

July 2014: We Have Our Winners!

After much deliberation, our Scholarship and Bursary committee has selected two winners from a competitive pool of high-quality applications – winners who, interestingly enough, possess a similar love for volunteering and the creative arts and are headed to the same university in the fall! We are proud to present the 2014 Lincoln Alexander Scholarship & Bursary to **Elissa Field** of Thunder Bay, ON and **Alaina Ardiente** of Mississauga, ON.

Elissa Field, our scholarship winner, recently graduated from the Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute and is a dedicated member of her school and community. An Honour Roll student and an avid athlete, Elissa was Vice-President of her school's Student Activities Council and captain of the volleyball team, also finding time to play for the City of Thunder Bay Volleyball Club. Her volunteer experience includes serving meals at the Thunder Bay Shelter House, playing an active role in the Thunder Bay Rotaract Club (a Rotary Club branch for high school students), and organizing many fundraising activities to benefit various charitable organizations in the Thunder Bay community. She also boasts an active creative streak, having participated in community theatre, directed her school play, and created a documentary about stereotyping in the homeless community. This fall, Elissa will be entering the University of Ottawa's Commerce program, specializing in International Management.

"What I admire most about [the Honourable] Mr. Alexander," says Elissa, "is his commitment and dedication to his education, youth, and civic duty.... [He] was the linchpin between a foreseen underclass and government that needed to represent Canada as a whole." Her own dedication to vulnerable groups in her community is fuelled by the satisfaction of giving from one's heart: "Altogether although my actions may be small, I realize that the greatest acts are the ones that stem from selflessness, and though they are unrecognized, they are the most fulfilling."

Alaina Ardiente, our bursary recipient, graduated in June from the University of Toronto with an Honours Bachelor of Arts, double-majoring in Sociology and Religious Studies. In her experience as a choir director at St. Josephine Bakhita parish in Mississauga and as co-founder, choreographer, and long-time mentor of Loyola Catholic Secondary School's dance group, she demonstrates both a love for music and dance and a passion for fostering leadership skills and creative empowerment in others. Alaina is an active member of the Couples for Christ Global Mission Foundation, and in addition to lending her creative talents for various events, she serves the group's youth community as president of its campus-based program at U of T. She will also be attending the University of Ottawa this fall to pursue a Bachelor of Education.

Alaina looks to Lincoln Alexander's legacy not only as an advocate for equality, but also as an all-around outstanding Canadian. "[His] patriotism is a prime example of that 'true patriot love' that all Canadians should aspire for, distinguished by his service to the Canadian government and the Royal Canadian Air Force.... His legacy of improving the world continues to inspire others to do the same." She credits her volunteer experiences as having a profound effect on her world view. "I am grateful for the opportunity to have witnessed many young people learn how to give back to their communities through the talents that they have."

Congratulations to both winners! We will be celebrating these young ladies and their achievements at our **awards ceremony on August 13th, 2014**.