



Deep Hope

Stories of how your support helps overflow deep hope in our school community.

2023 DCHS FALL DRIVE



DURHAM CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL

Developing Minds | Strengthening Hearts | Changing Lives

Thank you to all of the students, staff, alumni, and parents who contributed their time, insight, and photos to this fundraiser. Your partnership is immensely valued and will go on to serve many more students.

Front Cover Photo

Chelsea Smith and Callum Fitzpatrick, Grade 10



LEAH BEERDA, GRADE 11



PHIL JONES & BOSTON HENDERSON BUTA, GRADE 9



WILLIAM OSBORNE, GRADE 9



What is your deep hope?

We've been asking that question a lot lately around these parts. Our Deep Hope at Durham Christian High School is to inspire the next generation of youth to be hope-filled followers of Christ who seek to be agents of renewal and restoration. Sounds simple, right?

The truth is, it has never been harder to speak about hope to our youth. Cynicism and despair are easy, and can be the default. Sometimes it feels like hope is hard. Yet here we are, in 2023, pushing into that on a daily basis.

Hope is counter-cultural. Christian schooling is counter-cultural.

Your gifts are an act of deep hope. Your gifts are a demonstration of your support in our work, not only today, but for future generations. Your donations to DCHS allow us to keep the lights on, explore new opportunities for our staff and students, and keep tuition at a rate that is sustainable, while supporting families who require assistance.

Our goal this year is to raise \$75,000 toward our bursary program and for general donations toward our academic program.

Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for remembering DCHS in your prayers as well. May God bless you richly as you give.

SHANNON MARCUS

Principal



THANK YOU FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for Durham Christian High School, I want to thank you for supporting our school with your financial gifts. DCHS has always had a supporting community that has given joyfully and generously! DCHS would not exist without this faithful community.

As a parent, volunteer, and board member, I am able to witness God's faithfulness to our school. We have God's blessing of talented and dedicated staff. Our outstanding volunteers fill in the gaps to support the staff and students to provide an excellent education and high school experience.

Our students love their school. They understand the blessing they have in DCHS. I hear them talk about how glad they are to be students at DCHS.

As financial supporters of the school you help make a difference at DCHS. In turn, our DCHS graduates make their communities a better place. Just look around you – you may have a DCHS graduate that you work with, or hired, or buy from.

Thank-you again for being part of the DCHS community and your continued support of the school.

PAUL BANDSTRA

Your generosity leads to tangible results.

Here's how your giving has made a difference in the lives of our families and students.



113

Students Enrolled

We rejoice for an increase of 17 students this school year.



\$88,000 GIVEN TO **40** FAMILIES in 2023

Bridge Bursary

This bursary helps reduce tuition for families who also have children enrolled in a Christian Elementary School.



51

New Students

Students who are brand new to the DCHS community.



\$54,000 GIVEN TO **18** FAMILIES in 2023

Community Bursary

The Community Bursary allows us to assist families who desire Christian education for their children, but who experience financial difficulty in doing so.

TYLER ZWIER, GRADE 10



"Simply put, the bursaries we received made access to education easier. Donors that believed in being generous gave us peace of mind knowing we could send our kids to DCHS." - *Anonymous Bursary Recipient*

Help create more stories like this. Give today.

Tise's Story

Tise Osunsanya is a Grade 12 student at DCHS. Last year, Tise won the citizenship award in recognition of her integrity, responsibility, respect, and sense of Christian community.



What is it like being a student here at Durham?

Being a member of the Durham Christian community has truly been a transformative experience. Here, I've discovered a sense of belonging and purpose that goes beyond the traditional academic setting. It's more than just a school to me; it's a family I feel blessed to be a part of.

What are some fond memories you have of this place?

One fond memory I have in Durham was during our annual Ontario Pioneer Camp (OPC) last year. As a new student, I did not expect to have the opportunity to bond with my classmates that easily. OPC is very fond to me because it was where my strongest friendships began, from making smores to participating in the activities together, this is a memory I will never forget. Another would be volunteering during our Grade 7/8 day, where I had the chance to show younger students what high school really was.

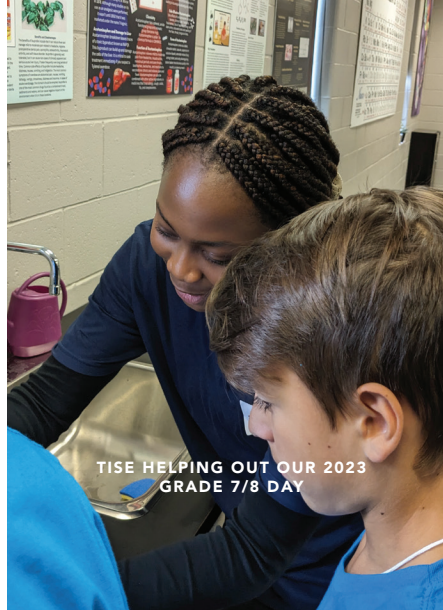
How have you grown spiritually at Durham?

Spiritually, Durham has made my walk with Christ smooth. Our weekly small group meeting, which I am a leader in, gives us a way to talk about challenges teenagers face and solutions for these worries found in our Bible.

Being surrounded with other steadfast believers assures me I am not alone in this walk. Socially, Durham is a place surrounded with love making it very easy to build friendships, it has also taught me to be more accommodating of others.

Why should people support DCBS financially?

DCBS is more than an educational institution; it is a nurturing community that fosters growth, both academically and spiritually. Your support would directly contribute to an environment where young minds are not only educated but also encouraged to explore their faith, build character, and develop a sense of responsibility.



This year, your support could help a student like Tise thrive wholistically through Christian education at Durham. Will you partner with us?



ALUMNUS ISAAC STELL & HIS FAMILY

Isaac currently works as *Operations Manager* at Fair Havens Camp & Conference Centre in Beaverton, Ontario.



“The uniqueness of the classroom sizes and intentionality of teachers were beyond instrumental. Being recognized for all aspects of my life in a near one-on-one ratio with my instructors meant that I could express myself and accept feedback in a clear and comfortable way. This allowed me to push myself to improve further. To this day, nearly a decade since the time I started high school, my teachers recognize me by name, can continue conversations about me and my family, and are still open about theirs. My teachers were more than teachers — they were mentors, developers, and disciplers.”

— ISAAC STELL, DCHS GRADUATE, CLASS OF 2018

PARENT TESTIMONY

“Teachers cared for our children individually - not only regarding academics, but also their character and spiritual well being. They were such positive role models. Approachable, willing to help, reliable, fully capable of teaching.”



CHRISTIANE MBIANDA, TEACHER

Brad & Michelle's Story

Brad and Michelle Snook have more in common than a loving marriage and two children aged two and four — they also graduated from DCHS in 2009 and 2011.



Where did you go after DCHS and what do you do now?

Brad: I attended Redeemer University and graduated with Business Marketing Honours. I currently work for Bell Canada as a Regional Sales Manager.

Michelle: I attended Mohawk College where I graduated with an Honours Diploma in Legal Office Administration. I currently work as a law clerk for Russell Alexander Collaborative Family Lawyers and have been with this firm for six years now.

What are some fond memories you have of Durham?

Brad: My favourite part about DCHS are the life long friendships that I made. It was great building friendships with people that had the same set of beliefs and core values that helped me grow in my faith. Playing music and sports, attending dances, trips, and events were definitely a highlight for me.

Michelle: Through Praise Team, I was able to go to Nashville in 2009 and Chicago in 2011. In Grade 12, I was a member of Student Parliament which planned a number of school events. In Grade 12 the school introduced a new law course which is what inspired me to pursue my career.

How did Durham prepare you for life in the real world?

Brad: The importance of hard work was reinforced in me during my time at Durham. There were some classes that I didn't see value in, but I came to realise the importance of trying your best even if you're not necessarily interested. Durham also helped challenged me to be more like Jesus.

Michelle: Through the discipline impressed upon me at Durham I was able to successfully complete each of my courses and I ended up graduating from Mohawk with Honours. I was also the recipient of the Ross and McBride Scholarship award for academic excellence. In my career I continue to use the same principles of discipline and hard work.

Socially, I was blessed to come out of Durham with lasting friendships. To this day, my husband and I are still quite close with many of our friends from Durham. We've gone to school together, gone to each other's weddings and seen many of us become parents. It has been a blessing to gain lasting friendships with people who share the same faith and values.





As you went out into the world, what did you notice in hindsight about the uniqueness of Durham? What makes this place special?

Brad: Considering Durham was such a big part of my life, I always found it interesting that when you told people in Bowmanville that you went to Durham, very few people knew that it even existed! That being said, for me, it was one of the most important and influential places for me. My parents presented me with the choice of attending public high school in grade 11 and 12, but I had begged them to allow me to continue going to Durham. The small town feel of the school truly creates a sense of connectedness between the students, as well as the relationships with the staff.

Michelle: Durham provided me with the firm foundation I needed to go out into the world and know what I stood for as a young Christian woman. When making new friends in college, I was often met with shock when I would tell them the size of the high school I went to.



Help create more stories like Brad and Michelle's. Your generosity helps us to support initiatives that made Brad and Michelle's high school experience special. Things like Student Body Leadership, band, and our high-quality academic program are still making a difference in the lives of our students.

Parent's Corner

Being a parent in 2023

is not easy. We talked to two parents with students currently at DCHS to hear about how we are partnering with them in their pursuit of raising their teenagers. Nicole has two kids currently enrolled at Durham – Rachele (grade 12) and Ben (grade 9). Cristina's son Luka is also in grade 9 this year.



How have you seen your children transform during their time at Durham?

Nicole: Attending Durham has helped our kids further develop their academics, their faith, and their social life. They have a lot of respect for the teachers and appreciate that the teachers have a high level of knowledge about the subjects they teach. In classes and through various school activities such as chapel, they are enjoying learning about life and faith. Our kids have made good friends and enjoy participating in various clubs and athletics. They enjoy the annual trip to Ontario Pioneer Camp and the various field trips and school outings. Our daughter is also very excited about the upcoming Europe trip.

Cristina: Although it's only been a couple of months of school, Luka is obtaining the best marks we have ever seen. His peers include him in their group - many of whom have known each other for so long but they include Luka which is heartwarming!

What are some examples of Durham stepping up to meet the needs of your children?

Cristina: Mrs. Brinkman has been so kind and it truly shows that Luka is not just another number. You wouldn't get such kind

attention and care in any other school. They're always willing to help and respond to messages in a timely manner. It is apparent that they go the extra distance for student's success. The body of Christ is so present at DCHS!

Nicole: The teachers and staff at Durham know the students personally. When our kids have been away from school due to health or family reasons, they've felt cared for and have been given extensions on assignments and tests. As parents, we are thankful for the feedback from teachers and their availability to communicate and meet with us if needed. We are grateful for the time and energy that the staff and teachers invest into all aspects of the students' lives.



When you donate to DCHS, you partner with parents like Nicole and Cristina who are aiming to invest in their children.

"It is our hope and prayer that the Christian community will continue supporting Durham so that students can continue to experience an excellent high school education that is provided by knowledgeable teachers and that is rooted in a Christian worldview." - Nicole Van Geest

PARENT TESTIMONY

“We had very positive interactions with all teachers. Our students, additionally, consistently commented about their positive and professional experiences in class.”



**AMBER ANDERSON,
GRADE 12**

**BELLA PAROSCHY,
GRADE 11**

**LIA MERECIECA-YEPES,
GRADE 11**

**NATHANIEL RITSKES,
GRADE 11**

TJ WEYKAMP, GRADE 11

LIAM RENKEMA, GRADE 9

VINCE BEERDA, TEACHER



ELI WOODSTRA, GRADE 11

ELLA VANHALTEREN, GRADE 11

2023 ULTIMATE FRISBEE TEAM

PARENT TESTIMONY

“It was the personal relationships that made the difference to my kids in faith formation. Teachers that took interest in their lives and prayed for them.”

When people — parents, grandparents, business-owners, uncles, aunts, and alumni support the work at Durham, the results are clear:

***Developed Minds. Strengthened Hearts.
Changed Lives.***

This year, we're asking you to partner with us again to help us raise **\$75,000.**



ETHAN MOSTERD, GRADE 9

THREE ways you can give towards our \$75,000 goal:



1 - CHEQUE

Payable to **Durham Christian High School**



2 - CREDIT CARD

Visit dchs.com/donate to make your gift or scan the **QR code** which will take you directly to our CSF giving portal where you can give to our general or bursary fund.



Christian School
Foundation



3 - E-TRANSFER

Send to finance@dchs.com

Bless your school with a larger gift

When you donate stocks
or shares!

You will eliminate the capital gains tax, receive a full donation receipt, and even better, have a greater influence on our culture in the name of Christ!

Contact Kevin to get started!
ktebrake@christianschoolfoundation.ca



Christian School
Foundation



Surround Us With Prayer

ENROLLMENT

Praise God for the new families that are enrolling at DCHS.

GRADE 12'S

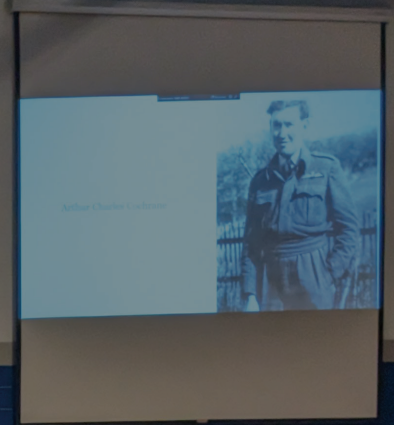
Pray for our grade 12 students as they prepare for post-secondary options.

WISDOM

Pray for the DCHS board and School Administration as they implement the new strategic plan.

STAFF & STUDENTS

Pray for the emotional and spiritual well-being of our staff and students.





Durham Christian High School

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