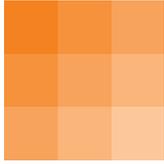


GREAT GRANT STORIES



The Ron Joyce Foundation

The Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex



Post-secondary education is considered a rite of passage for many young Canadians. For many others, however, it seems an impossible dream.

The Ron Joyce Foundation recognizes that access to post-secondary education is a critical factor in helping individuals and communities move from poverty to prosperity. Though Ron Joyce himself beat the odds with no more than a Grade 9 education, he is deeply committed to helping others access education and training to build a solid foundation for future success and independence.

When the Foundation received a request from the Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex for a unique bursary program, the board of trustees was immediately intrigued.



For youth who are, or who have been, in the care of the Children's Aid Society, the thought of attending college or university can be daunting. They face different challenges than most young Canadians entering adulthood. After leaving the foster care or child welfare system, many of these youth live independently, on limited financial resources with no biological family to turn to for support. They work part-time jobs (often more than one) to pay rent, bills and other necessities. To be a teenager with these

financial responsibilities is overwhelming and the option of post-secondary education often seems out of reach.

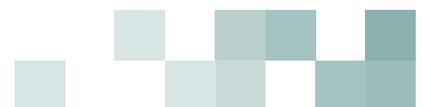
Through determined fundraising efforts and the support of community partners like The Ron Joyce Foundation, The Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex has provided bursaries since 2002 to marginalized youth who have been in its care.

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The bursary program alleviates some of the financial burden of post-secondary education, encouraging youth who have lived in foster care or group homes to continue their formal education, to develop skills they require to succeed in the future, to pursue their dreams and to build successful lives for themselves.

Bursaries are available to students planning to attend university, community college, apprenticeships or technical trade programs offered throughout the province.

Applications are reviewed by an independent selection committee comprised of CAS board members and staff. Decisions are based on the applicant's achievements, aspirations and needs.

Funds are awarded in the amount of \$4,000 for youth attending university and \$3,000 for youth attending college or an apprenticeship/technical trade school. New academic grants in the amount of \$1,000 were also awarded through the program beginning in 2010-2011.

The bursary program is 100% dependent on donations. A grant from The Ron Joyce Foundation enables the CAS to continue funding current recipients while offering additional bursaries to new students.

The Foundation's contribution to the bursary program has opened a window of opportunity for marginalized youth, helping them to succeed in the future.