

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program

Resilience, Courage, Drive, Persistence



Spring Newsletter 2019

2019 The Bernie Scholarship Friendraiser a Great Success



The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program held its third annual Friendraiser on Friday, April 3rd, at the Kentlands Arts Barn. This year's event provided great entertainment, an array of food and refreshments, and the meeting and greeting of old and new friends and colleagues while serene music played. A silent auction was held with a variety of items for guests to bid on--i.e., a week in Florida, a week at Rehoboth Beach, a vintage wine basket, and sports tickets--to name just a few. The program began with former NFL Super Bowl player, Otis Smith, who was both emcee and a great motivational speaker. His personal story was of growing up in subsidized housing, so he understands how difficult that is for our scholarship awardees. Guests were then treated to the amazing talents of Chris Ullman, a 4-time International Whistling Champion, who entertained us all. Inspirational stories were shared by two Bernie Scholarship awardees: Erika Granville, a full-time employed mother of three taking college courses in forensics studies, and Natanel Assefa, who founded his high school's Tech Team and is now in his first year of college studying computer science. The evening ended with announcing the auction winners and our upcoming annual Awards Celebration to be held on May 23rd. A great time was had by all.

2019 Scholarship Application Update



All scholarship applications were received by the March 1st deadline. The 85 applications were from very low-income residents of subsidized housing in Montgomery County. These applicants want to attend college or workforce development training but are unable to without more financial assistance in addition to federal FASFA/Pell grants.

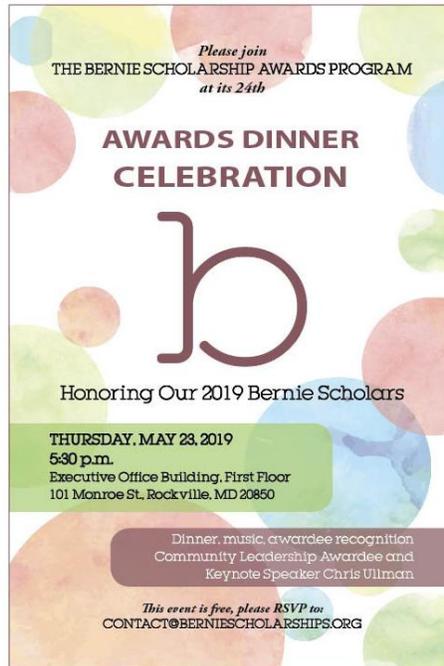
Applications are currently being reviewed, and all eligible candidates will be interviewed by Board members on May 4th, when the final selections will be made.

WHO WE ARE

Por favor Jon nosotros

Bitte jon uns

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Please Join Us

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S'il vous plaît Jon nous

BERNIE SCHOLARSHIPS' Information Packet for 2019

By Laurie Hart

Our Mission

Provide financial assistance for college or training programs to graduating high school seniors and other adults who are very low-income and live in subsidized housing in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Our Goal

For 2019, our goal is to provide up to 65 scholarships and increase the scholarship award amount to \$1,500 for each awardee. Beginning in 2020, our goal is to raise the award amount to \$2,000. Download this at [Bernie Information Packet](#)



BERNIE SCHOLARSHIPS' 2018 Effectiveness Study Findings

By Lynn Feakes

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of awardees are still enrolled in school or have completed a degree or certificate program.

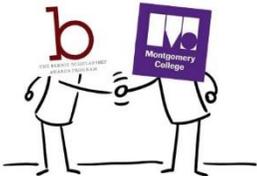
2018 was the third year of our Effectiveness Studies, and we had a 36% higher response rate. Our goal is to keep improving our response rate so that we can better track the progress of awardees toward education completion rates and increased standards of living. Twenty of the 57 respondents in 2018 were new awardees. Twenty-five respondents had received two or more Bernie Scholarship awards. Additionally, 23 of the 2018 respondents have applied for a 2019 Bernie Scholarship Award. We will also measure the effectiveness of multiple awards on education completion and standards of living. See [Bernie Effectiveness Study Findings – 2018](#)

MORE ABOUT US

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!



NEW PILOT PARTNERSHIP WITH MONTGOMERY COLLEGE AWARDEES



For the 2019-2020 academic year, we are referring our scholarship applicants who plan to attend Montgomery College (MC) to register at MC and apply for General Scholarship funds. For those who choose The Bernie Scholarship funds, we will provide our 2019 award fund amount to MC for each eligible Bernie Scholarship applicant approved by MC.

THE BERNIE SCHOLARSHIPS IS CHOSEN for a 100 WOMEN WHO CARE LOWER MONTGOMERY COUNTY DONATION*



Board member Theresa Wells, full-time employed single mother of 4, and 2-time Bernie awardee Tonia

Harries, full-time employed mother of 3 in college full-time, both described the great need of very low-income residents of subsidized housing for The Bernie Program's gap financial help in order to attend college or workforce development training. Theresa grew up in a low-income area where she was the first in her family to attend college, which would not have been possible without financial assistance. Tonia said she had completed coding training with federal FAFSA funds and loans, but her school shut down, fortunately The Bernie awards enabled her to complete her A.A. degree in Health Information Management this May 2019.

*www.lowermocowwc.com seeks to address charitable needs and uses individual members' monetary contributions that make a significant impact to the charities.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For more information, contact nancyscull@contact.net **THANK YOU!**

Board and Advisory Board members or outside consultants who have any of these skills: Public relations, marketing, business outreach, fundraising, social media, event planning.

Mentors/Coaches to help our awardees adapt to college or workforce development training, how to seek help for their studies, find needed resources, etc. Our mentors are more like coaches who check-in with their student awardees about 3 times a year for a minimum of a year, ask how they're doing, provide encouragement, resources and advice to help them resolve academic or other challenges 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 American college systems work. Training, guidelines and follow-up assistance for new mentors/coaches is provided.

Upcoming Event Needs More Adults and MCPS Student Service Learning Students to Help:

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

LEVELS OF GIVING

Your Giving Comes with Perks

\$10,000+ Platinum Member

- 8 Named scholarships
- Name/Logo on BSAP website
- Name on award dinner invitation
- Other benefits to be announced

\$5,000+ Gold Member

- 4 Named scholarships
- Name/Logo BSAP our website
- Other benefits to be announced

\$2,500+ Silver Member

- 2 Named scholarship
- Name/Logo on BSAP website

\$1,000+ Bronze Member

- Named scholarship

- ✓ *Please make a tax-deductible donation and help those striving for a better life for themselves, their families and future generations.*
- ✓ *Become a corporate sponsor*

The Greater Washington Community Foundation



The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program is a 501(c)3 component fund of the Greater Washington Community Foundation, which manages multiple component funds in the Washington metro area.

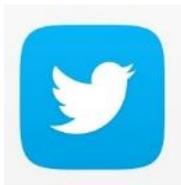
Don't forget that you can make a donation online today at

www.berniescholarships.org/donate

Your contributions will help individuals receive a college education or workforce training and new opportunities for a successful life!

TOGETHER WE CAN AFFECT CHANGE FOR GENERATIONS!

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. We welcome your feedback.



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