

## Selected Letters from Help Our Students Program Recipients - January 2017

The HOST Program has made a big impact on my life. It has helped me in many ways and has given me many things to be thankful for. The different ways it has helped me:

- Helped pay for groceries to help my mom out
- Helped me buy lunches for school when I get hungry
- One month I got a bus pass
- I am paying for my G1 test
- I was able to buy my mom dinner on her birthday
- I helped pay for bills when needed.

You people do amazing things for students that work really hard and it's nice to see somebody noticed that. The program has helped me in so many ways and has also given me comfort to spend a little money when I have to and has also helped with giving me less stress when it comes to Christmas shopping. This program has been one of the best things that has happened all year and I'm just so thankful there's people like you guys out there to make kids' lives a little easier.

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The HOST Program has helped me in so many ways that I could write a whole story about it and then some. There's nothing that I can do to show the extent of how grateful I am to have this opportunity but I will attempt to voice my thankfulness through this letter. The people of the HOST Program are completely selfless and care for others more than themselves by making sure that nobody will have to go without, by making sure that people have more than what they had. They give people freedom to do what they wish without having to rely on anyone else for support. Having this opportunity gave me confidence that I can take care of myself, and being in the position of being able to help others is something that I'm very thankful to have experience. I feel so grateful that there are still people around that care so much for the well-being of others and give to them what they themselves wished to have when they were in need. The HOST Program is the shining light for people like me who do not have much and wish to be able to do what they dreamed of; whether it be helping others or looking after yourself for a change. Once again, I am truly grateful for all that has been given to me. Again, thank you very much.

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Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness; you have no clue how much this means to me! My mother is a single mom and she supports me and my brother on her own so we only really have money for necessities. However, thanks to you, I can buy things on my own which really takes a weight off my mother's shoulders. With the money you have given me, I have been able to buy my own music equipment! I am very passionate about music, however, music equipment can be very expensive so I usually make do with what I have, but with the money you have given me I have been able to buy a microphone and a speaker to help me prepare for performances! In addition, my mom has been planning a trip home for many years

now and we are finally going there! As you may know, the tickets can be quite expensive and my mom has been paying for it by herself; so I decided to use the money you gave me to help out and buy some of the necessities we may need while there. I got mosquito nets, a universal charger and a travel pillow for my mom! Finally, applying to university can be very expensive; in fact, it costs \$150 just to apply! So thanks to you I can yet again lift another weight off my mother's shoulders and pay for it myself. What you are doing is absolutely amazing and it is exactly what I've always wanted to do when I am older, which is to help give back to underprivileged families! Thank you so much for this opportunity and I hope this letter can really showcase to you how grateful I am!

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I haven't put much thought into what I will invest the money, from the award you have provided me. I do plan on using it to enhance my education in some way. As of right now the money you have provided me with has helped me feed myself so that I wouldn't go hungry. I have also used the money to help out financially at home, with bills and such. For my education, this grant will allow me to purchase a small laptop to work on my school work at home. I'm also looking to attend college in the coming fall and having your own device is mandatory for the program I'm looking to attend. I'm so grateful for the help I have received from your organization and my guidance counselors at school. I'm looking forward to using everyone's help to mold my future and myself into the person I truly wish to be.

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J'aimerais prendre le temps de vous remercier encore une fois pour la bourse que vous m'avez donnée. Je vis avec deux frères, une grande soeur et ma mère, et puisque ma mère est seul, il était difficile pour elle de recourir à tous nos besoins (par exemple on manquait des bottes d'hiver) et souvent on achetait les bottes à Value village, mais ça ne durait pas pour longtemps donc on était pris geler dehors lorsqu'il faisait vraiment froid. Mais cette année, je suis fière et dans l'allégresse de dire que j'ai pu aider ma mère à faire l'achat des vêtements d'hiver et la nourriture pour la maison. Sans oublier que c'est un fardeau de moins pour mes études post-secondaire puisque j'économise une partie de cet argent pour être capable de payer mes études et mes affaires scolaires. Je suis vraiment reconnaissante d'avoir eu cette bourse. Elle m'a redonné une assurance à mon avenir et un manteau et des bottes chaudes pour l'hiver !

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I would like to say thank you once again for this HOST Program you run. This award I have received is such a wonderful blessing. It has impacted me positively being able to do anything I would like with this money. Due to our family's low income, my mother used to always tell me to not go out as much with friends due to not being able to spend a lot of money. It wasn't often I got to go hang out with my friends during outings, for example dinners or movies. I wasn't comfortable to explain about the financial issues back at home, but after receiving this award, I was able to go out more often with them for dinner or any special events my friends planned that evening. Thanks to this award, it helped me feel a better sense of connection with my friends because I got to know them better through the plans that we make.

Sometimes it seems very trivial that not being to go and hang out with friends, but being able to fellowship with them helps create a better bond of friendship and connection with others. This leads to a better support through tough times because it helps when you have close friends to lean on. After receiving this gift, I also save up half of it each month to go towards my future education in University.

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The money you gave me helped me a lot through this time, I had lots of exams and I had to take days off from my work, but this money you gave me helped me to pay my rent and buy some food in the days that I didn't work and didn't have enough money. I thank you and your program and I would like you to keep going and help other students to go through hard times in their life.

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I don't even know where or how to begin. All I want to say is thank you so much. Thank you for helping me out and giving me this opportunity. Ever since my mom quit her job due to back pain, money was a big problem for us. With the money I was able to help my parents out with the bills and buy food for the household. And also I started a saving account for college. The money helped me and family out a lot. My parents are very grateful and thank you guys for it.

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I used to have very lonely times before this award because I did not have enough money to hangout and socialize with my friends, therefore I was going through a deep depression. But now the money is helping me to get out of depression by being able to go out with my friends. Also I am saving half of the money for my future, which gives me hope and it is something that I can be happy about for my next year. \$100 a month may not sound so much but it has been a very big help for me and now that I have less things to worry about, I can focus more on my studies.

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C'est avec sincérité que je tiens à vous remercier suite à l'obtention d'une bourse du Programme ANET. Grâce à votre générosité, je compléterai mon année scolaire avec moins de soucis financiers, ce qui me permet de concentrer mon énergie dans la réussite de mes études. Étant étudiante au programme du Baccalauréat International, je suis confrontée à une année surchargée de travaux. Par contre, un soutien financier me permet d'alléger mon esprit et de me concentrer sur des activités plus profitables pour ma carrière future. Effectivement, une proportion de la bourse m'a permis de payer mes frais d'admission pour l'université. À ce propos, j'aimerais vous mettre au courant du fait que ma demande a été acceptée à l'université d'Ottawa pour étudier en génie mécanique biomédicale.

En effet, je ne considère pas cette aide simplement comme un revenu supplémentaire, mais plus particulièrement comme un appui qui me motive à travailler plus fort afin d'atteindre mes objectifs et à persévérer. Au courant de cette année, j'ai mis énormément d'efforts, de temps

et d'énergie à servir ma communauté et participer à des activités parascolaires qui me passionnent énormément. Il est gratifiant de savoir que des gens comme vous reconnaissent mon travail. C'est avec beaucoup de fierté que je termine mon Baccalauréat en mai 2017.

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I would first like to express how grateful I am to receive the bursary. It has helped me greatly for my senior year, since this year seems to be a very expensive year. I used the bursary to pay for the required fees for the participation in some clubs and has helped me find more opportunities beyond scholastic involvement.

The fees that were required from myself may not seem like a lot to an average person, but in my perspective it was a lot. One fee that was required was for the girls' rugby team. The fee was reduced to \$35, despite the reduction, I was scared to ask my mom for money to pay for it. Sometimes we are short of money for the month. So I used a part of the month's fund to pay for it. Another way I used the money was to pay for my graduation sweater and my graduation photo appointment. For me these things were important for me because they represented an important milestone. Again a very expensive thing to do. The sweater was about \$65 and the appointment was \$30. I did not ask my mom for money, instead I used the funds from the HOST program. Lastly, this program has helped me greatly because I was able to buy a new interview outfit. The reason for the sudden need for the need for this outfit was not for a job interview, It was for another scholarship interview. In addition to the fact that my other "interview outfit" was kind of falling apart. Altogether this program has helped me pay for the little things that has helped me and have an unforgettable experience.

Currently, as I have mentioned previously, I do have a job now. So with the combination of both the bursary and my pay cheque, I have created a savings account. The goal for this savings account is to pay for textbooks and other things that require immediate payment for my post-secondary education.

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The monthly \$100 has been a huge help this year not only being able to buy clothing and food for myself but also helping my family and preparing things for my daughter on the way. This is such a helping program for students like me.

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I'm beyond grateful because this helps me so much. Lunches on days we have no food or money, new boots for the winter, new clothes and school supplies.

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Recevoir votre aide est un cadeau très gratifiant pour moi. La bourse m'a aidé à la fois dans ma vie à l'école ainsi qu'à la fois dans ma vie personnelle, puisqu'elle m'aide à pouvoir payer le nécessaire, mes études, ma santé, mon bien-être, mes buts ainsi que mon futur. Recevoir votre bourse m'aide grandement car cela facilite d'avantage mon cheminement scolaire et personnelle, ce qui m'encourage de vouloir continuer à réussir. Je vous remercie grandement

de votre appui à ma réussite et j'espère grandement que vous en serez récompensé un jour. Je suis certaine que d'autres étudiants apprécieraient grandement votre appui comme moi et je vous encourage de ne pas baisser les bras et de continuer à travailler de force et de coeur. Cela peut nous surprendre a quel un petit acte peut faire la différence dans la vie de quelqu'un. N'importe quelle bonne action peut aider et faire la différence dans la vie des autres. Je vous encourage de continuer votre dur travail puisque cela encourage moi-même ainsi que d'autres à vouloir aider les autres à notre tour. S'entre-aider est exactement ce qu'on a besoin dans ce monde.