



## Fondation Nicole-Saint-Louis

For the Advancement of Education and Christian Evangelical Faith

### Without my sister...

By France Saint-Louis

I have learned how to carry on with my life without my sister. When Nicole passed away, it was as if half my own body and soul had been ripped away from me. Nicole and I were very close and the comradery that we shared was beyond measure. She was my best friend, my confidant and we loved each other unconditionally. Today, I have a rich heritage of memories, of wonderful values and the desire to share with others a part of herself. Thus, it is without my sister, but thanks to her marvellous testimony that the Nicole Saint Louis Foundation now has been able to see the light of day.

What is the Nicole Saint Louis Foundation? The best way for me to begin is at the heart of the Foundation, Nicole's heart. The Foundation was created in memory of my sister who died of cancer at the age of 24. It is a charitable organization whose goal is to perpetuate Nicole's acts of generosity by awarding educational grants. At the same time, the Foundation seeks to contribute to advancing the evangelical Christian faith which truly echoes Nicole's testimony. Given that the Nicole Saint Louis Foundation was created in her image, we must know who Nicole was and how the Foundation came about.

### She was my best friend

Above all, Nicole was a sister to me in the true sense of the word. She was my best friend and accomplice! Probably, the mere 11 months of difference in our ages made us even more sensitive and close to one another. Nicole left no one indifferent. Even as a child, Nicole carried out acts of generosity. I remember when we were little girls, Nicole spontaneously decided to give her favourite doll to another little girl who attended our school. In Nicole's eyes, this little girl was less fortunate than us and Nicole wanted to do something to help her, in



her own way.

Nicole gave more than just things. I remember one instance, several years later. Nicole had convinced my parents to take in a friend from school for a time since she was going through real difficulties in her own home situation. Because of this generous gesture and by the help of our parents, this friend heard the Good News of the Saviour and gave her life to Jesus. These gestures came naturally to Nicole. She was not only generous to others, but also to me, which is why she was a true sister.

### Her generosity touched me deeply and continues to speak to me today

Being close in age, my brother, sister and I were all eligible to attend Cégep and university at the same time. It was difficult for my parents to pay for all our studies and keep up with their own expenses. However, they had instilled in us the importance of studying and making the maximum effort to succeed. Therefore, we each looked for a summer job and applied for student loans and grants. Both my brother and sister succeeded in finding summer employment and Nicole also received a student grant. That summer, since I was not able to find a job or receive any grants to pay for my first year of studies at Cégep, I stayed home to help around the house. As soon as Nicole realized my need, with all her spontaneity and generosity, she gave to me her entire grant. Her gift moved me so much and continues to do so every time I think about it! I would never have been able to benefit from this

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gift of money without my sister. In return, the only way I could thank her at the time was to give her a small, shiny orange penknife. She treasured it as if it had the same value as her gift to me. I never had a chance to pay back the money she gave so freely to me. Cancer hit her at such a young age and at a time in my life when it was impossible to reimburse her.



## The Nicole Saint Louis Foundation awards the first study grants in the history of the organization

by Alain Saint-Louis

The Nicole Saint Louis Foundation is pleased to announce that the first study grants in its history have been awarded. This unique, charitable organization was launched in 2002 and seeks to help students pursue their dream of learning a trade or profession.

## The Foundation also seeks to contribute to the advancement of the evangelical Christian faith

Despite her sufferings over the eight months of her illness and knowing she was going to die, Nicole always kept her eyes fixed on Jesus, her Lord and Saviour. She never chose to suffer so much, but she would often say that Jesus' suffering must have been very great, too, since He had chosen to suffer and die for her sake. Keeping God's word in her heart, her actions were often a witness of her faith. She was a model of goodness, compassion and generosity. She talked about her faith in Jesus who died on the cross without deserving it, who had suffered and bled out of love for the ones who realize they are lost. In spite of all her good works, Nicole recognized that it was only her faith in Jesus Christ that guaranteed that she would be close to Him in eternity. Nicole had accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour when she was very young. God gave her the opportunity to witness of her faith in Jesus by her actions and her words. This therefore is the desire of the Foundation that carries her name.

## Helping promising candidates to train for a profession of which they will be proud

Besides being a charity that provides educational grants, the Nicole Saint Louis Foundation also seeks to contribute to the advancement of the evangelical faith. Today, even in her absence, Nicole can continue to have an impact through us, her family and friends, as we perpetuate her testimony through her Foundation. Like Nicole, there are many young people with clear Christian testimonies who need encouragement. I believe, as Nicole did, that my help can touch their lives in a tangible way. Focussing on the Lord, our Saviour, the Foundation seeks to perpetuate Nicole's testimony by acts of generosity and by a faith witness to Jesus the Saviour.

Today, my involvement in the Nicole Saint Louis Foundation allows me to multiply Nicole's spontaneous gesture. By their ongoing support, a large number of sensitive, committed and generous people like Nicole will find an avenue to help promising candidates train for a worthy trade or profession, one of which they can be proud. I invite you to join me in generously supporting the Nicole Saint Louis Foundation to help fulfill its mission and touch others...for life!

## Quebec needs technicians and professionals

Did you know that nothing equals a professional degree to combat the problem of school drop-outs and the severe lack of trained technicians? Recent articles attest to the fact that our young people in Canada are urged to pursue a university degree, despite the fact that 75 % of the present needs in the workforce require a non-university training. At this time, nearly 82% of the labour needs in Quebec demand a technical or professional degree.

In October 2003, Claude B  chard, the Minister of Employment, Social Structures and the Family, said, "As a society, we have the responsibility to train our young people in the fields that offer the greatest possibility of employment..."

These needs, combined with Nicole's testimony of faith and her concrete gesture of generosity towards her sister are what have inspired the mission of this Foundation. Indeed, despite the painful trial of her illness, Nicole continually confirmed her faith in Jesus Christ and witnessed unceasingly, touching the lives of many people across the country.

## Criteria for selection

In order to qualify for a study grant from the Nicole Saint Louis Foundation, candidates must fulfill the following criteria. The candidate must be:

- ( a Canadian citizen,
- ( enrolled as a full-time student in a school for specialized training, a high school professional program or a technical program in a college recognized by the Ministry of Education.
- ( able to maintain good academic standing,
- ( a born-again Christian and active in an evangelical church.

In order to show impartiality when choosing candidates who fit the criteria, the Board of governors of the Foundation has appointed an independent committee to select the winners from among the most promising finalists. Following these criteria, three distinguished students were recommended by the selection committee to receive study grants from the Nicole Saint Louis Foundation for 2003-2004.



Grant-Awarding Ceremony at the Église Baptiste Évangélique of Longueuil, Quebec.

From left to right, Pastor Normand Joseph, Stéphane Rondeau, France Saint Louis, Judith Gosselin, Sébastien Leduc, Carole Doucet, Yolande Saint Louis and Fernand Saint Louis.

*Congratulations  
to our winners!*

Study Grants for the Coming Year

To receive a grant for the Fall of 2004, interested candidates should submit an application before May 15, 2004.

For more information about this Foundation, please consult the Web site:

[www.FondationNicoleSaintLouis.org](http://www.FondationNicoleSaintLouis.org)

To contact us by e-mail, write to:

[fnsl@FondationNicoleSaintLouis.org](mailto:fnsl@FondationNicoleSaintLouis.org)

## A Promising Future

Therefore, the first three grants given by the Foundation were awarded to Judith Gosselin, Sébastien Leduc and Lydia Roberge. These young students received their grants at the end of the summer during a special ceremony with their families, their pastor and members of their congregations present from Longueuil and Mascouche.

Judith Gosselin is studying in the Dental Hygiene Program at Edouard Montpetit College. When asked what new birth means to her personally, she said, "It is when you come to the foot of the cross and you give all that you have to God. You want Him to be your Saviour and Lord, unconditionally and without compromise. I really took an about face..."

Sébastien Leduc will be taking biblical and theological studies at the New Brunswick Bible Institute. When asked what motivates him to pursue a theological education, he replied, "I would like to deepen my understanding of the Word of God for one year in order to have a solid spiritual foundation. This will help me to better serve the Lord in the future."

Lydia Roberge is in her last year of the Techniques in Documentation Program at the John Abbott Cégep. When asked what the new birth means to her, she replied, "I was living in a sinful state and, in ignorance, I thought that what I was doing was okay. But when I accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour and Lord, my desires, my projects and my whole life changed. Now I desire to do God's will and to be where He wants me to be."

*"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

*(2 Corinthians 9:8)*



Grant-Awarding Ceremony at the Église Baptiste Évangélique of Terrebonne-Mascouche, Quebec. Left to right are Mr. Roberge, Lydia Roberge, France Saint Louis, Alain Saint Louis and Pastor Louis Bourque.

# *Let's make a difference!*



*by Carole Doucet*

It is solely due to the generous gifts of individuals, corporations and organizations that the Nicole Saint Louis Foundation can fulfill its mission of awarding educational grants to chosen students.

In this way, the Foundation can help deserving candidates achieve their goal of practising the trade of their choice. The testimonies of the 2003-2004 recipients speak for themselves:

"It's like a nod of approval from the Lord to encourage me to pursue my goal next year!"

"I just wanted to touch base with you, now that I am in Cégep, to let you know how much this grant has really helped me. I never realized how much my books would cost!"

"...I see God's presence in my life and how He provides our needs when we do his will."

Thank you for supporting this Foundation and helping us make a difference!

The Foundation is a charitable organization, registered with the provincial and federal governments. For every gift exceeding \$10, you will receive an income tax receipt, adding to the impact of your gift.



Please send your gift to:  
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Charitable number: 86131 9812 RR0001

*"...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."*

*(Philippians 2:13)*