



Scholarships Available!

With the cost of a college education escalating and the economic downturn, scholarships are more important than ever. According to a December 3, 2008 report from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education; the cost of a college education has increased 439%, while the median family income has only risen 147% since 1982. Middle income families value education for their children, at all costs, financing it through borrowing. Student borrowing has doubled in the last ten years. The report, "Measuring Up 2008", compares median family income against net college costs (a year's tuition, fees, room, board, minus any financial aid received) for families. The findings are alarming. Last year, the net cost at a four-year public university amounted to 28 percent of the median family income, while a four-year private university cost 76 percent of the median family income.

A scholarship is a way of helping pay the staggering costs today's college students are experiencing. The Marshfield Area Community Foundation publicizes the scholarships we and others offer to assure that there is a good field of applicants and as a public service. That's what the Community Foundation is all about. Connecting people who care with causes that matter. We have published our scholarship Bulletin for the past five years to help scholarship seekers find the money that is being offered by local community groups, individuals, foundations, and businesses. The Marshfield Area Community Foundation manages over 35 scholarships itself.

The Scholarship Bulletin lists over 400 scholarships. We have scholarships listed for graduates of high schools in Abbotsford, Auburndale, Colby, Granton, Greenwood, Loyal, Marshfield High School, Columbus Catholic High School, Neillsville, Owen-Withee, Spencer, and Stratford. In addition, a number of scholarships are offered to students at any of the area school.

If your organization (business or family) is offering a scholarship, please contact MACF before January 31 to include your scholarship in our next Scholarship Bulletin.

The Scholarship Bulletin will be distributed mid- February as an insert in the Buyers' Guide. You will be able to pick up a copy in many local businesses, at the library, and at high school guidance offices.

I believe every high school student, every non-traditional student, should take advantage of the generosity our community offers through these scholarships. These groups see giving scholarships as an investment in the future of our community.



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