

Hastings CAS Profile:

Jesse Ryan
Youth in care
2010 Clark Bursary recipient
May 20, 2010

Eighteen year old Jesse Ryan remembers attending his first Quinte Children's Foundation's Youth Achievement Awards at the Empire Theatre and hearing the name of a Clark Bursary recipient. "The first thought that went through my mind was that maybe one day I could get that bursary, go to university and, despite all my hardships, be a better person and have a better future," says Jesse.

This spring, Jesse was awarded a Clark Bursary for \$4,500 for 4 years, with \$1,000 at graduation. In September, he enters the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, working towards a Master of Information and Technology, with an ultimate career goal of becoming an IT Analyst with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

Jesse says he couldn't have made it through his schooling and bursary process without the help of many people, especially his foster parents, Brad and Lisa Murray.

"Without their support and how they accepted me into their family during the past four years, and for the rest of our lives, I don't think I'd be where I am today. I wouldn't be the same person," said Jesse, adding that another person who really has helped him is his HCAS worker, Paul Eyles. "He's my worker, but I think of him more as a friend," he said. "He's always been there for me."

"And of course, I can't even begin to thank Ron and Nancy Clark enough for the bursary itself," continued Jesse. "It inspired me to get through the last few years and be all I could be. It's been a hard transition and the possibility of a Clark Bursary has been a big motivator."