

Ozanam Education Fund Success story from Mississauga

Tonight as we were at the Free Food Table we had some Visitors. A lady, her older daughters, her two sons and her Grandson.

We met her initially about 12 years ago. She worked as a Social Worker on 6 month contracts and always hoping to get them renewed. About two years ago, her life was stable enough that she no longer needed help and now she and her daughters make sandwiches for the food table.

Over the years, she was in precarious situations many times and we were able to help her. In one instance, I did a bank transfer from Yellowknife for her, and Shirley was at home and brought her food. We walked with her for about 10 years.

At one point I put applications in for \$2,000 for each of the two girls who were going to Community College to be Beauticians. The applications were thin and I didn't know if they would be approved, but they were. They went to college and are now working. One is married and has a son so the mother is so happy to have a grandson.

Two points to this:

It is so satisfying to see the person fly even if it takes a few years. They are no longer on the system and are working, raising a family and paying taxes. This is a much better outcome than a life lost.

Jere is one of the most committed, dedicated Vincentians that I have known. His commitment to the education program has probably helped many people and changed and shaped their lives. Jere is a true knight who "Leaves no neighbour behind". It is an honour to know Jere.

Bill Graham