

TRANSCRIPT
CFRB AM Interviews CCAS former Crown Wards
who are recipients of the Hope for Children Scholarship
August 30, 2007

Subject:
Hope for Children

CFRB AM:

Yesterday, we were talking about the need for mentorship and we talked about a program here in Toronto that was sort of launching, and you know, sort of getting kids used to the idea of being integrated into the school system. New students and so on. But the importance of offering mentorship and support for kids that are new to the system and certainly we talked about the Breakfast Club and so on. Well today, some of the youths in the GTA will be among those receiving scholarships worth more than \$150,000 from the Hope for Children foundation. And essentially, it is offering support for those who were formerly in the care of the Catholic Children's Aid Society here in Toronto and they have been accepted into college, university or training programs but they need the cash to keep going and it's kind of, you know, it's a sort of a no-brainer, when you figure that some of these kids might not have the support they should otherwise have. What it means to attend post-secondary education. Well, we've got two of the scholarship award winners I guess with us now. Lucas Lawrence and Lucy Anacleto is also with us. Both, each of you I guess all set to back to or off to university. You're in post-secondary in the Fall.

LUCAS LAWRENCE (former Crown ward):
That's right. Yeah, very excited.

CFRB:
Now Lucas, you are going to U of T, right?

LAWRENCE:
That's right.

CFRB:
And you're studying?

LAWRENCE:
Architecture.

CFRB:
Excellent. And Lucy, what are your plans?

LUCY ANACLETO (former Crown ward):
I am taking a major in political science and a minor in women's studies.

CFRB:
Ah, so you won't do any reading or anything over the next...

ANACLETO:
No. CFRB: Where will you study that?

ANACLETO:
Pardon?

CFRB:
Where will you study?

ANACLETO:

I am studying at Concordia university.

CFRB:

So, you're making the trip too.

ANACLETO:

Well, I am actually entering my third year so Hope for Children has helped me out throughout the first two years.

CFRB:

Right.

ANACLETO:

And they will help me out until the end.

CFRB:

Now, tell me about that. I was going to ask you. When you say help you out through the end. Do you have to qualify in terms of your marks and maintaining some kind of average to make sure you are good for the money.

ANACLETO:

Yes. Well, you have to make sure you keep in contact, send in your marks and apply each year, to give them an idea of where you are at and how you are doing.

LAWRENCE:

Yeah, that's the great thing about the scholarship. It's a merit based scholarship so they keep track of our academic success and it really makes a big difference. They cover for tuition and books and it takes a lot of the pressure off.

CFRB:

And I was going to say, you talk about making a big difference Lucas, and you know, it's not inexpensive for anybody to go to university or post-secondary education these days. Would you have been able to even fathom this without that kind of scholarship support?

LAWRENCE:

Definitely not full time. That's where it really makes the key difference. it would have taken much longer to finish my education and you know, it relieves a lot of the stresses. Having to work full time and working part-time and take the extra year to finish it really quite makes a big difference for me.

CFRB:

Based on this as well, and as we pointed out at the top, those who are getting scholarships were formerly in the care of the Catholic Children's Aid Society and Lucy, I imagine, somebody had to kind of push you along at some point to say this is a good idea, this is where you should go and here is some support to do this.

ANACLETO:

Yeah, absolutely. I think that, that's exactly one of the key issues at hand, is that kids in care usually go through a lot of abuse and a lot of negligence, so there's a lot trauma, there's a lot of emotional trauma that goes on. A lot of kids don't believe that they can...

CFRB:

There'd be all kinds of self esteem issues, you know, I would think forefront.

ANACLETO:

Absolutely, and so having somebody who can tell you, you can do this, it is within your reach; keep going, even if you've had a bad day, keep going and try your best. And I was really lucky to have a really great

worker who was Anita Strauss from the CCAS who did that for me. But, I think that kids in care, especially, need more support and more encouragement and those expectations have to be high enough. People have to expect that they're going to go into university in order for them to want to meet those expectations.

CFRB:

Well, what's more important than...and I agree, that is important, you have to be able to think the right way, it's most important that they have good role models and clearly both of you qualify on that count, because you've worked hard and you are maintaining the march to maintain the scholarships so they can point to you and say, you know what, it works, there's two successful young people who are able to make the most of their opportunities. Congratulations.

BOTH:

Thank you. CFRB: And thanks for joining us today. Alright, Lucas Lawrence and Lucy Anacleto, and off to university. They are not among the lost. You know what, working hard, but good for the folks at the Hope for Children Foundation, they're able to come up with that kind of cash to support the kids.

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