Private Scholarship and Grant Program
Application Booklet

2017

Perforated application page can be found on page 7 of this booklet

Deadline:
Applications must be received in FAFS’ office by 5 pm, Wednesday, March 15, 2017.
Funding for scholarships sponsored by Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) comes from dedicated and caring people like you. If you are interested in donating to FAFS to support our scholarship program, as well as other programs that benefit our families and the children they serve, please send your donation to:

Foster and Adoptive Family Services  
P.O. Box 518  
4301 Route 1 South  
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

For more information, please turn to pages 12 and 13, or visit our website at www.fafsonline.org or call 800.222.0047.
FAFS Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide support, training and advocacy to meet the special needs of foster, adoptive and kinship families, who provide safe, stable and nurturing homes for children in foster care.

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Introduction

For over 40 years, Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) has awarded scholarships and grants to deserving High School Seniors throughout New Jersey. These scholarship awards have helped fuel the education of future lawyers, doctors, and social workers. Our opportunity grants have made independent living situations a reality for some students and have eased the burden of debt for others.

FAFS is proud to announce the 2017 scholarship and grant season and wishes all applicants the best of luck!

The FAFS award programs are separated into two distinctions: Academic Scholarships and Opportunity Grants.

**Academic Scholarships** are related solely to academic achievement. They can be used for tuition at four-year colleges or universities, junior or community colleges, trade or vocational schools. They can also be applied to supplies and services related to enrollment at these institutions. Each scholarship has specific criteria and limitations regarding eligibility, awards, and usage.

**Opportunity Grants** are generally allotted to assist young people with the next phase of their lives, including, but not limited to, their academic pursuits and/or independent living. Restrictions and criteria differ with each individual grant. Such restrictions may include types of documentation, such as letters of reference and/or letters that verify employment.

***Important Reminder to All Applicants***

Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) is dedicated to helping recipients receive their awards in a timely manner, either at their residential address or at the school of their choosing. Winners will be sent a Requisition Form which must be completed and returned to FAFS office in order for funding to be disbursed. Should enrollment status change, or a change of address becomes necessary after submitting this form, it is required that the award recipients notify the Director of Scholarship Programs at 800.222.0047 ext.323 by June 1, 2017. Any award money returned to FAFS or left undisbursed as a direct result of the students’ failure to return the requisition forms or make changes to their accounts will result in forfeiture of the award money.
General Rules and Terms

1. The applicant must be a high school senior or a GED recipient graduating in 2017 who is currently in foster care through CP&P, or who has been in foster care and is currently in an adoptive or Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) home through the NJ Division of Child Protection & Permanency (CP&P, formerly DYFS).

2. There is no application fee.

3. If a young person meets the eligibility criteria, he/she may apply for as many scholarships/grants as he/she wishes.

4. Multiple awards for each scholarship and grant may be given based on eligibility and merit of application. Award amounts will be determined based on availability of funding.

5. INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN FAFS OFFICE BY 5 PM ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017.

6. Unless otherwise stated, awards are good for one academic year. If the award goes unclaimed or unused the award will be forfeited.

7. If any award is sent to a school or institution, and it is discovered that the student has withdrawn from said school or institution without notifying FAFS, the award will be forfeited, and the student will be responsible for any outstanding charges.

8. If chosen as a winner, the applicant will be required to write a thank-you letter to the funder. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the award.

9. If chosen as a winner, the applicant will be invited to the 2017 Annual Recognition Brunch on Saturday, May 20, 2017. We strongly encourage winning applicants to attend this event, as many state leaders and the scholarship benefactors will be in attendance.

10. If you have any questions regarding the application process, please feel free to contact the Scholarship Department at 800.222.0047 or scholarships@fafsonline.org.

All information contained in this brochure is reproducible. Our intent is for this booklet to reach as many eligible young people as possible. Copied applications will be accepted.
Master Checklist of Supporting Documents

The following is a comprehensive checklist of documents youth need to apply for the scholarship and grant opportunities offered.

- Application (see page 7)
- Letter of support/recommendation (personal/character)
- Letter of support/recommendation (academic)
- Confirmation of at least one other source of funding [e.g. verification of employment or intended employment, award letters for other scholarships already received, proof of application to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)]
- Letter of acceptance or proof of application to an accredited college or vocational school. Some awards are contingent upon acceptance. (This item is not applicable for youth applying to the Opportunity Grants to assist with independent living only.)
- Copy of high school transcript or GED
- Detailed spending plan—(If awarded a scholarship or grant, what would you use the funding for?)
- Essay – Describe how an influential person or experience in your life has shaped your future goals.
- Jane Q. Goula Academic Scholarship Essay (Different topic) - How do you feel your future career and life goals will prepare you for social awareness and volunteerism in your life?

Please be sure to remove any confidential information (social security number, username/password, etc.) from your documents prior to submitting them.
FAFS Private Scholarship and Grant Program 2017

Applications and supporting documentation must be delivered by March 15, 2017 to: FAFS, Scholarship Department, P.O. Box 518, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852. Only application packets that are signed and completed will be considered. All awards are contingent on availability of funds. If you have any questions, please call 800.222.0047.

Applicant’s Information

Applicant’s Name ________________________________________________________
(Please Print)

Social Security Number [x][x][x]-[x][x]-____

Date of Birth ______________

Telephone Number ___________________________(cell) _______________________ (home)

Email Address ______________________________________________________________

Applicant’s Address ___________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

City                                                     County                                  State                      Zip Code

My involvement with CP&P (formerly DYFS) is best described as:
☐ Foster Care          ☐ Adopted          ☐ Kinship Legal Guardianship          ☐ Other_____________________

____________________________________________________________________________

Alternative Contact Name

Telephone Number

I give FAFS and the FAFS Foundation permission to reprint my application essay and if awarded, my thank you letter. I understand my name will not be used.

☐ Yes              ☐ No

By signing below, I verify my case history experience was in New Jersey and through NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency CP&P (formerly DYFS).

____________________________________________________________/_____/_____________
Signature of Applicant                                           Today’s Date
FAFS 2017 Academic Scholarships

The purpose of these scholarships is to recognize academic achievement and to support advanced studies at an accredited college, university or community college.

Jane Q. Goula Memorial Academic Scholarship

Jane was a kind and compassionate woman who loved her family and friends. She was always ready to lend a helping hand, and she touched the lives of many. Although Jane never attended college, she was a successful business woman who greatly valued education. Jane passed away in 1997 and her family and friends thought it was fitting to honor her with this academic scholarship with the hope that this scholarship will enable the young person who receives it to enrich his/her life by continuing his/her education.

George W. Gens Memorial Academic Scholarship

George W Gens was a WWII veteran and college professor for more than 30 years. He was a speech pathologist and is considered one of the “fathers” of the field in the state of New Jersey. George valued education and the institutions that enrich the lives of young adults. He provided many with the opportunity to improve their lives and his family is pleased to create this award to honor his legacy. He always looked to assist his family and in his honor, they would like to assist foster and adoptive youth advance their education and realize their full potential.

Bergen County Academic Scholarship

The Bergen County Scholarship was established to assist youth who were adopted, entered Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) in Bergen County or have an active case with the Bergen County Local Office of Child Protection and Permanency.
**Teresa Ziegelhofer Memorial Academic Scholarship**

The Teresa Ziegelhofer Memorial Academic Scholarship was formed when a beloved member of the Ziegelhofer family, Teresa, was taken from them in May 2008, at the age of 30. The Ziegelhofer family had the good fortune of taking in Teresa as a foster child and later adopting her into the family. Teresa did not take the educational opportunities available to her after high school and learned later on in her life the importance of a good education. She came to believe that an education was vital in becoming the best person one could be. At the time of her death, she was pursuing her lifelong dream of achieving an associate’s degree. The family knows that Teresa is smiling in heaven watching another “chosen” individual become the recipient of this fine scholarship, so that he/she can pursue the dream that she could not fulfill.

**Have a Heart Academic Scholarship**

The Have a Heart Academic Scholarship was established to celebrate the foster or adoptive youth with the strength, courage, and dedication to change the world with the power of education.

**Foster and Adoptive Family Services Employee Academic Scholarship**

Every day, all of FAFS’ employees, no matter what their job, take great joy in encouraging and empowering New Jersey’s young people who are, or were, in foster care. We are proud of the work we do, but we are more proud of the young men and women we serve, who each refuse to let their difficult past dim their bright future. It is our pleasure to award this scholarship, which will help them realize their dreams of continuing their education and becoming successful and fulfilled adults.

This inaugural FAFS Employee Academic Scholarship is awarded in honor of Mary Jane Awrachow, FAFS’ former CEO, who retired in January 2017 after 22 years of service. Her dedication to us, and to New Jersey’s foster, adoptive and kinship families, will never be forgotten.
FAFS’ 2017 Opportunity Grants

The purpose of these grants is to create an opportunity for a young person to succeed in the next phase of his/her life. This may include higher education, additional training, trade school, vocational school, and/or independent living.

Fran and Jack Borgenicht Opportunity Grant

This grant honors Fran and Jack Borgenicht, both of whom have a long philanthropic history, particularly in supporting foster, adoptive, and kinship families in Morris County and the State of New Jersey. After Jack’s passing, Fran has continued their charitable efforts, serving on several Foundation boards and helping to found the FAFS Foundation in 2008. Fran serves as one of the Foundation’s charter Board of Trustees, as it aids FAFS in its mission to improve the lives of our children.

Jane W. Smullen Opportunity Grant

This grant is in memory of Jane, who worked tirelessly giving in her profession as a nurse, as a deacon at her church, as a member of The Eastern Star and with numerous other organizations, as well as in her day-to-day life. When she saw someone with a need, she did what she could to help them. Jane was truly an inspiration to all who knew her. She knew hardships and realized that there are times in life when someone needs a helping hand. At the age of 50, she was granted a full scholarship to go to nursing school and took every opportunity to pass her good fortune on to others. This grant, in her name, will continue to carry her spirit of kindness to others.

Hattie Talley Opportunity Grant

Hattie Talley was one of the founding members of Foster and Adoptive Family Services and the first President of FAFS (formerly the New Jersey Foster Parents Association). As an adoptive, biological, and foster parent, Ms. Talley personified the caring, nurturing spirit that enables resource parents to open their hearts and homes to New Jersey’s children most in need.

Bernard and Sue Dondiego Opportunity Grant

This grant honors Bernie and Sue Dondiego, both of whom are founding members and past presidents of FAFS. They have been dynamic child advocates for almost a half-century. During this time, they fostered 38 children. Sadly, Bernie Dondiego, passed away in July 2015. Sue continues to be actively involved by serving on several FAFS committees. Sue and Bernie’s invaluable services continue to aid FAFS in achieving its mission to improve the lives of our children.
Thank you to all our FAFS Private Scholarship and Opportunity Grant donors!

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.
— Benjamin Franklin
Be Part of Something Important Today

When you donate to children in foster care, you are helping New Jersey’s abused and neglected children and youth in ways you cannot imagine.

You’re giving Sam the first birthday present he ever received.

You’re giving Aiesha a chance to be the ballerina of her dreams by providing dance lessons.

You’re giving Jordan the chance to be the first kid in his family to attend college.

You are not only making a palpable difference in the lives of thousands of children and youth like these. You are creating a better future.

How Can You Help?

The scholarships and opportunity grants contained in this publication, as well as all of FAFS’ programs for children and youth in foster care, are made possible by the contributions of caring people like you.

You can make a difference in the lives of children and youth in foster care by contributing as little as $5.00 a month.

Start today—visit www.fafsonline.org/monthly-giving

Thanks for your support!

“INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT http://www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/charity/chardir.htm REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT”
FAFS is here for our families 24/7!

FAFS’ Website
http://www.fafsonline.org

Find out the latest information on FAFS’ services for foster parents and programs for children in foster care.

News From Our Heart
Foster Care Newsletter
http://foster-care-newsletter.com

Get the latest news about foster care, adoption from foster care and kinship care from both national and local perspectives.

FAFS’ Blog
http://foster-adoptive-kinship-parent-support-group-nj.org

Read helpful posts and heartwarming stories on a variety of topics, including child behavioral issues, adoption, kinship and more.

http://www.facebook.com/fafs.nj
https://twitter.com/FAFS_NJ
http://www.pinterest.com/fafsnj
Your monthly gift may seem small,
but the difference it makes is bigger than you can imagine.

“Because of all the moving around I did before I came into foster care, I never really did well in school, but now I’m a straight-A student and a member of the Junior National Honors Society. My foster mom helps me participate in a lot of activities such as Boy Scouts and sports, but she’s a single foster mom who works full-time, and I know it’s hard for her to pay for all of the activities that I participate in and have an interest in. I would like to thank [you] for providing me with this opportunity.”

“I would like to perform on Broadway and be on TV one day. I want to keep busy and keep my mind off negative things. It can help me stay in shape and keep a smile on my face. I express my feelings through dance. Thank you for making my dreams come true. I’m glad that there are still nice people who care about me and want to see me happy.”

“I have no memories of my mother making me lunch or telling me she loved me as she dropped me off at school. All I have are the lessons she taught me…By breaking me, she made me a stronger person…I once dreamed of being reunited with my mother, but those days are over. Instead I have dreams of succeeding in life and making the most of life’s opportunities. College is a long path, and at the end is the chance to move on to greater things….As long as I have air in my lungs and shoes on my feet, I will never let anyone or anything stop me from reaching my goals.”

Your monthly gift of as little as $5 per month ensures that the Private Scholarships and Opportunity Grants in this booklet, as well as FAFS’ other donor supported programs, continue to change the lives of New Jersey’s children and youth in care in a very big way.

Donate today!
Visit www.fafsonline.org/monthly-giving or call Lynn Patmalnee, Director of Communication and Development at 609.520.1500 x324.
DREAMERS & BELIEVERS
OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND FOR YOUTH IN CARE

Grant program drives dreamers, bolsters believers

There's never been a better time to reach toward the sky thanks to the Dreamers and Believers initiative, a grant program that helps children and youth in care achieve their dreams.

Made possible with help from FAFS' supporters across the state, Dreamers and Believers provides up to $600 in funding to help young people develop budding talents, explore new ideas and gain the confidence they'll need to succeed in the future.

"Taking violin lessons is something I never thought I could do, but with your generosity my dream is possible," one foster teen said. "Life hasn't always been fair or easy for me, but it's comforting to know that there are people in this world who care about kids in foster care. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

College Preparation Checklist

December – February

☐ Create a Federal Student Aid ID.
   In order to complete a FAFSA online, students will need a Federal Student Aid ID. Your FSA ID is used to electronically sign your federal student aid documents.

☐ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
   The FAFSA is offered through the U.S Department of Education, and helps to provide federal grants, loans, and work-study opportunities to assist students in paying for college or career school. Beginning with the 2017 – 2018 academic aid year, students may now complete their FAFSA application on October 1st, rather than January 1st. When completing the FAFSA, students and parents will be using tax information from two years prior, rather than one year prior.

☐ Complete Scholarship Applications.
   Youth are encouraged to take advantage of as many opportunities for grants and scholarships as possible. This may include scholarships offered by your high school, prospective colleges, or community and national agencies. Online scholarship search tools such as www.fastweb.com are a great way to find potential aid.

March – April

☐ Watch for Notification from Colleges.
   Students who applied under the regular application process, should receive an admissions decision by March or April. Notifications of financial aid awards should arrive by the end of April.

☐ Follow up on Financial Aid Information.
   Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) to make any necessary corrections and submit them to the FAFSA processor.

May – August

☐ Make Your Final Decision.
   Notify all schools of your intent by May 1. Submit any required deposit to your chosen school, carefully review your financial aid packages and complete any required testing or training designated by your school. Ask your guidance counselor to send your final transcript to the college in June.

☐ Submit your NJFC Scholars Application.
   The NJFC Scholars Program provides financial assistance to eligible foster, adoptive, kinship and homeless youth who are seeking a post-secondary education. The priority deadline for the Fall 2017 semester is July 1, 2017, however applications will continue to be accepted until September 1, 2017.

☐ Get Ready!
   Congratulations! You have finished high school and are about to embark on an exciting new phase of life. Good luck!
If you would like to learn more about preparing for college, completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program, the “Planning Your Next Steps: Life After High School ” webinar may be exactly what you are looking for!

This free online workshop will provide a basic overview of the New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Participants will also receive information on post-secondary institutions, additional scholarship opportunities and support services.

Visit the Calendar of Events at www.fafsonline.org for more information on how to register for these special webinars brought to you by the FAFS Scholarship Department.

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Not all youth who have experienced time in care and custody will qualify for the NJFC Scholars Program. Before applying, please review the case history eligibility on page 18 of this booklet.

NJFC Scholars Program applications are released the Spring prior to the academic year. To be added to the mailing list for future applications, please visit the Foster Care Scholarships page at www.fafsonline.org
The New Jersey Foster Care (NJFC) Scholars Program provides financial assistance to foster, adoptive, kinship and homeless students who are seeking a post-secondary education.

The NJFC Scholars Program is funded through the Department of Children and Families, and administered through Foster & Adoptive Family Services.

*Before applying, review the eligibility requirements listed below*

To qualify, students must meet one of the following:

- Were in a DCP&P (formerly DYFS) out-of-home placement for 18 months after their 14th birthday or 9 months after their 16th birthday or
- Were adopted after the age of 12 or
- Entered Kinship Legal Guardianship after the age of 16
- Reside in or have resided in a transitional living program or have a CP&P independent living arrangement.

Students may be eligible to receive financial assistance to help with:

- Tuition & Fees
- Room & Board
- Books & Supplies
- Computers
- Child Care Costs
- Transportation

Applications for the 2017-2018 academic year will be released in late Spring of 2017.

For more information, or to be added to the 2017-2018 scholarship mailing list, contact Foster and Adoptive Family Services at 800.222.0047 or visit www.fafsonline.org