

2025

AMADEUSZ SCHOLARSHIP REPORT



ABOUT

THE AMADEUSZ SCHOLARSHIP

Amadeusz supports young people who are incarcerated to create positive change in their lives through access to education, community supports, mentorship, and exceptional care. The **Amadeusz Education Program** supports young people aged 18 to 35 in working towards their educational goals. The goal of this program is to provide young people who are incarcerated with the opportunity, resources, and support to complete their high school education and to explore, prepare for, and attend post-secondary schooling.

The **Amadeusz Scholarship** is designed to offer support to individuals in the community who have been released from incarceration and are working towards reaching their post-secondary education goals. Amadeusz has awarded \$61,000 in scholarship funds since 2022.

ELIGIBILITY

- 18 to 35 years old.
- Pursuing post-secondary education (in-process or accepted to a Canadian college, university, trades, or other institution).
- Current resident of Ontario.
- Recently released from incarceration.

GUIDELINES

- Proof of enrollment into a post-secondary program is required.
- Completion of the scholarship application does not guarantee acceptance of the scholarship.
- The scholarship will be provided as a cheque to those who qualify.
- An individual can be granted only one scholarship per year, but can re-apply the following year.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

In 2025, Amadeusz awarded a total of **\$20,000** in scholarship funds to **ten** young people.

Ten \$2,000 scholarships were awarded to young people who have been released from incarceration, are currently in community, and registered or will be registered for full-time post-secondary studies in 2025.

We want to thank all of the young people who applied for the 2025 Amadeusz Scholarship. Your dedication to furthering your education does not go unnoticed.

"I usually stray away from applying to things like this, but I felt like this was made for me."

2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

ABDULLAHI

Network Cabling Specialist
International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers

AIDEN

General Arts and Science
George Brown College

ALICE

Social Work
Wilfred Laurier University

BREANNA

Hairstyling
Trillium College

CLAYTON

Human Resources
Canadian College of Business,
Science, and Technology

JANA

Community and Justice Services
Humber College

MOKA

**Critical Studies in Equity and
Solidarity / African Studies**
University of Toronto

SHEMAR

Master of Teaching
University of Toronto

STEPHEN

Baking and Pastry Arts Management
George Brown College

ZAIRE

Urban and Regional Planning
Mohawk College



“The \$2000 gifted to me from Amadeusz is going to give me more security starting school. My background wouldn’t have let me pay for this on my own. I can’t wait to start school, thank you so much! **This is life-changing.**”

“I’m trying to turn my life around... and do better for my children and loved ones to create a better future.”

AIDEN



“First and foremost, I want to sincerely thank you for awarding me the 2025 Amadeusz scholarship. This opportunity means more to me than words can fully express. Receiving this support will not only **ease the financial pressure** of my own educational journey but will also allow me to invest into my daughter’s future by contributing towards her RESP. Growing up I faced significant socioeconomic challenges and one of my greatest goals is to ensure my daughter has a strong financial foundation. This scholarship will allow me to **focus more on my studies** by helping to cover out of pocket educational expenses while also making it possible to set aside savings for her future.”

“Your generosity is making a real and lasting impact. Not just for me but for the next generation.”

ABDULLAHI



“Amadeusz, I am deeply grateful for your generous support. Your decision to award me the scholarship is a significant milestone in my academic journey. It not only eases my financial burden but also motivates me to **strive for academic excellence**. I am truly honoured to be a recipient of this scholarship.

Although numerous challenges have marked my journey, every setback has reinforced my commitment to keep striving for what I believe in. This scholarship is not just financial aid, but a testament to my **resilience and determination**. It brings me closer to my dream of becoming a Social Worker, where I can make a **meaningful difference** in the lives of underserved communities.

Furthermore, receiving this scholarship is a testament to the fact that good things can happen to people who come from communities like Regent Park.”

ALICE



“The 2025 Amadeusz Scholarship will impact my educational journey by helping me to afford my tuition fees and giving me a bit of a break for once! I really appreciate this opportunity. **My education is extremely important to me** and this is a great help. As a mother of 4 children, myself and my needs always come last but I have been **focusing on my education** and it will eventually pay off.”

“It is important to me to keep myself on a positive path and be able to do something I enjoy and can make a living from.”

BREANNA

RECIPIENTS



“The scholarship will help tremendously. At this time this support really goes a long way, the scholarship will **ease a financial burden** and allow me to focus on my studies and career. It is very motivating as it makes me feel recognized for putting the effort and work in. This brings me **one step closer to my career goals** and it's exciting to be able to learn new skills and **make a difference in the community**. I am very grateful for the opportunity and I will continue to be the best version of my self moving forward. Thank you.”

“It makes me feel great knowing I didn't give up and it's never too late to go to school.”

CLAYTON



“I was very surprised to learn I had won this scholarship. Not having a high school diploma I thought education and all the doors that it opens would not be available to me. Now I have **hope for my future** and see that people who make mistakes can reach their goals. This is what I want to show others in the justice system, that **they are not their mistakes**. I want to use my educational journey to be able to do this by completing my college diploma and the accelerated pathway to university. The funds will be used towards tuition as I wasn't approved for OSAP.”

“I am grateful for Amadeusz to see me for my potential and not judge me for past mistakes.”

JANA

RECIPIENTS



“Receiving this scholarship will save me from having to take out further loans to pay for my university education. This Amadeusz scholarship will allow me to have **peace of mind** concerning my financial capability. Thank you for this opportunity of academic pursuance.”

“I have grown up to understand the importance of my parents advice and guidance when it comes to getting a higher education to provide for myself in a space where I can aid in dismantling barriers.”

MOKA



“Receiving the 2025 Amadeusz Scholarship award is more than financial support. It’s a **powerful affirmation** that my voice, my work, and my dreams matter. This scholarship will help relieve the financial pressure of pursuing my studies, allowing me to focus on my academic goals and hands on experiences that prepare me for my future career in education. Beyond academics, this fuels my **commitment to give back to underserved communities**, particularly youth who face systemic barriers, by equipping me with the tools and confidence to create meaningful change. Knowing the entire Amadeusz committee believes in my potential motivates me to continue breaking cycles of trauma, poverty and limitation, replacing them with cycles of **opportunity, empowerment, and hope**. Beyond financial support, this represents a lifeline which allows me to continue moving toward my dream of becoming an A4-certified high school teacher. As someone who has worked closely with youth in underserved communities, I’ve seen firsthand how access to education, mentorship, and opportunity can completely change a life. For me, this is also a **vote of confidence**. Receiving this award is a reminder that the work I’ve done and the path I’m on and steps I’ve taken to get here matter and inspires me to pour even more into my mission of interrupting cycles of limitation for young people, especially those who have faced the same systemic barriers I’ve had to navigate. With Amadeusz’s support, I am **one step closer** to standing in front of a classroom, empowering the next generation to acknowledge their potential, own their future, and know that **their story does not end where it began**. Thank you.”

SHEMAR

RECIPIENTS



“Receiving the 2025 Amadeusz Scholarship would be life-changing for me. As someone who has faced homelessness, addiction, and incarceration, this support represents more than financial relief—it’s a **vote of confidence in my future** and the work I am doing to rebuild it. Currently enrolled in the Baking and Pastry Arts Management program at George Brown College, I am committed to using my education to break cycles, build stability, and **create something meaningful**. This scholarship would reduce the pressure of housing and transportation costs, allowing me to stay focused on my studies and professional development without constant financial stress. Beyond the monetary value, being selected would affirm that people with difficult pasts can still **move forward with purpose**.”

“It would empower me to continue rising above my circumstances and inspire others in similar positions to believe in their own potential.”

STEPHEN



“Getting the 2025 Amadeusz Scholarship would honestly mean a lot to me. It would take a huge **weight off my shoulders** and help me stay focused on my education without constantly stressing about money. I’m currently balancing school, personal responsibilities, and everyday life, and sometimes that gets overwhelming. This scholarship would give me a **chance to breathe** and really concentrate on doing well in school and reaching my goals.

I’ve been through a lot to get to this point. There were times where it would have been easier to quit, but I kept pushing because **I know what kind of future I want for myself**. I’m trying to break cycles and stay on the right path. For me, education is a big part of that. It gives me direction and shows me that I can accomplish more than I ever thought possible.

What makes this scholarship even more meaningful is that it represents more than just financial help. It shows that **someone out there sees potential in me**. That kind of support means everything. It makes me feel like I’m not alone in this and that there are people who want to see me succeed. That kind of belief pushes me to keep going, even when things get hard. This scholarship would **open more doors** for me. I want to keep moving forward, learn as much as I can, and eventually be in a position where I can give back to others who are going through their own struggles.”

ZAIRE

WHY AN AMADEUSZ SCHOLARSHIP?

Scholarships play a vital role in supporting individuals who have been released from incarceration and are pursuing post-secondary studies, as they help **remove significant financial barriers** to education. After release, many individuals face limited employment opportunities, housing instability, and other systemic challenges that make it difficult to afford tuition, textbooks, and other educational expenses. Scholarships not only provide essential financial relief but also send a powerful message of **belief in a person's potential** and **right to rebuild their life**. By investing in education, these scholarships aim to support long-term success, reduce the likelihood of re-incarceration, and contribute to healthier, more equitable communities.

SUPPORT AMADEUSZ

If you would like to support the Amadeusz Scholarship moving forward, please reach out to info@amadeusz.ca

If you would like to donate to Amadeusz, please visit our website at www.amadeusz.ca/support/donate

For information on future Amadeusz scholarships, follow our social media [@AmadeuszTO](#)



THANK YOU!

Thank you to ScotiaRISE and TELUS Friendly Future Foundation® for funding the 2025 Amadeusz Scholarship!

ScotiaRISE is Scotiabank's 10-year, \$500 million initiative to promote economic resilience among disadvantaged groups.

TELUS Friendly Future Foundation® is an independent registered charity that supports the well-being of youth who face obstacles to reaching their full potential.

We are grateful for Phillip, Roxanna, Javontae, Kemari, Sophia, and Jonah - volunteers who came together through Foresters Financial to create 24 essential kits and 24 school supply kits for Amadeusz participants who are transitioning back into the community.

Each scholarship recipient received a backpack and a school supply kit, as well as Amadeusz merchandise.