

Allendale

community foundationSM

2017 Scholarship Application Packet

Included in this packet:

- A list of Scholarship Opportunities available through Funds of the Allendale Community Foundation
- Tips and suggestions for completing the Scholarship Application

Instructions: Please read through this information carefully

- The General Scholarship Application link, along with instructions for completing and submitting your application, is available in early January on our website: www.ghacf.org under the scholarship tab. Completing one application means you will be considered for all the scholarships for which you may qualify.
- You must create a log in name and password to begin the application process.
- Once logged in, to begin the application process, click one of the available applications under "Opportunities" on the left side of your screen. You can then begin completing your application, using the Save icons at the top and bottom of your screen to save your progress. You can move through the application by clicking on the navigation buttons, "Next" or "Previous" on the top or the buttons on the left side bar. Be sure to save your work before moving on to a new page. EGrant will not automatically save your work. You may return to work on your application at any time by "logging in."
- Only completed applications can be submitted. If you have not completed a section, you will be asked to go back and "Fix It."
- After you have submitted your application online, you must print a paper copy of your application and mail it with all necessary attachments to the Allendale Scholarship Committee at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. (If the word "**Draft**" appears on any pages of the application after printing, go back to the "Finish Page" and "**Submit**" the application. **Applications will not be considered submitted if they are in Draft form.**)
- Please print, complete and submit the Financial Information Form to the Financial Aid office of the college(s) you hope to attend in the fall.
- A completed application has the following elements:
 - ◇ All pages of the scholarship application.
 - ◇ Current high school or college transcript.
 - ◇ Page 1 of your SAR (Student Aid Report) from the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Form.

Your application must be postmarked no later than Wednesday March 2, 2017.

Do not send transcripts separately. Mail your completed application in ONE envelope, to the address below:

Allendale Scholarship Committee
Kim McLaughlin • Kmclaughlin@ghacf.org
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
1 South Harbor
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Scholarship Descriptions:

Please note, awards are of varying amounts and some scholarships may not be awarded every year.

Allendale Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

A separate application form must be completed for this scholarship. Information is available at the Allendale Chamber of Commerce.

Allendale Community Foundation Scholarship

When this scholarship is ready to make awards it will be for studies at any public or private college, graduate, professional, vocational, art, or music school. However, all scholarship applicants must be permanent residents of Allendale Charter Township.

Lindsey Bakale Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in 2001 in loving memory of Lindsey Bakale, this scholarship is designed to provide qualifying graduating seniors, of Allendale High School, with a one-time award for the purpose of post-secondary education.

Careerline Tech Center Paraprofessional Scholarship

Established in 2013 by the Paraprofessionals at Careerline Tech Center, this scholarship is to be awarded to an Ottawa County graduating Careerline Tech Center student. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA and financial need is a consideration.

Detter Family Foundation Education Scholarship

This award will be presented to a current graduate of Allendale Public Schools planning to pursue a career in the field of education. This may include teacher, counselor, school psychologist or education administrator. Students must demonstrate leadership and have participated in extracurricular activities and have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.0. Financial need is a consideration.

Detter Family Foundation Leaders in Mathematics and Science Scholarship

This award will be presented to a current graduate of Allendale Public Schools planning to pursue a career in the field of science or math and attending a four year college in the State of Michigan. Students must demonstrate leadership and have participated in extracurricular activities and have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.0. Financial need is a consideration.

David James Merkle Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in 2006 in loving memory of David James Merkle, this scholarship is only open to students enrolled in, and seeking a degree in, Special Education Teacher Certification at Grand Valley State University. Please contact the Education Department for an application.

West Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association Scholarship Fund

This award was created to assist graduating high school seniors and currently enrolled college students planning to pursue a horticulture or green industry career at a two- or four-year college or university. Eligible students must reside in Ottawa, Oceana, Newaygo, Muskegon, or Allegan Counties.

Alyssa Olafson Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Alyssa Olafson Memorial Scholarship Fund was started by friends and family who loved Alyssa. Alyssa was a 2013 Allendale graduate, who passed away from a sudden cardiac arrhythmia at the age of 19. This Scholarship is for a current female graduate of Allendale Public High School planning to pursue a career in the field of Health and Human Services. Recipient must have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Special consideration will be given to a varsity soccer player and/or varsity student athlete who exhibits a strong Christian faith. Financial need is not a consideration.

Herman J. and Helen D. Wyngarden Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in memory of Herman J. Wyngarden, a long-time educator, this fund commemorates Dr. and Mrs. Wyngarden's commitment to education. Applicants must be a resident of Allendale Township who wish to continue their education beyond High School, preference may be given to students who plan to study economics or nursing.

Tips and Suggestions for Completing the Scholarship Application

- Apply only if you are eligible. With very few exceptions, only those students residing in Allendale Charter Township may apply. Please call if you have questions about your eligibility.
- Neatness counts! Complete your application online at the link located on the www.ghacf.org website
- Proofread your work - especially your responses to the narrative questions. Check the spelling and grammar. Ask a parent, friend, or teacher to proofread your completed application.
- Watch Deadlines - financial aid offices and scholarship personnel adhere to them!
- You are responsible for making sure that ALL parts of the application arrive on time, including your transcript, Student Aid Report, etc. Be sure to allow those providing this information enough time to respond as well.

Responding to the Scholarship Narrative Question:

The key to writing a strong essay is to be personal and specific. Please include your reasons for your choice of college, your chosen course of study, your personal goals, and /or information about how your past activities have shaped you. The scholarship selection committee has hundreds of essays to review so include details so they can get to know who "you" are. **Remember:** All essays of students receiving a scholarship will be shared with the donor or donor families, so make sure your spelling and punctuation is correct and the content is appropriate. Keep in mind that donors want to know that the "perfect" applicant received their award.

How are Scholarship Applications Judged?

The scholarship selection committee pays special attention to the following:

- **Academics** - It may be important to have a competitive GPA; however, they may consider how challenging your course load and school is. They will also check to see if you are taking the right courses to reach your goals and how well you did in those courses.
- **Leadership** - If this is part of the criteria for an award, committee members may examine your activities in this area and they may also look for a range of leadership roles you have played.
- **Service** - Community and volunteer service is a key component in many awards and committee members will be interested in what service you have provided to your school, community or church. They may look at activities that go above and beyond the required service job.
- **Creativity** - You can show your creative side, if you play an instrument, write stories, paint, act, etc. Demonstrate your ability by highlighting awards you may have won.
- **Financial Need** – The SAR (Student Aid Report) of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Form provides this important information. Please be sure to file your FAFSA as early as possible (the application opened October 1st) in order to have this information by the Scholarship Application Deadline of early March.
 - **For assistance with completing your FAFSA**, talk with your high school counselor, the TCAN college advisor in your high school, or the college/university financial aid office.

- **Special Circumstance** – If you have overcome an obstacle to achieve your goals, or are facing a special circumstance, the selection committee wants to know about it.

Your complete application must be in ONE envelope and postmarked no later than March 2, 2017.

Allendale Scholarship Committee
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1 South Harbor
Grand Haven, MI 49417