



# The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program is a component fund of the Greater Washington Community Foundation that works to provide financial assistance for college or training programs to graduating high school seniors and other adults who are low-income and live in subsidized housing in Montgomery County, Maryland.



## A Big Thank YOU — from the Bernie

As 2023 quickly winds down, I'm very happy to share a brief update on the work of the Bernie Scholarship Awards Program. This has been a year of growth, in the last 12 months BSAP has added 10 new Board members, who bring a breadth of diversity and depth of talent that is re-energizing our work. For a list of current board members, click [HERE](#).

In the coming months you will see these changes reflected in upgrades to our website, monthly e-Newsletters, working with the Greater Washington Community Foundation to transfer our donor platform to the more nimble and efficient Classy, resumption of annual events and more.

Though the Board has seen many recent changes, BSAP's purpose remains – to support Montgomery County residents living in low-income housing with flexible awards supporting their educational and career development goals. With the addition of a former BSAP award recipient to our Board, we aim to establish a stronger mentorship component to our work, which will create the opportunity for BSAP donors and supporters to be a more direct part of our mission.

The talent and diversity of our expanded Board presents many exciting opportunities. The Board is very grateful to all of you who support our work and we are gratified by donors like Margaret Hunt, whose recent generous \$20,000 gift is a true testament to the belief that empowering people to fully develop their talents is essential to creating a vibrant community that people want to be a part of. As the year comes to a close and we reflect on the things we value, I hope you will support our work with a contribution.

Moving forward I look forward to regularly updating you on the BSAP's work, and sharing opportunities to engage with our work.

Best wishes for a healthy, peaceful and happy holiday season,  
**Lynne Harris — President of the Bernie Scholarship Awards Program**  
DONATE TO THE BERNIE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM [HERE](#)

**98%**

OF BERNIE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES HAVE COMPLETED OR ARE CURRENTLY COMPLETING THEIR EDUCATION

**53%**

ARE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

**50%**

ARE IMMIGRANTS OR FIRST-GENERATION AMERICANS

**814**

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED SINCE 1996

**#1**

MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP IN COLLEGE CONSENSUS RANKING



SET UP A MONTHLY GIFT



DONATE

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Victims' Rights Foundation Fundraiser

**BLACK ROCK CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
DEC 10th, 2023—2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Del. Greg Wims, Bernie Board Member and Founder of the Victims' Rights Foundation will donate a share of the proceeds to BSAP. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the event, and buy a ticket.

## SCHOLAR RESOURCES

### Make the Most of Your Financial Aid

by Beverly Coleman — Director of the Educational Opportunity Center at Montgomery College

- The 2024-2025 FAFSA is scheduled to be released by December 31, 2023. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the 2024-2025 FAFSA.
- Parents with SS#s can create their StudentAid.gov account now. Click [HERE](#) to learn more. Parents without an SS# will be able to create a StudentAid.gov account once the 2024-2025 FAFSA is live.
- In the meantime, create your MDCAPS student login [HERE](#) for access to Maryland financial aid. Submit your FAFSA by 3/1/2024 to be considered for most of Maryland student aid. Click [HERE](#) to learn about Maryland Student Financial Aid.
- Remember to search for financial aid and scholarship opportunities at every college/university you plan to apply to. **Applications for the Bernie Scholarships next year will open Jan 15, 2024.**