



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Applications open for Uncommon Friends Foundation scholarships

Application deadline is April 1, 2017

FORT MYERS, Fla. (January 3, 2017) – The Uncommon Friends Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2017 student scholarships, which will be awarded to deserving students, veterans, struggling adults, and single parents who are pursuing degrees in education, law, technology, and other studies. Qualifications require nominees reside in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, or Hendry Counties, need financial assistance, excel in school and/or their personal lives, and possess high quality character traits. Scholarships vary in application requirements, duration and financial amounts, while some are for specific schools such as Florida Gulf Coast University, High Tech Center, and PACE Center for Girls of Lee County.

Visit <http://uncommonfriends.org/scholarships/applications-nominations/> for application forms and specific scholarship requirements. Completed application packets include a completed application form, a written essay demonstrating high character qualities, a digital color photograph, and one or more letters from a personal sponsor such as a service agency, school counselor, teacher, or principal. Scholarship applications must be submitted to scholarships@uncommonfriends.org by April 1, 2017. Winners will be announced in May and will be honored at the Uncommon Friends Foundation's Uncommon Evening on Thursday, November 2.

For the 14th consecutive year, Uncommon Friends Foundation board member Brenda Stewart will chair the scholarship committee that includes volunteers and members of community service organizations. Over the past 21 years, the Foundation has awarded nearly 500 educational scholarships totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Uncommon Friends Foundation 2017 Scholarship Award Categories

High Tech Center Scholarship – Helps defray costs of tuition, books and supplies not covered by other scholarships or grants for any age student for two terms at Cape Coral's High Tech Center.

Berne Davis Future Teacher Scholarship for \$5,000 – For a student enrolled in a program leading to a college degree in education who demonstrates financial need.

Special Recognition Scholarship – Helps defray cost of books or education for one semester for a student who needs financial assistance, has the desire and potential to succeed in school, and possesses positive character traits.

Hilliard Scholarships for \$2,000 for seniors in Glades and Hendry Counties to attend FGCU – For several high school seniors residing in either Glades or Hendry Counties to attend Florida Gulf Coast University who need financial assistance, have the potential to succeed in school, and possesses positive character traits.

Florida Prepaid College Foundation for freshmen and sophomores to attend a state college – Covers two years of state college tuition and fees for a high school freshman or sophomore who contracts to succeed in high school, stays free of drugs and crime, and fulfills other scholarship conditions.

NEW! Health Sciences Scholarship for \$1,000 – Helps defray cost of books or education for a student with financial need working toward a degree in a health field, e.g., nursing, dental hygiene, technologist, or therapist. Nominee should have the potential to succeed, exhibit high character, and a commitment to helping others.

Lee County Bar Association Scholarship for \$1,000 – Helps defray tuition, books and supplies at any Florida college or university for a student enrolled in a program leading to a law degree. It recognizes exemplary high school achievements and performance in the Lee County Bar Association's Mock Trial competition.

Single Parent Scholarship for \$1,000 – Helps a single parent who has overcome extraordinary obstacles and demonstrated high character and integrity to further his or her education to gain skills needed to enter or reenter the workforce.

PACE Center for Girls of Lee County Scholarship for \$1,000 – For a PACE student who has completed the Uncommon Friends Character Education curriculum and demonstrates the high character traits of loyalty, friendship, honesty, and integrity.

Veteran's Scholarship for \$1,000 – Helps defray the costs of books or education for a deserving veteran of any age who has a financial need, the desire and potential to succeed in school, and possesses positive character traits.

The Uncommon Friends Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1993 and dedicated to lifelong character building among today's youth and business leaders. It promotes character education in schools, ethics in the workplace, and preservation of the historic Burroughs Home & Gardens and James Newton Archives. For more information, visit <http://uncommonfriends.org/>; email Brenda Stewart at scholarships@uncommonfriends.org or call Executive Director Angela Melvin at (239) 337-9503.