



Literacy Helps Lift Yarmouth Student Out of Poverty

NSCC Burrige Student Kylie Powder says that as a single mother of three facing financial distress, going back to school is the biggest challenge. "I am determined to set a positive example for my children and to do whatever it takes to reach my goal. I plan to strive for my goals and maintain a healthy family life as well. The most challenging part about going back to school is trying to balance my home life with my children, while keeping up with bills and expenses, and maintaining my academic progress."

Kylie Powder is one of Literacy Nova Scotia's 2016-17 Bursary Award Recipients. Kylie's instructor says she has made impressive progress in the Adult Learning Program, completing several academic courses in one year. "She is a very independent worker, setting goals to complete assignments and modules in a timely manner. The quality of her work is excellent. She has the drive to succeed which will lead her to excel in her chosen field. Kylie has been a great asset to the ALP and I believe she will be successful in all she chooses to pursue."

Access to literacy and essential skills programs gives adults the capability to address poverty by improving their self-confidence and increasing their skill levels so they can find better employment.

Literacy can reduce the inequalities caused by poverty and give tools for social unity. Parents are learning models for their children. The International Adult Literacy Survey points out that children of parents with higher levels of education and literacy are more likely to read and do better in school. A child whose parent(s) did not graduate from high school is twice as likely to live in poverty as a child whose parent(s) did graduate (*National Centre for Children in Poverty, 1992*).

Kylie's ultimate goal is to enroll in the Dalhousie School of Nursing program in 2017 and fulfill her dream of becoming a registered nurse, which will allow her to provide a bright future for her family.

The latest statistics show that 50% of Nova Scotians could improve their lives by improving their literacy skills. Financial support for those who decide to upgrade their skills is crucial to their success.

"It's so encouraging to know that we are able to offer support to someone like Kylie to reach her goals. But for every Kylie, there are many others who will not receive this support. We had to say no to helping 17 others make a difference in their lives and the lives of their families.

That's heartbreaking when we know how little it takes to make a difference and change a life," says LNS Executive Director Jayne Hunter. Donations can be made any time via CanadaHelps to directly support a learner.

Money raised at the NSPGI Golf Tournament for Literacy is used by Literacy Nova Scotia to fund scholarships and bursaries to learners who are in adult learning programs, or have completed a program and are continuing on to post-secondary education.

Literacy Nova Scotia is a provincial non-profit organization that has been supporting the literacy community since 1992. LNS works to ensure that all Nova Scotians have equal access to quality literacy, essential skills, and lifelong learning opportunities. It does this by sharing information, doing research and by supporting learners, practitioners and organizations.