

Stantec donates \$35,000 to scholarships for Crown wards

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WATERLOO REGION — Stantec is donating \$35,000 to Family & Children's Services of the Waterloo Region for a scholarship program.

The money — \$7,000 over the next five years — will go toward scholarships for Crown wards, who are in permanent care of the agency, to pursue post-secondary studies.

"We're absolutely thrilled," said Alison Scott, executive director of Family & Children's Services.

She said the support goes way beyond financial.

"These kids get a very clear message that people in the community care about them."

The scholarship money will help two to three youth a year go to college or university, taking the pressure off about how they'll be able to afford it.

Balancing education and part-time jobs can be difficult without the support and security of a family to help them along.

"They haven't always had that same opportunity," Scott said.

Currently, there are more than 50 local youth who need assistance with post-secondary education costs.

"It's a big day for us in our region," said Kevin Fergin, Stantec's office leader in Waterloo Region.

The announcement was made Thursday evening during an open house at Stantec's new office in the David Johnston Research and Technology Park.

While the new office is in Waterloo, he said, "we really feel like our commitment to our community is a regional one."

Stantec, a professional design services firm that works all over the world, previously helped the agency with a project to build the family centre on Hanson Avenue in Kitchener.

"The future of our communities depends on our youth, their hearts and minds," said Fergin, who sits on the foundation board.

Stantec, which previously worked out of offices in the Market Square building in downtown Kitchener, wanted to help youth who don't have the means to pursue a post-secondary education, including covering the daily living expenses outside of tuition and books.

"They have other challenges that have been presented to them in life that they're dealing with as well," Fergin said. "They've got a lot on their plates."

People or organizations interested in supporting scholarships can contact the agency.
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