



## The Storwell Foster Children Bursary Program

For over two decades, Storwell Self Storage has been devoted to helping out the local community through supporting various social initiatives, along with providing high-quality [self-storage units](#). In an attempt to assist former foster children and youth in care as they pursue post-secondary education, Storwell has launched the Foster Children Bursary Program. The \$2,000 bursary is awarded each year to a deserving candidate who was formerly a part of the foster care system and is currently enrolled in post-secondary school.

Research has shown that adults with a bachelor's degree earn over \$1 million more during their careers compared to workers with a high school diploma alone. This puts former foster children and youth in care at a severe disadvantage as this demographic is significantly less likely to pursue post-secondary education compared to their peers. Even when post-secondary education is pursued, foster children are far less likely to finish their degrees. Approximately 1,000 Ontario teens age out of the foster care system each year. Of those, 400 qualify for post-secondary education, but only 80 pursue a degree or diploma. The financial burden that comes with post-secondary education is often too much for many former foster children, who receive little to no support once they age out of care.

The financial struggle of post-secondary education is felt particularly strongly by Indigenous children, who continue to be massively overrepresented in the Canadian foster care system. Census data from 2016 shows that Indigenous children aged 0 to 14 make up 7.7% of all Canadian children. But they represent over 52% of children in foster care in private homes. In recent years, there has been a call for greater cultural competency amongst social workers and administrators so that better methods can be used to assess Indigenous families, which take culture into account and will hopefully lead to a reduced number of Indigenous children being taken from their homes unnecessarily.

Foster children and youth in care continue to be one of the most overlooked demographics when it comes to financial aid for post-secondary education. In response to the severe lack of support that foster children and youth in care receive, Storwell has developed a bursary program that aims to provide foster children with resources and opportunities that might be otherwise unavailable to them. Eligibility requirements and access to the application form can be found at:

<https://www.storwell.com/bursary-application>