



Graham Paine/Metroland

Marc Clare, executive director of the Halton Catholic Children's Foundation, announced it will be providing \$5,000 in bursaries.

BURSARIES AVAILABLE TO CATHOLIC BOARD STUDENTS

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A local charity is helping students take that next step in their education.

The Halton Catholic Children's Foundation (HCCF) announced on May 20 it would be offering \$5,000 in bursaries to graduating Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) students. The money will be split into ten \$500 awards for students entering post-secondary education. Called the Halton Catholic Children's Foundation Graduate Award, the bursary is part of a three-year strategic plan to double the amount of students the organization helps by 2024.

James McInnis, director and chair of the HCCF allocations committee, said they hope to support even more students in the future. "We are excited to launch the Halton Catholic Children's Foundation (HCCF) Graduate Award this spring. Through our student bursary initiative, we hope to continue to increase the number of students that we support financially each year, including our graduating students as they pursue post-secondary education opportunities. We look forward to recognizing the successful recipients of the HCCF Graduate Award in June and wish these candidates all the best with their future endeavours."

According to the HCCF, 8.2 per cent of Halton's community lives below the poverty line — and this number is higher within specific groups such as women (8.6 per cent), visible minorities (14.4 per cent), single mothers (19 per cent), and newcomers (28.4 per cent). Marc Clare, executive director of HCCF, said poverty is a serious barrier to academic success.

"There are few things more important than accessible education. At HCCF, we strive to help with this by providing financial assistance to students in need, and we are thrilled to offer the HCCF Graduate Award so we can continue to help HCDSB students with financial barriers to success," said Clare.



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