

FACS Niagara Facts

Advancing Education & Career Dreams

March 2021



Family and Children's
Services Niagara
Les Services à la famille
et à l'enfance de Niagara

37 Educational Grants Awarded in 2020

At the Annual General Meeting in June 2020, FACS Niagara recognized and honoured 37 youth in extended care with financial assistance for the 2020-21 school year.

FACS also congratulated seven (7) of the 33 grant recipients from 2019 for graduating from their programs. This is a wonderful achievement for youth in the extended care of any Children's Aid Society!

Of the 37 students this year, twenty-nine (29) or 78% are following their dreams at College, and eight (8) or 22% at University. This includes one student who is taking her Masters in Public Health.

Twenty-four (24) of these students are continuing their studies, and thirteen (13) began their college or university courses this past fall.

Programs of study for these 37 youth currently pursuing post-secondary education include: biotechnology, business, construction engineering technology, criminology and criminal justice law, culinary arts, digital media, electrician, environmental science, kinesiology, mechanical techniques, medical science, police foundations, social development studies, sports management, pharmacy technician, among others.

Of note, 18 (or 49%) of the youth are studying to enter careers in a helping or care-related profession. Not only does this stand as a testament to our youth's interest in making the world a better place, but also to the generosity of the community in supporting these youth who want to help others.

Thanks to very generous donors, FACS Niagara provides \$2,000 per university or college student per year – \$1,000 per term.



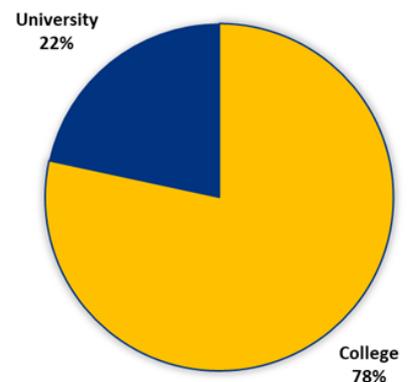
Generous donors helped youth in the extended care of FACS Niagara to continue their post-secondary studies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically impacted our students this year. These impacts include the lack of summer- or part-time employment, additional costs for virtual learning, and extra health and safety costs. Thanks to a grant by the *Children's Aid Foundation of Canada*, FACS provided an additional stipend of \$500 per student (with the option for an additional \$500 for students with greater needs) to help our youth overcome COVID-19 related impacts.

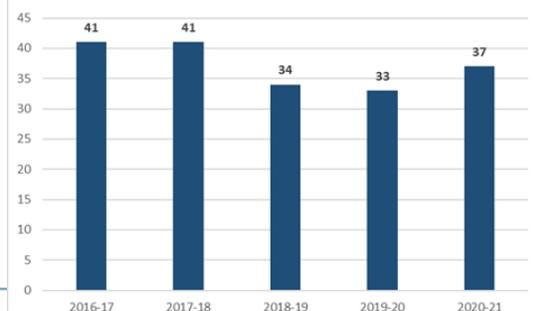
FACS has awarded an average of 37 education grants each year over the past five years. With the number of youth currently in high school or post-secondary school age, we anticipate that the number of youth in college or university will continue to grow over the next three years.

We appreciate you and the other FACS Niagara Foundation donors supporting education. You have helped enable our youth to pursue their passions and brightened their futures. Thank you!

Education Grant Recipients, 2020



Youth Post-Secondary Education Grants / Year FACS Niagara



2020 Education Grant Recipients

Research suggests that education is the single most critical factor in assisting youth in care to lead productive and successful lives. FACS Niagara prioritizes providing encouragement and assistance to our youth to complete their education, and to become successful and productive members of society. Here we provide a sample of the progress of these youth, who deeply appreciate how the community invests in their future!

Marwa:

A recent University of Western Ontario graduate, Marwa started her Masters of Public Health at McMaster University. Her career goal is to become a physician. Marwa hopes to obtain a holistic understanding of health and health issues in our society to become a better doctor and play an active role in solving our health care problems.

Sebastian:

A first year Niagara College student, Sebastian appreciates his Education Grant. "Having FACS as a supporter on my path provides me with more than financial assistance. Knowing that I have not been abandoned brings me courage and determination to not let anyone or myself down, while pursuing my goals."

Claudette:

Despite being a busy young mom, Claudette enrolled in the Hospitality & Tourism program at Niagara College. Hoping to secure her and her son's future, Claudette wants to become involved with Indigenous Tourism. She also plans to be connected to her community in a helping way.

Donovan:

Donovan started working part-time at a young age and quickly moved up to a management position while still in high school. Now enrolled in Niagara College in the Protection, Security & Justice Services program, Donovan is also a proud member of the Canadian Armed Forces. "Whichever career choice I pick, I want it to be in service to our country and dedicated to helping people."

Amelia:

Committed to furthering her education and interest in preserving and protecting the environment, Amelia is in her third-year in Environmental Science at the University of Waterloo. Amelia demonstrates amazing perseverance by continuing her education while undergoing serious medical treatment.

Isaac:

After recently graduating from construction technology in high school, Isaac began the Electrician program at Niagara College in September. He hopes to be become an electrician and aspires to starting his own business.

Thanks 2020 Education Grant Donors!

Joyce Family Foundation
Children's Aid Foundation of Canada
Catherine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation
Judith MacCarthy
Ione Unsworth
Judith Carroll
Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation
May Court Club of St. Catharines
Hildebrand Lehn Family Fund
Kim Robinson
Bosch Rexroth Canada
Alice Downie-Bacon Education Fund
Anonymous Donor
And many others!

Angelica:

In her final year of Criminology & Criminal Justice Law at Carleton, Angelica states, "debt is one of my biggest worries that I have to deal with personally. Getting this bursary is one of the best things I have ever received!" Angelica hopes to work with a community resources agency and has a long-term goal of becoming a probation officer.

Robert & Ione Unsworth Endowment Fund

To assist youth in care like they had received help themselves, Ione Unsworth established the *Robert Unsworth Memorial Education Grant* five-years after his passing in 2015 to support youth pursuing post-secondary training and education.

Since Robert worked as a master wood craftsman, Ione specifically supported two youth pursuing their post-secondary dreams in the arts, crafts, or trades.

Because of their ongoing care and concern for vulnerable children and youth and their desire to help improve their futures, Ione has pledged to donate annually toward these memorial grants.

Ione also made a bequest of their estate to establish the *Robert & Ione Unsworth Endowment Fund*. Once established, this fund will continue in perpetuity and the earned interest will support youth in the extended care of FACS Niagara to pursue post-secondary training and education in the arts, crafts, or trades.

The Foundation deeply appreciates Ione's generosity and commitment. These ongoing gifts will encourage and inspire youth in the extended care of FACS Niagara forever!



Ione & Robert Unsworth, 2011

Bob and I believe that failure does not mean the end of a dream.

Believe in yourself. Don't believe everything someone says about you.

When faced with a challenge, don't be afraid. You are more resilient than you know.

Keep trying and keep working toward your goals.

Ione Unsworth, 2020

