

Bursary Presentation

The VOCCM Cares/ Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association Bursary is awarded on an annual basis to a foster parent's biological or adopted child who is completing post-secondary education. The role of these young people is extremely important because fostering is a family affair. In recognition of their support and contribution to the children/youth who are placed in their homes, the Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association in conjunction with VOCCM Cares has established a bursary to assist with their educational expenses.

On behalf of the Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association, I am pleased to announce that the bursary winner for 2017 is Shauna Bradbury from Flatrock. Shauna is the daughter of foster parents Tina and Sean Bradbury. She is currently attending Memorial University and plans to pursue a degree in Pharmacy. Shauna is also a Duke of Edinburgh student.

In her application Shauna demonstrated an excellent understanding of some of the challenges faced by children when they come into foster care. She also talked about her role as a big sister and the love she has for the child who lives with her family. Shauna talked about ways she has helped her foster brother but just as importantly she talked about what she has learned from him. She commented that "Fostering is a learning experience for all our family, with each day we learn a little more... We will eventually "get there" but right now we have reached a beautiful middle ground."

Jacqueline Codner, one of Shauna's high school teachers, indicated that "Shauna is an exceptional student who puts 100% into all her work". She further added that the fostering experience has helped Shauna realize the importance of being able to make a difference in the life of a child.

Social worker, Candace Clarke had this to say about Shauna, "Shauna has been open and supportive of her family's decision to foster... she has been warm, welcoming and supportive of her foster brother." Candace believes that Shauna is an appropriate candidate for this bursary and further stated "Shauna has been intricate in helping her foster brother adjust to his new home environment; assisting him to feel comfortable, confident and loved."

This is the kind of support we want all children in care to find in their homes, their schools and their community.

Congratulations Shauna!