

# WE HELPED BROOKLYN GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL

The Help Our Students Program (HOST Program) was founded in 2010 by two local friends to help Ottawa students living in difficult financial circumstances stay in high school until they graduate.



Help Our Students  
PROGRAM

These students, selected by their school, are working hard to stay in school but it isn't easy for them. In far too many cases, they don't know when their next meal will be, they wear hand-me-downs all through high school and, if they go out with their friends, they certainly can't buy anything.

Many need to either quit school to get a job to support their family or take on too many part-time hours that cuts the amount of time they have for schoolwork. The HOST Program now gives the students \$150 per month (September to June), sent directly to their own RBC bank account. The HOST Program gives them hope that they may be the first in the family to graduate high school, hope to go to college or university, and hope to realize their dreams.

*"When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, my family was hit hard. So hard, that I wasn't sure I could even graduate high school. My family needed me to drop out so I could help put food on the table. Then, one day, I was called into the guidance counsellor's office and told some remarkable news - I had been selected to receive an award, so I could keep going to school. I would be given \$110 per month for the school year. Having that money in my pocket changed my life dramatically. Suddenly, I could contribute to the family by buying groceries. I also bought shoes for my two little sisters, which we could not afford before. But most importantly, Help Our Students gave me hope.*

*Not only did I graduate high school, but I am currently in my second year of college at Algonquin College, specializing in Child and Youth Social Work. Given my own personal life experiences, I have a deep love for social workers. One day, I hope to pay it forward and become part of that vital team. My goal is to help children in difficult situations by giving underprivileged families a chance to learn and grow together. I would like to provide families with the tools to accomplish stability for themselves and improve their daily lives.*

*Thank you, Help Our Students, for changing my life and giving me hope for the future."*

*Change a life. Help another student graduate high school.*

To donate, please visit our website at [helpourstudentsprogram.com](https://helpourstudentsprogram.com)

The HOST Program, a registered charity (CRA # 0000000RR001), is a rarity: **100% of all donations go to a student in need.**

