

Give a student the gift of hope

Imagine being a good student, working hard to get your grades. You're hoping for a better future, despite financial hardships. How much difference would a gift of \$1000 make?

The answer is, "a really big difference."

By donating to the Help Our Students Program, you can help a local charity give hard-working high school students, nominated by their schools, a gift of \$100 per month for the entirety of the 10-month school year.

The money is theirs. It goes directly into their own bank accounts. And in turn, they learn how to plan, save, and manage their funds.

This year alone, the Help Our Students Program is giving this gift to 130 students in 60 Ottawa high schools. The students later report back to recount what the money has meant to them.

"Your monthly \$100 has helped me in many ways," wrote one recent recipient. "Before I got your money, I was very unmotivated to go to school because I was always sad and hungry — and just upset with the way my life was going ... Your money helped me put clean clothes on my body, helped me put the food on the table. And helped me get from place to place. Your money made it easier for me to come to school and actually get work done ... I don't know where I would be without you."

The Help Our Students Program also promotes financial literacy — a topic that has become increasingly important in the Ontario high school curriculum.

Even more importantly, the Program provides a ray of hope in a season that should be full of joy for every family.

The Help Our Students Program was founded in 2010 by Richard Lussier, a retired managing director of the National Arts Centre who also served in the Canadian Forces.

"It was my way to get back to the true spirit of the holidays, and to try to make a difference in my community," he explains. "Since then, donors have told me that every donation makes them feel better about their contribution to people in need."

He explains that the students' letters are what make the connection with donors.

As an example, he quotes another of the letters: "I grew up in a situation that made me think most people are not very virtuous, and that in the end there is no sense in helping others because you will only get taken advantage of. However, I was so wrong. And thanks in part to this donation, I do not feel so alone in the world, knowing that even strangers will help you out."

To donate today, simply visit HelpOurStudentsProgram.com and click the red "donate now" (or "faites un don") button at the top left of the page. It will take you to a secure donation page where you can provide a one-time, or recurring, donation by credit card. As a registered charity, the Help Our Students Program issues tax receipts to donors.

There are also other giving options on the site, as well as links to many other letters from young people whose lives have benefitted from the generosity of Ottawa donors.

This article is a paid advertisement. All administrative and media costs are privately funded by members of the board of directors at Help Our Students, ensuring that 100% of all public donations go directly to students.



Digital ad version:

Give a student the gift of hope

Be a positive influence on youth in our community through the Help Our Students Program. Every dollar you give helps us provide \$100 per month to hard-working teens who are experiencing financial hardships to help them graduate high school.

Click to see the difference you can make!

Digital ad version with logo:



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Link on click = www.HelpOurStudentsProgram.com