

PASSAVANT MEMORIAL HOMES FOUNDATION COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

In memory of Jamie Ellenberger



PMHF Community Service Scholarship

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OVERVIEW

Passavant Memorial Homes Foundation (PMHF) was established to support Passavant Memorial Homes Family of Services (PMHFOS) and its commitment to enriching the lives of children and adults with intellectual disabilities, autism, and behavioral health needs. PMHF creates awareness of and provides additional financial resources for the quality programs of PMHFOS, which care for the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of individuals while promoting choice and independence. PMHF upholds the contention that all people have the right to lead full, productive, and independent lives.

The PMHF Community Service Scholarship was created in memory of Jamie Ellenberger. Jamie was a young man who Passavant Memorial Homes (PMH) was privileged to serve. He thrived in his community despite adversity. Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Jamie successfully transitioned from living in a state facility to becoming an active member of his new residential community at PMH.

While part of PMH's community residential program, Jamie was an enthusiastic and contributing member of society, both in community-based activities and in our vocational training program. His positivity and perseverance were always paired with kindness and a smile. After his passing, this scholarship was established in his honor, so his legacy can continue to make a lasting impact in the community in which he loved being a part of.

Through our scholarship program, we hope to encourage local students to pursue a post-secondary education as well as take a renewed look into their community and to find unique opportunities to become a part of its furtherance. We want our youth to recognize that community service can provide opportunities to acquire valuable life skills and knowledge as well as provide a service to those who need it most. We want to show students that their actions can have a lasting and a positive impact on our society at large. Community service can teach compassion and acceptance; it can foster cultures of inclusion and advocacy; it can build positive, lifelong relationships that can ultimately strengthen our communities. We want our next generation of leaders to experience that.

PMHF is a member of PMHFOS. For more information on PMHFOS and to access this information online, please visit our website at www.pmhfos.org.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

- One (1) \$10,000 award annually, granted to one (1) recipient

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Candidate must be a graduating high school senior in 2020 – 2021 school year
- Candidate must be graduating from a high school in one of the following western Pennsylvania counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Washington, or Westmoreland
- Candidate must be qualified and planning to attend an accredited two- or four-year post-secondary education program
- Candidate must complete the application form in its entirety, including all letters, references, and essay information
- If requested, the candidate must be available to participate in an interview with the PMHF's Scholarship Review Committee

ABOUT THE PMHF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

- The recipient will be selected by an internal committee
- The committee decisions are final, and deliberations of the committee are confidential
- The committee retains the right to withhold the scholarship award if no candidate is determined to be qualified
- The committee will always be objective and nondiscriminatory, and will award without regard to race, color, ancestry, gender, religion, age, and/or abilities

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SCHOLARSHIP FOCUS

The PMHF Community Service Scholarship is focused on our communities and giving back. Community involvement, community service, community initiatives, and/or community improvement, as well as the student's ability to showcase creativity in the essay section of the application, will play a vital role in the selection process. The candidate must also be in good standings with their high school institution.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Criteria for selection can include but need not be limited to:

- Community Service and/or Volunteer Activities
- Essays (*details described below*)
- Academic Honors and Additional Awards
- Extracurricular Activities
- Three Letters of Recommendation, with current contact information (*family members not eligible to submit a letter*):
 - Community Leader
 - Character Authentication
 - Academic Substantiation
- Post-secondary Education Major and/or Area of Focus
 - Students focusing their studies towards careers aligned with our mission may be given preference in this category
- Additionally, conclusions and assumptions can be drawn from the interview process as to the candidate's motivation, character, and ability to succeed

TIMELINE

- **March 15, 2021** – Applications distributed.
- **April 30, 2021** – Application deadline. All applications must be received by 3:00pm to be considered for the scholarship award.
- **May 28, 2021** – Award recipient will be notified via phone call; candidates not selected will be notified via email.
- **June 2021** (*exact date to be determined*) – Scholarship Luncheon at PMHFOS Corporate Office in Warrendale, PA.* Scholarship recipient will have the opportunity to meet with leaders from PMHFOS. Luncheon invitation is extended to family of the recipient as well as to their school counselor(s), principal(s), and/or favorite teacher(s).
*Given the current and evolving circumstances surrounding COVID-19, for health and safety purposes, an in-person Scholarship Luncheon may be foregone, and an virtual option may be utilized instead.

HOW FUNDS WILL BE DISSEMINATED

- Scholarship recipient will be asked to provide proof of course registration before the scholarship check is granted.
- All scholarship checks will be made payable and sent directly to an accredited post-secondary education program in the student's name on or before June 30, 2021.

CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSION

- ✓ Is every section of the application completed (I thru VII) and signed by your school counselor(s) and/or principal(s)?
- ✓ Did you include in your submission your recommendation letters from the three (3) references identified?
- ✓ Are your essays responding to the *Essay Discussion Questions* typed and presented professionally and creatively?
- ✓ If submitting in hard copy format, is your application submitted in a presentation folder, with no staples, in numerical order, and with each section clearly labeled?

Should you have any additional questions or need more information, please contact Michelle Capobianco, Fund Development Director, via email at mcapobianco@passavant.org.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO

PMHFOS | Attn: Michelle Capobianco/Scholarship Committee | 163 Thorn Hill Road, Warrendale, PA 15086 or
mcapobianco@passavant.org

All applications MUST be received by 3:00pm on Friday, April 30, 2021 to be considered for the scholarship award. Due to the high volume of interest expected, any applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

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APPLICATION FORM

- Applicant must be a graduating High School Senior in the 2020-2021 school year, who will be attending an accredited two- or four-year post high school education program.
- Please clearly print or type the information requested below.

SECTION I: CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip	
Cell Phone:	
Email:	
Guardian Name:	
Guardian Phone:	
Guardian Email:	
High School:	
County of High School:	

SECTION II: POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION INFORMATION

School/College Attending:	
Financial Aid Office Address:	
Field of Study: <i>Priority may be given to areas of focus that align with PMHF's mission</i>	

SECTION III: SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE WITH LETTER

Print Name:	
Title:	
Signature:	
Date:	
Email:	
Phone:	

Please attach a separate letter stating that the candidate is in good standings with their high school institution.

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SECTION IV: COMMUNITY SERVICE

On a separate piece of paper, clearly mark the section number, and please list all Community Service and/or Volunteer Activities. Be sure to include organization information, dates, supervisor information, and special projects and/or unique involvements.

SECTION V: EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

On a separate piece of paper, clearly mark the section number, and please list any academic honors and/or additional awards as well as any school activities and/or sanctioned sports involvement.

SECTION VI: ESSAY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

On a separate piece of paper(s), clearly mark the section and question number.

Question 1:

Please describe an experience where you were faced with adversity and what you did (or didn't do) to overcome it. The essay should be no less than 300 words and no more than 500 words.

Question 2:

Please **choose only one (1)** of the following three (3) options as the focus of your essay. We welcome and encourage creativity; however, the essay must also be professional. The essay should be no less than 500 words and no more than 1,500 words.

Option A:	What have you done to enhance your knowledge/skills related to diversity and inclusion, and how have you demonstrated what you have learned?
OR	
Option B:	Our world is filled with different people, places, and things. As individuals, we are each unique, and the aspects that differentiate us from one another give us our own identity. Why is it important to acknowledge and celebrate these differences, and how do you envision your post-secondary education will inspire your efforts to support people with all different levels of abilities?
OR	
Option C:	Describe a project or idea that you would like to implement in your community that would offer support and inclusion of community members with disabilities.

SECTION VII: PHOTO RELEASE

If awarded the Community Service Scholarship, In Memory of Jamie Ellenberger, do you agree to take a photo(s) with PMHFOS personnel to be used in PMHFOS publications and/or social media posts, share your story, and provide updates to PMHFOS on how the scholarship has enhanced your educational experience? ☐ YES ☐ NO

PLEASE REMEMBER, TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:

- Every section of the application must be completed (I thru VII).
- Three (3) letters of recommendation must be included.
- Application must be signed by a school counselor or principal and accompanied with a letter stating that the candidate is in good standings with their high school institution.
- Essays must respond to the questions asked, be typed, and be presented professionally and creatively.
- Applications that are submitted in hard copy must be submitted in a presentation folder, with no staples, in numerical order, and with each section clearly labeled. Applications that are submitted via email must have all sections and components attached to the email.
- All applications must be received by 3:00pm on Friday, April 30, 2021.