

MSSM Friendship Scholarships

Who is eligible?

Any student accepted into a four-year college...

- No GPA requirement
- No sports or extracurricular activities required
- No income requirement

The Heart of the Friendship Scholarship:

First, an applicant must demonstrate *friendship qualities*. These qualities are described through the applicant's personal letter on the meaning of friendship, and what it has meant in their life.

A friend of the applicant, who is a peer, and close in age must write a letter of recommendation, about the friendship qualities of the applicant. Some of these qualities may include a devotion to serve others, a commitment to improve our community, and a sense of love, loyalty, ethics, and compassion.

We are looking for young people who have shown that they already give of themselves to others. We want to help them achieve their education in a variety of fields, at the college or university of their choice, knowing that they have a strong likelihood of further enriching our world in years to come. We are looking for great friends, knowing they will enhance their communities and their professions everywhere, touching the lives of others and making a difference! This tremendous diversity has one thing uniting them: these people care about others.

Friendship scholarships are awarded at \$4,000 each, and renew annually for four years of college for students maintaining a 2.5 GPA and a full-time course load.

The MSSM Friendship Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable foundation; dedicated solely to children's educational programs.

EIN #54-2067302

Words of thanks from previous Friendship Scholarship recipients.

"I feel that since I have come to college, I have truly gained a feeling of responsibility towards helping others. Whether it is helping those in my community, or giving to those less fortunate in other countries. This scholarship has increased my awareness towards others and shown me that I have the ability to help. I have come to realize that anybody can help others, no matter how little or in what way."

"Friendships have shaped my life and have not only made me who I am today, but also helped me realize who I want to be. They are one of the reasons I jump instead of crawl out of bed in the morning."

"It takes time to be a true friend. There have been times I have had homework to finish or studying to do, but it has been important to me to take time to listen and help my friends."

Contact Information

MSSM Friendship Scholarship Foundation
PMB 121, 3144 North G Street #125
Merced, CA 95340

Tel: (209) 722-MSSM (6776)

For more information on scholarship requirements or to download an application, visit us online between Jan 1 and Apr 15 of the year applying at www.MSSMFoundation.org.

Applications are accepted by mail only, and must be postmarked by Apr 15 each year.

Preference is given to graduates of the Merced Union High School District.

MSSM Friendship Scholarship Foundation

Friendship Scholarships are always non-exclusive, and are attainable by any four-year college bound high school graduate.

Your application alone puts you into a special category as just in applying, you have recognized a unique quality within yourself.



Melanie Stanley Stuart Michelle

When we pause and take a closer look at the difference that friendships have made in our lives, we begin to truly appreciate the value of the investments that we have made in them.

They are built with patience, forged in mutual trust and nurtured through care. Friendships with these qualities are actually quite uncommon. They also seem to be growing in even fewer numbers as people turn to impersonal styles of relating to others either for efficiency, lack of time, or just inexperience in interpersonal interactions.

True friendships are evidence of the intangible gifts of compassion, trust, and honest communication.

Furthermore, a person's ability to identify and illustrate the true qualities of friendship are a measure of emotional intelligence and a predictor of professional success.

The MSSM Friendship Scholarship Foundation is committed to promoting these values among our youth, our college communities and our future professionals.

Join us in building a bright future for tomorrow. Take this opportunity to strengthen the bonds of our future generations. Make a difference today by nurturing the key assets of quality leaders.

Building a bright future for tomorrow

Often times, it can be difficult to quantify the value of friendships and the qualities of a community leader. However, we strive to express the importance of our mission through the values and success that we see in our scholarship recipients. Those values include:

Supporting and Serving Others

Of the four recipients graduating from college this year, two intend to become doctors. Many other recipients are also studying Medicine, Public Health, Dentistry, Law and Genetics.

As volunteers, they have served in the Merced Rescue Mission, "Week of Welcoming" for college freshmen, food and toy drives, and helping a family after losing their home in a fire.

Professional Growth and Education

Seven of the first eight graduating seniors, have continued on to graduate school.

One student was accepted after her freshman year at UC Berkeley into a six-year combination BS/MD program in another state.

Experiencing Diversity

Four have done overseas studies for a semester.

One scholarship recipient participated in a mission trip to Australia.

Another recipient has plans to lead medical missions to foreign countries after completing a medical residency program in California.

Community Involvement

Nearly all of our scholarship recipients become involved in community work while in school. They have participated in conducting medical interviews for homeless and uninsured, coordinating beach clean-up events, youth-mentoring programs, and more.

One scholarship recipient won an NCAA soccer championship, then shared her gifts by leading soccer camps and coaching youth soccer teams.

Are you ready to support our children and the Friendship Scholarship Foundation?

I would like to donate \$1,000.

Donations of \$1,000 or more will directly sponsor an individual scholarship, which will be awarded with both the donor's name and the MSSM Friendship Scholarship Foundation.

- Payment in full is enclosed.
 Enclosed is the first of 10 monthly payments of \$100.

I would like the name on the scholarship to read:

I would like to pledge a donation of \$4,000 annually for four years.

A Friendship Scholarship will be awarded together in your name and the MSSM Friendship Scholarship Foundation.

(You or a group may pledge \$4,000 annually for 4 years.)

I would like to donate \$100,000 or more.

A donation of \$100,000 or more will allow a Friendship Scholarship to be **awarded in perpetuity in your name** and the Foundation. This money would be held in the MSSM Friendship Scholarship **Endowment Fund**, and awarded annually to the recipient from earned interest.

I would like to make a one-time donation:

- \$25 \$100 Other: _____
 \$50 \$500 _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please submit this form and make checks payable to:
MSSM Friendship Scholarship Foundation
PMB 121
3144 N. G Street, #125
Merced, CA 95340