

INDIVIDUAL DONOR STORY

A PERSONAL

connection



There are several things in life that James McCreath considers important, including family and education. In 2009 he made a donation to EducationMatters to honour them both.

James, a Dr. E.P. Scarlett High School graduate, became connected to EducationMatters while working on his MBA at Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC. James wrote his thesis on enhancing public education and interviewed EducationMatters' Executive Director Barbara Burggraf as a source.

"My donation to EducationMatters was a Christmas gift to my brother, father and mother," he says. "My mom was a long-time Calgary Board of Education (CBE) employee, who finished her career as the vice-principal of Crescent Heights High School, so I knew this would be important to her."

In addition to being a CBE veteran, James' mother is an immigrant to Canada, which is why he chose to direct his donation to Connaught School – a unique community school with an 83 per cent English Language Learner (ELL) population.

The students at Connaught speak a total of 40 different languages and come from 53 different countries. The ELL Literacy program at Connaught uses dual language books and personalized learning to ensure that students have the proper literacy and numeracy skills to be successful for the rest of their lives.

"In order for our society to improve itself, it is of the utmost importance that we facilitate education for new Canadians," says James. "The way I see it, their future is our future."

