

# Manulife Life Lessons Scholarship Program – Desmond’s Story

## Transcript

Hello, my name is Desmond Anuku. I am a second-year student at Carleton University. And I study economics and with a concentration in finance and a minor in biology. Um, today I'll be talking about why I should get the Man Your Life Scholarship. I just want to explain, I want you guys to know kinda, a little bit more about me.

So, um, when I was 16, I experienced the most painful thing a young man can ever experience. And it was the loss of my father. Right. And this came during 2020, which was a time of a lot of uncertainty and stress. And my father was my best friend. He was my mentor. And it felt like my whole world had been shattered right in front of me.

With no life insurance, no family. Uh, with a lot of funding, a lot of, lots of money, my family started to struggle. We had a family of five. I'm the last kid. And we started to struggle. My father was a breadwinner and not having that support financially sent us into a rough patch. It was scary. And I was trying to, you know, trying to look, go past it and build past it.

But I watched us go from financially stable. And I watched that status of financial stability drain slowly in front of my face. Watch. Um, so I picked up a job as a kid, as a 16 year old. I started picking up jobs and, you know, I've started working on those jobs, but I, I told myself something. It's like, Just cause I'm in such a terrible situation doesn't mean that I have to stay here.

And I allowed myself to rise from that adversity. And I didn't let that put me down. I know lots of young people who experience stuff like that. They sit down there where they are. But I didn't want that to be my story. So, I started working hard. And I started working hard. I started trying to do things to better my community.

And I created my nonprofit organization called Inspire the Youth. And in Inspire the Youth, what we do is we, I go into schools, and I run programs with disadvantaged youth to try and make them grow as leaders in their community because that is what we need. We need young leaders. I rose from my adversity and now, you know, running my non-profit and volunteering here at Carleton at the Global Minds Club.

I see students struggling in high schools and I just want to help them and that is how I've given back to the society. I think life insurance is really important and after experiencing it really, really tough, I know that I would definitely be a representative, a good representative for the importance of life insurance in someone's life, but also as someone who rose from adversity.

I am running, I'm helping out in a study at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, studying language barriers in the, in studies that are taken in Ottawa. So I know that I am a good, I am a good candidate and proof that students can rise from adversity and that you should never let your adversity be the end of your story.

Thank you.