

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program

Resilience, Courage, Drive, Persistence



THE BERNIE SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS PROGRAM



**63 SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED IN 2018**

Most Ever Awarded|3

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*Learn How You Can Help Individuals
Achieve Their Educational Goals!*

FALL 2018



Founding Members: Rev. Lon Dring, Barbara Heyman, Joyce Siegel, Bernie Tetreault



Together, we can effect positive change for generations!

Dear Friend,

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program (BSAP) is proud to announce that this year we had the largest number of awardees ever in our 23-year history! We provided 63 Montgomery County, MD, residents with college scholarships that will help them to either begin or continue their educational journeys. Thanks to our generous donors, BSAP was able to grow the 2018 scholarship program, and we are very grateful. In previous years, we had a high of 39 awardees, and in 2019, we want to assist even more students. BSAP's goal for 2019 is to increase the scholarship award amount to \$2,000 from \$1,000 for each awardee, and we need your help to accomplish this goal.

We hope we can count on you to remember the needs of the students and adults that BSAP serves during this holiday season. No donation or gift is too small. Your support of this mission will help us to provide financial assistance for college or vocational training programs. These donations will be made to graduating high school seniors and other adults, often single mothers, who are low-income and live in subsidized rental housing in Montgomery County. Our goal is to help our scholars achieve a better future, to rise above their challenging circumstances and to pave a path to success. The scholarships that we provide are literally life-changing.

As a further incentive to donate to BSAP, we are proud to report that 98% of our scholars complete their degrees; some then go on to pursue post-graduate degrees.

As we embark on the new year, we enthusiastically look forward to meeting our new scholars who are relying on BSAP to help make their educational dreams a reality. With your support, we can raise more funds for scholarships that can be used for various collegiate expenses including tuition, books, transportation, and child care. Together, we can effect positive change for generations!

Donate online: Visit www.berniescholarships.org/donate

Donate by mail: Make check payable to The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program and mail to either address below:

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program
P. O. Box 2514
Rockville, MD 20847

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program
Greater Washington Community Foundation
1325 G Street, N.W., Suite 480
Washington, DC 20005

Donations are tax-deductible. For more information about The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program, please visit www.berniescholarships.org or contact us at contact@berniescholarships.org.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we wish you and your family a happy holiday season!

CELEBRATING 63 SCHOLARS IN 2018



Every year, BSAP hosts an Awards Event to celebrate our new scholars. We honor their hard work, courage, drive, resilience and persistence. Our awardees work hard to complete their applications and present themselves to Board members on Interview Day. The Awards Event is our chance to congratulate them on their accomplishments and their educational and career goals. **In 2018, we awarded 63 scholars with awards - the most ever in 23 years. We are so proud of this accomplishment and for what it means to our deserving scholars.**



I am a junior at Trinity Washington University with less than 2 years to go before I earn my Associate's degree in Occupational Therapy and a Bachelor's degree. No, it wasn't easy, but it was definitely possible and worth it. - **Tayla Brawner, 2018 Awardee**



I was diligent enough to understand the value of excelling in my education. I'd like to someday be able to give back to the program and provide for students like me. - **Melvin Cooper III, 2018 Awardee**



Even though I had a rough start, that will not decide my future. And so I will be attending Bucknell University in the fall of 2018 with a full-tuition scholarship. - **Bitseat Getaneh, 2018 Awardee**



LOOK FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORMS ON OUR WEBSITE IN JANUARY 2019!

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program expresses its deep gratitude to these outstanding Board members who will continue their ongoing strong donor support for the program but who retired from the Board in 2018:

Bernie Tetreault, Namesake and Co-Founder of the program, which was created in 1995 when he retired after 24 years as Executive Director of HOC. He told us, "I intend to continue to financially support the BSAP, also it remains in my will." Bernie will attend our annual Awards Celebration in May, and he looks forward to staying actively involved with the program and with donors to grow the fund balance.

Jim Brodsky, Long-time Board member, former Housing Opportunities Commission's (HOC) Commissioner during some of Bernie's Executive Directorship, and co-host of two Friend-Raisers for the program.

Jeff Bulman, Several-year Board member and host/co-host of three Friend-Raisers for the program.

Ana Hilton, 2-year Board member and Chair of the Awardee Outreach and Mentoring Committee.

Tocque Peyton, Long-time Board member and Board Chair for the past four years, retired from HOC.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Lawrence Eldridge retired in 2017 from 36 years as a Hospital Administrator at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center. He served on the Board of the Friends of the Clinical Center. He had served on the Board of the Laurel (MD) Historical Society and rejoined that Board in July 2018. Since March 2018, he has been a volunteer mediator with the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County.

Lynn Feakes recently retired as Manager of Legal Services Programs at the National Education Association. Prior to her work with NEA, Lynn utilized her information technology skills as a consultant to several Federal agencies including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Energy, and National Aeronautical and Space Administration.





Kimberly Hanson is a graduate from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore where she continues to be an active member of the Sigma Alpha Pi chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success. During her time with the organization, she has helped with fundraisers that supported local, national, and global causes.

Linda Mericle is an attorney, partner, and founder of the firm Cameron Mericle P.A. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Baltimore School of Law and has been a licensed attorney in Maryland since 1991. Linda has taught paralegal classes at the University of Maryland, University College, and served as an adjunct professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law. She serves on the Board of the Jubilee Foundation of Maryland, assisting disabled adults. Linda has recently retired from the law practice and she now donates her time to many Montgomery County volunteer programs, including Jubilee, KindWorks, and Family Services.



Silvio Renzi is an executive with TurningPoint Global Solutions in Rockville, MD where he manages sales and operations for all commercial IT products and services. He has over 25 years of experience as an entrepreneur building and managing businesses. Silvio is dedicated to service, holds various positions within his community and volunteers for various charities including Ride Allegheny; an organization raising over \$500k per year for Operation Second Chance. Silvio holds an MBA from Seton Hall University and a BSBA from Boston University where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

Polina Tai works as a marketing professional at a global sporting goods company in Rockville, MD, but comes from a background in nonprofit and public sector work. She is a 2015 graduate of Pennsylvania State University where she received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a minor in International Studies. She volunteers at the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless and is passionate about helping others and protecting the environment, especially our oceans.





Theresa Wells is a single mom of four daughters who works as a consultant for the Food and Drug Administration on key projects in the Office of the Commissioner. Theresa grew up in Cumberland, MD, and graduated with an Engineering degree from West Virginia University. She enjoys staying healthy by running half marathons and doing Bikram yoga and Zumba.

Cassandra (Sandy) Smith is a graduate of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, and attended Hofstra University for her MBA. She currently works with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center as an Advisor. Cassandra founded the NY Jets Wives' Association and received the Nassau County award for her work with Domestic Violence Shelters. She was the Program Director for Suited for Change where she spoke to the Congressional Black Caucus and created numerous programs to empower women and aid in their return to the workplace. Cassandra is married and a mother of 3. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



Help us go green and save costs on our mailings by sending us your email address to add to our lists. Please send to the email address below!

Scholars, please remember to contact your assigned Bernie Scholarship Awards Program Mentor from our Board!

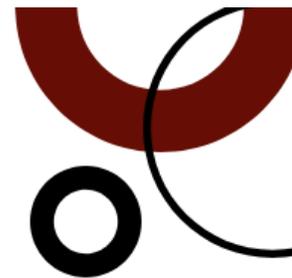
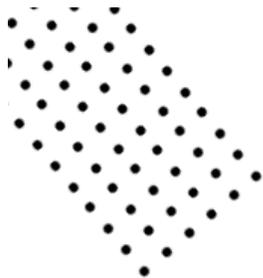
For more information, please email us at contact@berniescholarships.org.

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS



Please join us in welcoming Carole Bernard as our new Director of Operations for the program. She brings 20 years of nonprofit management experience to the position, and has served as an executive director for the Scleroderma Foundation Greater Washington, DC, Chapter; Gateway Community Development Corporation; and Northwest Neighbors Village. She also has worked at national nonprofits, leading the communications departments for such organizations as the Enterprise Foundation, National Minority AIDS Council, National Research Center on Women and Families, and Paralyzed Veterans of America. She is also the President of Bernard Consulting & Associates, LLC, where she provides strategic management, communications and fund development services to nonprofit organizations.

Bernard received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Framingham State College and her Master's degree in Journalism from Boston University.



Support BSAP Through Workplace Giving!

Benevity powers workplace giving, corporate gift matching and employee volunteering programs.

Check with your employer to see if it participates in workplace giving using payroll deductions with Benevity.

If it does, you would select the Greater Washington Community Foundation. Indicate the donation is for The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program and make your donation.

You also can donate directly to The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program at www.berniescholarships.org/donate

We appreciate your support!



Donor Acknowledgement

We very much appreciate the generosity of our supporters, who are committed to the mission of The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program.

You are helping us make dreams come true for low-income Montgomery County residents who want to pursue higher education or vocational training opportunities.

Many thanks to the following 2018 donors of \$1,000 or more!

Janet and Allan Akman
Shirley Brandman and Howard Shapiro
Marian and Jim Brodsky
Jane and Jeffrey Bulman
CIH Properties, Inc.
William Cross Foundation
Penelope Farley
Daisy Gilmore
Homes for America
Hon. Paul McGuckian
Montgomery College
Pettit Family Charitable Foundation
Peyton Family
Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation
Wolpoff Family Foundation



Lorrain Driscoll of the *Make A Difference* TV show interviews Sandy Smith from the Volunteer Center's 50 Plus Program and Nancy Scull from the partner nonprofit The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program's Board Chair. This will play through November at: <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/CCM/makeadifference.html>

Connect with Us

We invite you to connect with The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program on social media!

We have launched new social media pages for BSAP (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn), where we'll offer informational tips, videos, articles and other topics that you may find helpful as you plan for your future.

Please take a moment and visit our pages and click "Like" or "Follow." We look forward to bringing you lots of great information and keeping in touch. We hope you will comment on our posts and feel free to ask any questions or share our content with friends and family who would benefit from the information. You can help us spread the word about BSAP with your network and a broad audience!

We ask that you use hashtag suggestions when sharing posts (#BSAP #Education #Scholarships #BernieScholarships #Mentors #Success #UpwardMobilty #inspire #BSAPAchieve).



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Don't forget that you can make a donation online today at www.berniescholarships.org/donate. Your contribution will help individuals receive a college education and new opportunities for success!!

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program

P.O. Box 2514

Rockville, MD 20847

www.berniescholarships.org

contact@berniescholarships.org

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