

Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation Education Fund Scholarship Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW 2012/2013

BACKGROUND

The Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation Scholarship Program was established by Dianne Edwards, Director, Human Services Department (Retired). Dianne was interested in establishing a fund that individuals, community groups and corporations could support that would provide scholarships for former foster youth of Sonoma County. The fund is administered by the Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation; a non-profit corporation dedicated to assisting current and former foster youth in achieving their goals and potential.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The needs of former foster youth making the transition to independence have been well documented. This program takes an important first step in helping motivated former foster youth take advantage of postsecondary education opportunities (i.e., college and trade schools). The scholarship fund provides scholarships to students who are former foster youth of Sonoma County. Scholarships will be a minimum of \$1,500 (depending on the availability of funding) for each successful applicant. The application process is competitive and is limited to former foster youth, who have participated in ILP Services of Sonoma County. Successful applicants may receive a scholarship in subsequent years of their education if they continue to meet the criteria established for new applicants.

The Department of Human Services through the Independent Living Skills Program (ILP) will provide information to youth about the scholarship application through their weekly classes. The ILP Coordinators will also make contact with youth who they believe would benefit from the scholarship program and provide application support for youth as needed.

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

A Scholarship Selection Committee has been established to determine the number and amount of scholarships to be awarded each year and to review and make recommendations regarding who should be awarded. The selection committee members are:

Jack DeMeo, Attorney, DeMeo, DeMeo & West; and Board of Directors, Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation

Thomas Duryea, President and CEO, Summit State Bank; and Board of Directors, Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation

Nick Honey, Director, Family, Youth & Children's Services, Sonoma County Human Services
Charlotte Granderson, retired CalWorks Counselor, Santa Rosa Junior College

APPLICATION DEADLINE & SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEWS

Scholarship Applications are due on Friday, April 27th, 2012. After the Selection Committee reviews scholarship applications they will contact those candidates that meet the qualifications for an interview. Interviews will take place on Tuesday, May 15th and Thursday, May 17th, 2012.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Elena Roberts at 707-565-8380 or vmcf.elena@gmail.com

**Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation Education Fund
Scholarship Program**

IMPORTANT DATES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Scholarship Applicants should be aware of and make note of the following important dates and responsibilities:

- Scholarship applications and all supporting documents are due on Friday, April 27th, 2012. The Scholarship Selection Committee will no longer accept late applications. The Application must submit the application and all supporting documents at one time (for example, do not submit application and have letters of recommendation submitted separately)
- Scholarship interviews will take place on Tuesday, May 15th and Thursday, May 17th, 2012. Those applications that meet the scholarship requirements will be invited for an interview. From the interview the Scholarship Selection Committee will determine who will be awarded a scholarship.

If you are awarded a scholarship application the follow responsibilities will be required of all scholars:

- Scholars must maintain a GPA of 2.0 (C average) and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours.
- Scholars must submit their class schedule. *The class schedule must be provided to the Scholarship Selection Committee before you will receive your scholarship funds.*
- Scholars must meet with a counselor at your school of attendance to develop an academic plan for how you will reach your educational goals. *The academic plan must be provided to the Scholarship Selection Committee before you will receive your scholarship funds. Please be prepared to discuss your academic plan with the Scholarship Selection Committee.*
- Scholars must submit a thank you letter that can be shared with donors who have contributed to the Scholarship fund. *The letter must be provided to the scholarship Selection Committee before you will receive the scholarship funds.*
- Scholars must provide updated contact information to the Scholarship Selection Committee included address, phone number, and email.
- Scholarship Recipient Recognition Luncheon Date TBD
Scholarship recipients and a guest will be invited to attend a special luncheon to acknowledge all scholars.

<p>CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have questions about the Scholarship Program or the application process contact Elena Roberts at 707-565-8380 or vmcf.elena@gmail.com.</p>
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**Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation
Education Fund Scholarship Program**

APPLICATION COVER SHEET

The Valley of the Moon Children's (VMC) Foundation Scholarship was established by Dianne Edwards, Human Services Director(Retired) and is funded by donations from individuals and community sponsors who are interested in assisting former foster youth in achieving their educational goals. The scholarship fund is administered by the Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation. The fund provides an annual scholarship of a minimum of \$1,500 (depending on available funds) to students who are former foster youth who meet the following criteria:

- Were dependents of the court in Sonoma County
- Have had their dependency dismissed by the time the school year begins (i.e., fall 2012)
- Have or will graduate from high school by the spring of 2012 or received a GED.
- Are attending a post-secondary academic or vocational education program
- Are carrying or plan to carry 12 units or the equivalent of full-time enrollment
- Will maintain a C average (i.e., 2.0 GPA)
- Must meet with an academic counselor at school of enrollment to develop academic plan for reaching educational goals.
- Must provide updated information including current phone number and/or email address and mailing address, school enrollment status, and grades to Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation

To apply for a VMC Foundation Scholarship you must complete this form.

Include the following information:

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A copy of your most recent high school or college transcript (grades), or GED certificate.
- One letter of recommendation from an adult you have known at least 2 years.
- A completed Student Academic Plan if you are currently a college student.

PLEASE READ DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY! *Incomplete packets will not be considered*

Applications must be received by Friday, April 27, 2012

<p><u>Mail the completed forms to:</u> VALLEY OF THE MOON CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM P. O. Box 11671 Santa Rosa, CA 95406</p>

VMC Foundation Education Fund Scholarship

APPLICATION

STUDENT NAME:

(Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____

ADDRESS:

(Number and Street) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

PHONE: (____) _____ **CELL:** (____) _____

EMAIL: _____

Social Security Number: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

High School Attended: _____

Date or Anticipated Date of Graduation/GED: _____

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List the school or college you attend now, or plan to attend:

___ 4-year College ___ Community/Junior College ___ Vocational School

Other (please describe): _____

If this is vocational or other, how long is the program or training? _____

I will be entering school as a:

___ Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Other: _____

How did you hear about the scholarship program?

WORK HISTORY:

List any regularly paid work you have done, including part-time:

Name of Employer	Position	Start/End Dates	Hours/ Week	Salary

INCOME:

List any current sources of income and the amount you receive:

Source of Income (ex: Educational Loans, Grants, or Other Scholarships)	\$\$ Monthly Amount

OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Please list any of the following that you have:

Checking Account: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	\$ _____ average monthly balance _____ Bank Name _____ Branch/Location
Savings Account: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	\$ _____ monthly balance _____ Bank Name _____ Branch/Location

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ACTIVITIES:

Please describe any school-based, community or volunteer projects in which you have been involved during the past two years:

Activity	Start and End Dates:

GOALS:

Briefly describe your education and career goals (**attach a separate sheet if you need more room not to exceed 1 type written page or 1 neatly hand written page**):

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Tell us the personal achievement you are most proud of and why. Please complete your answer in no more than two neatly type written or hand written pages. (**Attach a separate sheet if you need more room**):

OTHER:

Is there any other information about yourself that you would like the selection committee to consider? (**Attach a separate sheet if you need more room not to exceed 1 type written page or 1 neatly hand written page**):

Completing and submitting an application does not guarantee that you will get funding. The Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation Education Fund Scholarship is awarded on a competitive basis, depending upon the availability of funding. Applications will be reviewed and finalists will be invited to an interview. The program reserves the right to refuse future funding for students who do not meet the academic or other standards set forth by the program.

AFFIRMATION:

I affirm that the information provided on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

Date

CHECKLIST:

Have you included the following?

___ A copy of your most recent high school, or college transcript (grades), or GED certificate.

___ One letter of recommendation from an adult you have known at least 2 years (e.g., social worker, teacher, foster parent, group home staff, employer, counselor, therapist, pastor). ILP Coordinator can't be used for a letter of recommendation.

___ A completed Student Academic Plan if you are currently a college student. Please be prepared to discuss the Plan with the Scholarship Committee.

PLEASE READ DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY!

Complete applications must be received by the due date of Friday, April 27th, 2012 or they will not be considered by the Scholarship Committee. There will be no exception or extension given this year.

A complete application includes the application form, personal statement, academic goals, transcript and letter of recommendation. If any portion of the application is missing, your application will be disqualified.