

Determined to Succeed

"I am trying to show my children that it is okay to struggle as long as you do not give up. I want to set an example for my children that hard work and determination yields results."

~ Danielle DeCoff, 2016-17 LNS Bursary Winner



My name is Danielle DeCoff. I am 24 years old.

I am attending a adult learning and employability program with the Port Hawkesbury Literacy Council. I left high school when I was 16 because I was not interested in school. I had a hard time listening, and being a rebellious teenager, I thought I knew everything. I felt as though I didn't need school. I have since discovered I should have never left and I should have stayed to get my diploma.

Shortly after having my first child in December 2012, I went on assistance. Two years later I had my second child. It is one of the hardest jobs in the entire world. There are days I wake up and wonder how I am going to survive the day with so little support, both mentally and financially. I was becoming a shut in. I was too afraid to try to work because of the complications with childcare and transportation. Besides, what if I failed? Who would hire me? I am a single mother with low skills, hardly good on paper.

***I reached a point in my life that I wanted change.
I finally had enough courage to ask my support worker through DCS
to help me get my education.***

I have successfully completed 2 of 5 GED tests and am attending a program that teaches employability skills and academic pieces that are helping me learn the things I need to finish my GED. My goal is to have my GED finished by the end of December 2016, so I can apply for the Social Services course that NSCC offers.

I am determined to succeed. I am trying to show my children that it is okay to struggle as long as you do not give up. I want to set an example for my children that hard work and determination yields results. I want them to learn never to hold back, to learn to live without fear. I want them to set and reach goals, and know their mom will forever help them succeed.