



ACF Scholarship Program

Information on the Scholarship Program

Autism Cares Foundation is a leader in offering life-enriching experiences, programs and opportunities to people on the autism spectrum. All of the programs offered by Autism Cares Foundation (also referred to as ACF) are provided at little or no cost to those participating. We never want cost to be a constraining factor when a parent or caregiver is deciding to participate in one of our programs that he or she deemed to be beneficial. To deliver these programs and activities requires financial resources which your School District or accredited U.S. College or university (hereinafter referred to as "School") may desire to support.

The ACF Scholarship Program is a unique fundraising program that not only benefits ACF, but also the School which has entered into a partnership agreement with the Foundation.

A portion of all funds raised on behalf of AFC through the efforts of the School is returned to that School in the form of scholarship money. The scholarship funds would be used to pay partial tuition for high school graduates attending college or current college students who are continuing their education.

How it works

During the course of regular charitable activity that most schools engage in, the ACF will return a portion of the funds raised on behalf of AFC in the form of scholarships. By helping ACF raise funds which support our programs, you are also helping your institution of learning develop a pool of scholarship funds.

What is required?

The School promotes ACF and features the agency as one of its recommended charities. Promotional materials provided by the Foundation are to be displayed in high traffic areas within the School premises and promoted via the School's website, e-mail, social media, etc. and in general announcements promoting ACF as one of its charities of choice. The scholarship fund is also to be recommended by the School and its guidance counselors, faculty or financial aid officers to suggest to students with financial concerns for their continuing education or to fulfill community service requirements.

The student body and/or faculty develop fundraising activities that are age-appropriate for each particular school. These fundraising activities are overseen by school faculty to be certain safeguards are adhered to by the participants. ACF can assist with developing various fundraising events suitable for all ages.

By rallying behind our cause, your School can build a substantial scholarship fund.

Information on the Scholarship Fund

Each School that we have entered into an agreement with will be co-named on the scholarship fund (i.e. Council Rock School District – ACF Scholarship Fund). The scholarship fund is created by ACF in a partnership agreement with the School to utilize its fundraising efforts to establish this account. Once the fund has been established from the net proceeds of fundraising activities conducted by the School, the funds are deposited in a bank of ACF's choosing. This account will be insured by the FDIC or similar agency so as to protect its assets. It is our intent that the account does not incur fees or other bank charges. As a means of avoiding such charges, a minimum balance may be required. If such is necessary, then that will become the standard for a minimum account balance.

Scholarships will be earmarked for partial tuition payment for either one specific school year or semester. An applicant may re-apply in subsequent years, but will not be given any preferential consideration nor detriment if he or she has been awarded a scholarship previously. Awards are issued in the name of the U.S. accredited college or university that the awarded applicant has designated. The Selection Oversight Committee will make every attempt to award any and all scholarships prior to the institution's school year.

Who May Apply for This Scholarship?

The scholarship funds are designed to support those individuals who have demonstrated that they have assisted a person having autism, or other disabilities and/or have been instrumental in fundraising efforts on behalf of ACF. Students will need to complete an application form which is to be submitted to the Foundation (see Addendum A). ACF will review every application for completeness and then submit copies of each to the Selection Oversight Committee, which has been designated by the School.

Eligibility: Relatives of members of the Selection Oversight Committee, Officers, Directors and other management of ACF and substantial contributors are eligible for scholarship awards under this program. The Selection Oversight Committee, Officers, Directors and other management of ACF and substantial contributors themselves are not eligible for scholarship awards.

The ACF is a minority vote holder in the scholarship selection process. The School has the majority of the votes in the selection process. The applicant, related or otherwise, must meet all of the eligibility requirements to be considered.

Selection of Scholarship Recipients by Selection Oversight Committee

The School shall appoint three (3) members of faculty/administration to serve on the Scholarship Oversight Committee. ACF will have two (2) members on the Committee. The Committee is charged with reviewing the applications received from their institution and recommending award recipients and values by majority vote to the School's governing body.

Each Committee Member will cast one vote (no vote having a higher value than another vote) for each individual recommended by a Committee Member until a majority has been reached or the candidate has been referred back to Committee for further discussion.

The Selection Oversight Committee members are to be held and act in the highest ethical regard. A Committee member may be removed from the Committee at any time for any reason by majority vote of the Selection Oversight Committee. No recourse would be due to the outgoing Committee member and no recourse would be incurred by the remaining members. Each Committee member will need to sign a Waiver Agreement as a prerequisite to serving on the Committee. (See Scholarship Selection Committee Agreement).

ACF and each Selection Committee member shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, gender, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation or military status in any of its activities or operations. All awards are based on academic achievement and a demonstrated record of helping those individuals having autism or other disabilities.