

What will give your life purpose?



Shane grew up in a small town and, like many teenagers, enjoyed the social side of school more than academics. At 17, he moved out on his own, and education slipped down his list of priorities.

Although he had strong support from his Vice Principal and showed great potential, life took a challenging turn.

Substance use became a part of Shane's world, and over time, it led to a cycle of setbacks and rehabilitation. Remaining in the same environment made change difficult.

But during one treatment program, Shane was asked a question that shifted everything:

"What will give your life purpose?" His answer was clear. "School."

With guidance from mentors and community support services, Shane discovered ACE. Initially, self-doubt kept him from returning to school, but his perspective changed.

"Now that I can see that I can do it, I WANT it."

In the winter of 2025, Shane enrolled in the upgrading program at Fanshawe. From the very beginning, he demonstrated commitment and determination.

Shane graduated from upgrading at the top of his class, earning a place on the Dean's Honour Roll. He has been accepted into the Social Service Worker Program and plans to continue his education toward a diploma in Mental Health and Addictions.

His ultimate goal is to become a counselor and support others who have faced similar challenges.

In Shane's words, "The universe has a funny way of putting you where you need to be." And he's right. His journey is proof that with resilience, courage, and support, change is possible.

Shane's story is not just about second chances. It's about believing in yourself.

— Sara Pedlow, Fanshawe College