.

A President's Report is sent to all donors three times per year. Each report provides a financial statement and the December and June reports include excerpts from the recipients' letters. You can read all of the excerpts of the letters that have been received since the beginning of the Host Program in 2009 by visiting the web site at **www.host-program.org**.

Donations can be made in one of three easy ways:

- ✓ download and mail a Donor Form from the web site.
- ✓ make an immediate or a monthly donation online through the Donate page on the web site.
- ✓ select the Help Our Students Program when you make your United Way donation.

One heart-warming email is included for you to read. It will give you an idea of the impact that the HOST Program is having on our students. (The name of the student has been changed.)

I cannot begin to tell you how much my daughter and I appreciate your gift. Anna has always been a child who lacked confidence in herself. Since receiving this award, she feels that she can do just about anything now when it comes to school. She always felt like her peers were better than her but she walks with her head held high these days.

Financially, I've been struggling for the past 5 years. I am a single mother of four amazing children. Unfortunately, I am also a victim of domestic abuse. Due to this unfortunate series of events, my children have gone without several times. This affected their schooling.

We have been without food a lot during the past five years. The children wouldn't go to school because I couldn't provide them with a lunch. Then I fled my abusive relationship, causing us to become homeless. At the time, I was on stress leave from work, which is unfortunately my present state. The motel we lived in was far away from their school so the children once again couldn't go to school if there was no gas in my van.

All of these issues, including so many more, have been the root of a huge cycle causing my children to miss out on an education.

We just moved to Ottawa from being homeless. Anna couldn't wait to start school. Anna has fit in beautifully, meeting many wonderful new friends. Her marks are soaring for the very first time. To her, getting this award has given her the light at the end of the tunnel that she needed in a journey of chaos and sadness that we've traveled.

Anna is the eldest of her siblings. She never asks for anything. I'm so proud of her and can't thank you enough for what you have given her. It's hope! You are what my children and I call, an "angel in disguise". In this world there are too many negatives. One positive can make the world of difference to one person. You did that for my daughter. Gave her hope and a reason to keep up the high marks. With that, the possibilities for her future are endless.

With that money, she knows she will never miss school due to hunger or lack of transportation funds. She may get herself some winter boots and a new winter jacket for the walks to school in the morning. It's all in aid of her getting an education.

She wants to change the world. Give hope to those less fortunate like us. I can only hope that one day, we can do the same for another as you have done for us.

(Sent by a recipient's mother)

Please help the HOST Program to continue to help students like Anna.