

# FACS Niagara Facts

Advancing Educational & Career Dreams

October 2019



FACS

Family and Children's Services Niagara

Les Services à la famille et à l'enfance de Niagara

## 33 Educational Grants Awarded in 2019

Children and youth growing up in the care of Children's Aid Societies (CAS) across the Province face a number of unique challenges – especially with their education. Since they often don't have traditional supports, fewer than 50% of youth in the extended care of a CAS across Ontario complete high school compared to more than 80% of youth overall.

Yet, research suggests that education and training are the most critical factors in assisting youth in care to lead productive and successful lives.

That's why FACS Niagara prioritizes helping our youth to achieve positive educational outcomes.

FACS Niagara employs two retired educators as part-time Educational Liaisons who support Child Welfare Workers as they help each of our youth navigate the education system and get the supports and services our kids need to be successful. The Liaisons also work with a Crown Ward Championship Team in mapping out a path for each student to stay in school and work toward post-secondary education or training or a successful transition to employment. These Liaisons provide educational supports and assistance as we strive to give our youth every opportunity to be successful, independent adults.

This focused effort has paid off: 70% of the high school students in extended care are on track to graduate or successfully transition to community life.

Yet, as the costs for post-secondary education and training continue to skyrocket, our youth face financial obstacles to following their dreams to independence.

That's why it's so amazing that the



Some of the FACS Niagara 2019 Educational Grant recipients. (l-r) Back: Megan, Connor. Front: Brianna, Natasha, John Paul, Camryn.

community comes forward and generously donates funds to provide bursaries to our youth in extended care. Thanks to this support, the FACS Niagara Foundation provides a bursary of up to \$2,000 per year to each of our youth taking training or going to College or University.

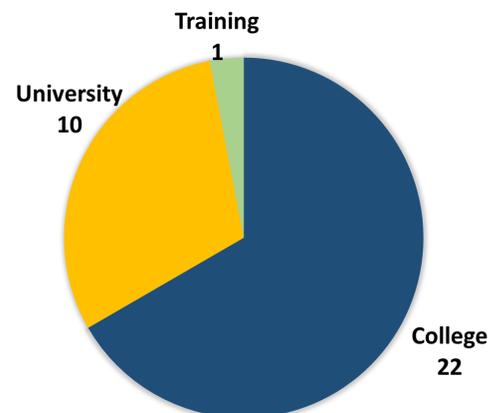
At our Annual General Meeting in June, FACS Niagara recognized and honoured 33 youth in extended care with financial assistance for this school year. Twenty-two are following their dreams at College, 10 at University, and one is taking additional training.

We appreciate you and the other Niagara FACS Foundation donors supporting education!

You have helped enable our youth to pursue their passions and to reach their full potential.

Thanks to you, their future will be so much brighter!

### Educational Grant Recipients, 2019



## 2019 Education Grant Recipients

Of the 33 successful Education Grant Recipients in 2019, 22 are following their dreams at College, 10 are attending University, and one is taking additional training. Here we provide a sample of the progress of these youth, who have grown up in the care of FACS Niagara. They deeply appreciate how the community invests in their future!

### **Brianna:**

Brianna graduated from a Niagara Falls high school this spring. She is attending Fanshawe College in Police Foundations, hoping to become a detective with the RCMP. She enjoyed being a cheerleader for several years in high school and hopes to continue cheerleading at College.

### **Natasha:**

Natasha is the first in her family to attend post-secondary education. She's at Mohawk College in a Career Pathways program. Natasha began a small business as a dog walker in high school. Because of her strong opposition to animal cruelty, she is a strong advocate for those who cannot speak up for themselves.

### **Connor:**

Connor is completing a Business Diploma at Niagara College and plans to continue his education at university following graduation. He enjoys learning about investing and has a keen mind for business. Connor serves as a member and spokesperson of the FACS Niagara Youth Advisory Committee.

### **August:**

An engaging and enthusiastic young woman, August re-entered Niagara College this Fall in the Social Service Worker program. She hopes to work in hospitals with children who suffer from mental health issues and illnesses.

### **John Paul:**

John Paul is entering his fourth year at Brock University in the Kinesiology program. He hopes to become an athletic therapist. He currently works in the restaurant industry to support himself. John Paul also works hard to be a role model for his two younger siblings. He loves to workout and play basketball – and revelled in the Raptors recent NBA success.

### **Madison:**

After graduating from a Niagara Falls high school, Madison began the Early Childhood Education program at Niagara College. Once complete, she then plans to transition to university with the hopes of becoming a teacher. In addition to the FACS Educational Grant, Madison happily received a scholarship from her First Nation Band Council.

## Thanks Educational Grant Donors!

The Joyce Family Foundation  
Catharine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation

Great West Life Assurance Company  
The Larocque Group

Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation  
May Court Club of St. Catharines  
Hildebrand Lehn Family Fund

Judith Carroll

Zonta Club of Niagara Falls

Richard Comfort

Alice Downie-Bacon Education Fund  
Janie Palmer

### **Megan:**

Hoping to become a flight attendant one day, Megan is currently in her second year of Hospitality & Restaurant Operations at Niagara College. She participated in a co-op placement this summer and is travelling to Disney World this Fall for an additional credit. Megan also serves as a member of the FACS Niagara Youth Advisory Committee.



### **Elcie's Graduation Day Message, 2019**

I would like to extend my gratitude to you for your financial support which allowed me to complete my four years of university and graduate with an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Human Rights & Political Science. Without your commitment to support me semester after semester, I would have lacked necessary materials which could have affected my ability to make it through.

All this to say that because of you, a life has been transformed, and a future has been secured.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to see life from a different perspective and to imagine a life for myself that is much bigger than what I imagined 5 years ago.

As you continue to do the same for others, I pray that the source from which you reached to bless me will never lack.

Once again, I thank you for your significant contribution to my post-secondary education. I will be forever grateful.

