

# The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program



*Resilience, Courage, Drive, Persistence*

Winter Newsletter 2019

**2019 online Application Forms are due Friday March 1st with all required documents — see link at [www.berniescholarships.org](http://www.berniescholarships.org)**

## Happy New Year to you all!

In 2018, we accomplished more than we believed we could, and in 2019 we are challenging ourselves to do even more. The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program gave its largest number of awards to 63 recipients, bringing our total awards to 524 for 474 scholars and the total dollars awarded to \$625,200. With your generous support, we help low-income determined individuals achieve academic and personal goals of upward mobility.

Our goal for 2019 is to award \$1,500 to each scholar, which requires raising \$97,500 to support 65 awardees. Our goal is to continue building a better community one scholarship at a time.

## **Bernie Scholarship Recipient Gives Presentations to Women Who Care and to Gaithersburg Rotary Club**

On December 5, 2018, and on January 8, 2019, Tonia Harries gave strong presentations to Women Who Care and



then to the Gaithersburg Rotary Club. She told how The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program's two-year award funds are helping her graduate in May from Montgomery College with an A.A.S. degree in Health Information Management. While taking college courses, she has maintained a full-time job and, with her husband, is raising three children. She is very grateful for the assistance from The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program. We wish Tonia much success in her future career.



## Another Scholarship Recipient Is Interviewed on County Cable TV Network



Bernie Board Chair Nancy Scull and three-year award recipient Erika Granville were recently featured on the “Make a Difference” program on Montgomery Cable TV. They discussed The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program, how essential it has been for Erika to attend college, and The Bernie program’s volunteer needs with the show’s host, Michael Bruen. See [https://youtu.be/vn7r12tlu\\_8](https://youtu.be/vn7r12tlu_8).

**SAVE THE DATE! Our FRIENDRAISER will be on Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> at cocktail hour, 5:30p.m.**

Think Education can change a life? Bernie Tetreault does. He founded The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program (The Bernie) when he retired after 24 years as Executive Director of the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County. For 24 years The Bernie has been providing college scholarships to students living in Montgomery County subsidized housing. We need the help of our friends and neighbors so we can continue providing the assistance

these students so desperately need in order to make a better life for themselves. As a component fund of the Greater Washington Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3), The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program provides scholarship funds to low-income graduating high school seniors and adults. Our awardees are an impressive and unique group of people of all ages with real determination to pursue their dreams of achieving a college degree or vocational license.

**We invite you to help us meet our important goal.** On Friday, April 5, we are holding The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program's annual Friendraiser at the Kentlands Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Rd., Gaithersburg, MD, beginning at 5:30p.m. Come for drinks, hors d'oeuvres, music, an outstanding silent auction, and interesting and fun speakers (Otis Smith, Super Bowl Champion Corner Back and former Coach; and Chris Ullman, a partner at The Carlyle Group who is also a Four-Time International Whistling Champion), including two scholarship awardees: Come to learn about our nonprofit and help make a real difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors who need a helping hand to achieve their dreams: [contact@berniescholarships.org](mailto:contact@berniescholarships.org)

## Maryland's New Community College Scholarship Program



The Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program becomes available to applicants in the 2019-2020 academic year. The Promise Scholarship creates opportunities for students to attend a Maryland's public community college by providing tuition assistance for students eligible for in-state tuition for a credit-bearing vocational certificate or an Associate Degree program. For more information visit

<https://mhec.maryland.gov/Pages/Community-College-Promise-Scholarship.aspx>.



**The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program was rated one of the top 15 Best Scholarships in Maryland in 2018. We were number two on the list.**

**FOOD INSECURITY:** College students from low-income backgrounds who are parents with young children, in the Federal Work Study Program, recipients of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and who work at least 20 hours a week are eligible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). See the Agriculture Department's Food and Nutrition Service for information about the application process.

## Bernie Looks Back...

Bernard Tetreault, co-founder of The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program, reminisces: "When I left Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) in 1994 after being its Executive Director for 24 years, \$33,000 was generated to start The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program. I grew up in a large, poor family, but my father believed in education and was chairman of the school board in our small town. He told me and my 8 siblings if we earned the grades to continue our education, he would somehow make funds available. This value of education was the seed for our scholarship program. Working for HOC, I was inspired by employees who, while working full-time, also pursued higher education. Also, an HOC day care worker told me that the graduation from day care to first grade might be the only graduation that some of those children ever had.

We now serve low-income residents of Housing Opportunities Commission, Rockville Housing Enterprises, Scotland Community, Edgewood Management Corporation, Forest Park Apartments and of other Montgomery County properties with housing subsidies.

The biggest change? The number of scholarships awarded continues to increase; what has not changed is the people we serve--they have little disposable income. Our scholars' stories about their struggles and successes inspire us to keep on helping. Our award funds may be used for transportation, a computer and child care as well as for tuition, books and fees.

**Knowing that the people we serve are breaking the cycle of poverty is very rewarding to me, our donors and Board and Advisory Board members.**

## **ONGOING VOLUNTEER NEEDS:**

**Board and Advisory Board members who have skills in public relations/marketing, business outreach, fundraising, social media, event planning, mentoring.**

### **Volunteer Mentors/Coaches to help our awardees adapt to college or training programs.**

Our mentors are more like coaches who check-in with their assigned students three times a year, for a minimum of one year, to ask how they're doing and provide encouragement, resources and advice to help them resolve academic or other problems and to not give up their educational goals. Some of our awardees are the first in their family to go to college and/or may be foreign born and need guidance on how our college system works. Training and guidelines for new mentors/coaches is provided by Board members.

### **Administrative volunteers to help our Program Administrator from time to time in any of the following areas:**

~ Quarterly Newsletters: Collect and/or develop content; format newsletters with our template; distribute them electronically to our Master List; ~ Social Media: Collect and/or write social media posts with tips on college survival, resources, encouragement, how to study etc. for our scholarship awardees; ~ Outreach to businesses and individuals to support our awardees through tax-deductible donations.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for EVENTS:**

### **Adults and MCPS Student Service Learning Opportunities:**

- **Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>** – Friendraiser helpers for set-up and food serving 4:00-8:30pm at Kentlands Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Rd., Gaithersburg
- **Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>**— Interview Day helpers to sign-in applicant finalists, give them forms to complete and turn in, handouts to take home, take a photo of each applicant, direct them to their interview room 9:00am-1:00pm at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus

- **Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup>**— Awards Celebration helpers for set-up, food serving and replenishing, clean-up 4:00-8:30pm at Executive Office Building's Cafeteria, 101 Monroe St., Rockville, MD

**All volunteers please contact [nancyscull@comcast.net](mailto:nancyscull@comcast.net) to sign up or request information; give name, email, phone number and how you would like to help. THANK YOU!**

### **March 1st marks the Deadline for the Bernie Scholarship Awards Program's online Application Form and required documents, but it also marks the start of Women's History Month.**

Since 1972, Title IX has provided the right to education free from sex discrimination. With Title IX, women and girls have been able to make great strides toward sex equality in education, but many serious obstacles remain, such as single parenthood. U.S. Census data shows about 82.2% of custodial parents are mothers. For single parents who are supporting children, going to school can seem like an impossible dream. The Bernie Scholarship strives to make the dream possible.

Many of Bernie Scholarships' 474 recipients (524 awards) have been single mothers working toward upward mobility. One is Yvette Hammond, a single mother who, through multi-year Bernie scholarships, completed her B.S. degree and is now in a Master's program. She rose above her challenging circumstances, got a full-time job in Community Health and purchased a home. To all the strong, intelligent, and hard-working single mothers, if you are looking to go to school for college or vocational training, The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program is here for you.

***Celebrate Women's History Month by taking another stride toward equality in education and submitting your Bernie Scholarships Application Form by March 1<sup>st</sup>!***

## MEET OUR NEW PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR



Please join us in welcoming Lori Lee-Savage as our new Program Administrator. She brings over 20 years of experience in Administrative Support and Office and Organizational Management. She has worked for National Association for Corporate Director, Gifts In Kind International and for America's Community Bankers. Lori currently works full-time as one of the Senior Executive Administrative Aides in the Montgomery County Office of the County Executive for Hon. Marc Elrich.

Lori holds a dual Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio.

### **Funding the Scholarship Awards**

The Bernie Scholarship awards are made possible by charitable donations. Without them we cannot continue to help under-privileged young adults and other adults living in subsidized rental housing in Montgomery County. Our goal for 2019 is to award \$1,500 to each scholar. This would require that we raise \$97,500 to support to 65 awardees. Help us continue to improve the educational opportunities for Montgomery County's low-income residents of subsidized rental housing.

- ✓ ***Please make a tax-deductible donation and help those striving for a better life for themselves and their family***
- ✓ ***Become a corporate sponsor***

Don't forget that you can make a donation online today at  
[www.berniescholarships.org/donate](http://www.berniescholarships.org/donate).

*Your contribution will help individuals receive a college education and new opportunities for success!!*

**TOGETHER WE CAN AFFECT CHANGE FOR  
GENERATIONS!**

## The Greater Washington Community Foundation

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program is a component fund of the Greater Washington Community Foundation. To learn more about The Bernie, please visit our website

[www.berniescholarships.org](http://www.berniescholarships.org)



We invite you to connect with The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program on social media! We have social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn), where we offer information, tips, videos, articles and other topics.



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

[www.berniescholarships.org](http://www.berniescholarships.org)

[contact@berniescholarships.org](mailto:contact@berniescholarships.org)

*We are Grateful to: Shirley Brandman, retiring long-time Board Member*

*Our Founding Members in 1994: Jim Brodsky, Rev. Lon Dring, Barbara Heyman, Joyce Siegel, Bernie Tetreault*