Seeds of Hope

SEEDS OF HOPE, MAKES EDUCATION SAVINGS A REALITY

The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) provides up to $2,000 in free money for post-secondary education for children born after January 2004 whose families receive the National Child Benefit Supplement. No parental contributions are needed.

The Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) offers a further matching grant for contributions into an RESP and, depending on income levels, can reach up to a 40% grant.

Nationally, only 1 in 3 eligible children have received these funds, due primarily to low awareness. The take up rate for families the Society serves is drastically lower due to barriers to access.

Barriers that have held people back in the past include a lack of multilingual, easy to understand resources, an intimidating multi-step process, and misconceptions around Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) which are required to access grants.

Now, you can help overcome the barriers!

Did you know?

Research demonstrates that even small amounts of education savings can set in motion a chain reaction of positive outcomes for a child and their family.
1. Children with some savings are more likely to graduate from high school 1 and 50% more likely to pursue a post-secondary education.
2. Lower-income children with as little as $500 in savings are 3x more likely to attend post-secondary education and 4x more likely to graduate.
3. Savings for a child’s higher education can help to lay the psychological and financial foundations for lifelong learning.
4. The process of saving and building assets helps teach money management, foster future orientation, and encourage long-term planning.

SmartSAVER Can Help

SmartSAVER, a program of the registered charity the Omega Foundation is focused on one thing: helping lower-income families make saving for their children’s post-secondary education a reality.

SmartSAVER launched StartMyRESP, which is an online application to help families connect with an RESP provider of their choice to open a no-cost RESP requiring no contributions and apply for the Canada Learning Bond using a secure online process.

SSVP has partnered with SmartSAVER to create StartMyRESP.ca/SSVP. This online application is the ‘tipping point’. Our network of volunteers can now to assist many more children. Barriers to access can be removed with an informed volunteer armed with a laptop or tablet.
Recruit a Seeds of Hope Champion!

A critical success factor in helping the children get access to these funds is to encourage 1 person per conference to step forward to lead the project. Many of the families we serve struggle with complex and cascading challenges, so it takes an informed and engaged volunteer to 'walk alongside' them to encourage and support them to take the steps to get access.

Armed with the Seeds of Hope Project Manual, volunteers using the StartMyRESP.ca/SSVP Online application can deliver hope for a brighter future.

DOWNLOAD: **SEEDS OF HOPE PROJECT MANUAL**

If you have any questions please contact Linda Alexander, Seeds of Hope project coordinator at seedsofhope@ssvp.ca.

In September 2012, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul launched a Systemic Change project in the Ontario region and to date, we have assisted over 100 children within the Halton Particular Council Conferences. We are helping families open RESP accounts to gain access to savings for post-secondary education.

The benefits for the families and their children have been tremendous. We have personally witnessed how empowering receiving these funds can be.

The project has also served as an effective recruitment tool. It is attracting volunteers who have an interest and skills in 'systemic change' work.

And, the project has attracted financial donations. Providing hope for the children's educational future really resonates with parishioners.

VISIT [www.SmartSAVER.org](http://www.SmartSAVER.org) FOR MULTILINGUAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORT MATERIAL