



National Scholarship Fund

Opening Doors for Maine Youth
who Grew Up in Foster Care

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 6

Fall 2009

Through the generous support of many donors throughout the State, the National Scholarship Fund has been able to provide scholarships to four students this year. The following are excerpts from two of their essays. We hope that these give you an insight into the enormity of the challenges these young people face as they pursue their college education.

...My biological father was killed shortly after my birth, and my biological mother could not provide for us, so my three sisters and myself were placed in DIFFERENT foster homes...My first foster mother died in her sleep Christmas morning...I was with my next foster family for four years and she promised to adopt me then backed out at the last minute... I then went to my next foster family who prepared me for my evidential adoption in 2001 at the age of ten. Having my siblings split from me is horrible...the trauma of having to be in foster care is bad enough without having the system make the situation worse. ...I was taken from my birth home by police officers to keep me safe...I have a strong desire to give back to the community to keep others safe.

...at the age of eight and my brother nine we were first taken from our birth mother...sadness from being away from my mother and guilt from feeling like I mist have done something wrong were feelings I was often experiencing...after being in a group home, our mother wanted a second chance, and we were again, removed from her home...we then went to a family for a short period, but they realized they could not keep us.. we then went to another family and finally to our maternal grandparents, who could not keep us for health reasons.. My brother and I were evidentially adopted into a very loving home...for me to further my education is like a thank you to all the people who have helped me get to where I am today.

Through the philanthropic efforts of the Lobster Shack (Cape Elizabeth, Maine), the National Scholarship Fund was allowed to place a poster and a "cup" to collect change for a period of time over the summer. This effort not only raised over \$2400, but educated the Lobster Shack patrons on the need of youth who have aged out of foster care.



Pictured are: Jeff Porch; Manager of the Lobster Shack, Candace Fleury: NSF Recipient, Sam Wilson: Maine State Chairperson

NSF Recipient Candace Fleury Receives Youth Who Inspire Us Award

This past June, NSF Recipient Candace Fleury, along with 7 other youth from across the State, received a *Youth Who Inspire Us* award from First Lady, Mrs. Karen Baldacci at a special ceremony at the Blaine house.

This award is presented by Keeping Maine's Children Connected, an initiative of the Maine Children's Cabinet. The award is given to youth who have demonstrated persistence in achieving their educational goals, even under the toughest of situations. The entire NSF community congratulates Candace for her commitment to her self development and her understanding of the need to further her education.

**YOU have the opportunity to change the lives of these young adults
and other Maine youth who have aged out of foster care...**

Join us now. A donation of any amount is tangible proof to these young people that they are not invisible and irrelevant. Your donation says their education and their future matters and you believe enough to invest in them.

For more information and our story, or to donate securely on-line, please visit
www.nationalscholarshipfund.org.