

# Remarkable Students Benefit from the HGCC Foundation Bursary Fund

"Honestly, I never thought I'd graduate from high school, let alone go to college or receive a bursary," Dagloria Musavyi shared through her tears with her teacher at her side during last week's Hamilton Golf & Country Club Foundation Bursary Fund Luncheon.

"My mom is a recent single parent with six kids. She had to rebuild her life from nothing. Currently she works six days a week as a PSW and does everything for her kids. However, as everyone knows, life is expensive. This bursary lifts such a weight off my family. I'm attending the Esthetician program at Niagara College in the fall and this money will pay for my tuition. You have helped me so much," added Dagloria, who attends Wilma's Place, an independent learning program offered through Cathedral High School.

"I want to thank my mom for always being by my side. I was not an easy kid to raise, but she never gave up on me. She is my inspiration. I also want to thank Mrs. Payne, my teacher at Wilma's Place. She pushed me so hard to graduate and has opened my eyes to opportunities. She is like a best friend to me and always has a smile everyday. Lastly, again, I want to thank you, the Hamilton G&CC, for helping me make my dreams come true. In two years time, you are all welcome to a facial or cosmetic treatment, free of charge on me!"

This is just one of many touching and inspiring stories from the 16 Hamilton secondary school students who received \$5,000 each for a total of \$80,000 from the HGCC Foundation Bursary Fund.

From 2015 to 2021, the foundation sponsored Crown Ward Bursaries. The secondary school bursary program was launched as a pilot with four bursaries in 2022 and increased to ten bursaries in 2023. The goal is to offer a bursary at each of the 20 Hamilton Wentworth District School Board and Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board secondary schools by 2025.

"A program and support like this is an extraordinary gift. All of these students here today from both boards are great kids and this program gives them an opportunity to live their dreams, to take



Dagloria Musavyi shares a bit of her story with attendees at the bursary luncheon.



Bursary recipients from the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board with David Hansen, Director of Education, HWCDSB.

the next step in their lives. It sets them up for success, tomorrow and as they grow into adults," said David Hansen, Director of Education for the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board. "The financial assistance helps level the playing field for them so they can continue in school and experience all of the things that come with further education. Some of them would not have been able to continue on without the support of the membership & the foundation at HGCC."

The HGCC Bursary Fund provides assistance to students who might not otherwise be able to afford or continue in post-secondary education. It's funded through proceeds from The Borthwick Memorial Golf Tournament and Par for a Cause, as well as direct donations from members and legacy funding.

"As my fellow recipients and I prepare to embark on our post-secondary adventures, we take time to reflect on our



journeys and the people in our lives who have inspired and supported us along the way," Ryan Nguyen, a Grade 12 student at Ancaster High School said.

"In this room today, we are 15 unique stories brought together, each filled with chapters that have led us here. Your generous support has opened new possibilities for us recipients. While our aspirations and goals vary, we share a deep gratitude to HGCC members, our communities, and all who made this possible – you have paved our journeys with opportunity. We will make the most of this opportunity and author future chapters of success in our lives. Thank you!" said Ryan, who will take Computer Engineering at the University of Waterloo this fall. "The bursary will allow me to fully immerse myself in my learning experience at Waterloo, learning everything I can and what it means to be a great engineer."

"Listening to their stories and meeting them, I'm inspired by these students," said Sheryl Robinson-Petrazzini, Director of Education at the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. "The possibilities that lay ahead of them make this such a worthwhile investment in their future and for our community. I'm so excited for them and appreciative of the HGCC community for supporting this life-changing initiative. I'm looking forward to seeing how the new mentorship program works between these students and the club members. It sounds like an incredible opportunity."

William Pink is staying close to home as he prepares to study Architectural Technology at Mohawk College for the next three years.

"I would like to get into the new home building industry in Hamilton and help build affordable housing for the people in our community who need it," says William, who is graduating from Glendale Secondary School and will be living at home while going to college. "My mother has been on disability for several years and it has been difficult to pay the bills and have a place to live. If I can help take that burden away from people who are struggling to survive that would be extremely satisfying."

"It was going to be a horrible struggle to get through first year financially at Mohawk," William adds. "With this \$5,000 I will have a chance to focus on my studies and not worry as much about where the money is going to come from. The foundation and the members at HGCC are very generous and I would like to say 'Thank you' to them."



**Ancaster High School student Ryan Nguyen thanks HGCC members and the foundation for supporting the bursary program and the students' dreams for post-secondary education.**



**Bursary Recipients from the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board.**

After four years at Waterdown District High School Emily Slagter is ready to make the leap to post secondary school. She's had several part-time jobs over the last few years, but in Grade 11 she heard a radio advertisement promoting the need for broadcasters and it struck a chord.

"I like to talk," she says with a smile, "so I thought it would be a good career and I like retro music from the 70s, 80s & 90s."

Emily will be taking Radio Broadcasting for two years at Fanshawe College in London starting in September.

"My parents have saved some money in RESPs for me to go to school, but this \$5,000 is really going to help because I'm going to be living in residence. There are a lot of extra things I'll now need for college."

Down the road, she hopes to return to the Hamilton area and pursue a career at a local radio station.

Even with the \$5,000 bursary coming his way, Bethel Pedro is not sure if he will have enough money to attend first year Computer Science at McMaster University, where he has been accepted.

"I might need to take a gap year and get a job to help with the cost of education," says Bethel, who has marks in the high 90s in his Sciences and Math courses at Sir Allan MacNab Secondary School. His family arrived in Canada from Nigeria when Bethel entered Grade 10 and he has been adapting to life in Hamilton, which hasn't been easy. He has no idea what he could, or would like to do if he makes it to and through university – imagine that!