

# 2025 Scholarship Toolkit



CATHOLIC  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

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# About

Since 1998, the Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) has provided scholarships to students needing financial assistance for their Catholic education. The Scholarship Program was established in 1998 through a perpetual Memorial Fund by Reverend Philip J. Poirier with CCF. The goal of this fund is to honor Catholic 8th grade students for their Christ-centered behavior, as evidenced through their volunteer service to parish, school, and community.

**Over the last five years, the Catholic Community Foundation has granted over \$2.2 million in scholarship funds and has awarded over 1,500 scholarships since its inception.**

Today, this fund along with other funds make up the Christian Service Award Scholarship. The scholarship program has grown to include the Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship for needs-based students and unique scholarships for vocational, trade, and post-secondary schools.

**This year, 18 students received a Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship, 20 students received a Christian Service Award Scholarship, and two high school students received a scholarship for vocation, trade, or college.**

# Scholarships

## 7th & 8th Grade Students

Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship

Christian Service Award Scholarship

## Post-Secondary Students

Angel Scholarship for Social Work, Peace,  
& Justice Studies

Ralph M. Knight Chemistry & Engineering  
Scholarship

# Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship

## Overview

The Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship Program's mission is to assist students and their families in helping to make Catholic education achievable by granting annual tuition assistance through their 8th–12th grade school years. The application is open to all 7th graders with recommendations required. It is required that the student's parent complete a [FAIR application](#).

Students awarded the scholarship will receive one \$1,000 payment for their 8th grade year, and then an annual \$4,000 payment during each of the 9th–12th grade years in high school for a total of \$17,000. Funds will be disbursed directly to the selected Catholic schools within the Diocese of Phoenix for as long as the student remains enrolled.

Effective 2025–2026 school year, scholarship funds are to be applied to tuition only and can be used in conjunction with ESA or STO funds.

### **Applicants are evaluated in three areas:**

- 1) [Recommendations](#) - school principal or teacher and pastor or parish leader
- 2) [Essay](#) from student and parent
- 3) [Financial need](#)

# Christian Service Award Scholarship

## Overview

Since 1998, the mission of the Christian Service Award (CSA) Scholarship is to acknowledge students who demonstrate exemplary Christ-centered behavior through volunteer service to their parish, school, and community. Recipients display a love and understanding of their Catholic faith and articulate a commitment, not only to perform acts of service but to live a service-focused life. They recognize their God-given gifts and provide persuasive evidence of their maturity, humility, and leadership.

Students awarded the scholarship will receive an annual \$2,000 payment during each of the 9th–12th grade years in high school for a total of \$8,000. Funds will be disbursed directly to the selected Catholic high school within the Diocese of Phoenix for as long as the student remains enrolled.

Effective 2025–2026 school year, scholarship funds are to be applied to tuition only and can be used in conjunction with ESA or STO funds. Any 8th grade student demonstrating a minimum of 100 service hours is eligible to apply. The more service a student has done, the stronger their application is.

### **Applicants are evaluated in three areas:**

1. Recommendations – Pastor or parish leader (or Religion Teacher at your school), and leader from an organization from which the student served.
2. Essay from student.
3. Service record – All service hours completed by the student **MUST** be entered on the CSA Service Hours Tracking template. Refer to the CSA Qualifying Service Hours guidelines for examples.

# CSA Qualifying Service Hours Guidelines

## EXAMPLES OF QUALIFYING SERVICE HOURS:

### PARISH

- Being an Altar Server or Lector (altar serving should only take 1-2 hours maximum, make note on Service Record Template for a special Mass)
- Stuffing newsletters or helping in the office
- Cleaning, picking up trash in the parking lot, helping with maintenance, painting projects
- Choir (no rehearsals or travel time)
- Vacation Bible School leader/counselor (no overnight hours)
- Babysitting during Mass when you attend a different Mass

### SCHOOL (excluding class time)

- Helping to set up and clean classrooms (during summer or before/after class)
- Organizing the library
- Student council (activities and events – no meetings)
- Choir performances (no rehearsals or travel time)
- Tutoring other students (before or after school)
- School crossing guard
- Raising/lowering flag
- Starting a service club (ask a teacher or two to sponsor)
- Fall Festival (selling tickets, set up, clean up, face-painting)

## COMMUNITY (no paid babysitting or babysitting family)

- Serving food or boxing food at shelters or pantries/banks
- Starting a drive for things like coats, canned food or school supplies (Operation Gratitude)
- Starting a project of your own for a cause – examples from past recipients include knitting prayer shawls for cancer patients and rescue/placement services for pets
- Organizing a group service project (ask for parents to volunteer to drive a carload of peers to volunteer site)
- Write letters and package care boxes to the active military (Packages from Home)
- Helping your elderly neighbor with yardwork, easy fix-it or painting projects, housecleaning
- Reading to the blind (SAAVI), young children or seniors
- Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts (service projects only)
- Volunteering at the public library
- Helping at other schools (public or Catholic)
- Visiting the elderly at assisted living facilities
- Nun Run or charity walks (walking or volunteering)

## EXAMPLES OF NON-QUALIFYING SERVICE HOURS:

- Meetings
- Travel time
- Rehearsals and practices
- Scouting outings do not count (unless it is a group service project)
- Fundraising, in which proceeds benefit the applicant, applicant's family, or a for-profit organization

\*Performances only count if the event benefits the elderly, sick, disabled, or a nonprofit organization (including church and school).



# CSA Service Hours Tracking Template

All service hours completed by the student MUST be entered on THIS template.

The template can be downloaded by visiting our website at [ccfphx.org/scholarships](http://ccfphx.org/scholarships) and clicking this button:

Click [HERE](#) for the CSA Service Hours Record template.

See previous page for CSA Qualifying Service Guidelines for specific details and examples of qualifying service.

The minimum required hours is 100. However, the more service a student has done the stronger their application is.

Qualifying service hours must be completed between June 1st before the student's 7th grade year and January 1st of the student's 8th grade year.

Detailed descriptions of your service with specific dates are required for the application. It is okay to group hours, but list all dates and total hours per day.

The detailed nature of this Service Hours Tracking Template is why we encourage students to download and start using this template to track their hours from the beginning of eligibility, June 1st, before the student's 7th grade year and to keep up with tracking through January 1st of the student's 8th grade year.

# Angel Scholarship for Social Work, Peace, & Justice Studies

## Overview

The Angel Scholarship for Social Work, Peace, & Justice Studies was established in 2012 by an anonymous benefactor of the Catholic Community Foundation. The donor had a keen interest in helping the underserved and underprivileged, and hopes this scholarship will encourage young men and women to consider a life of service to others through social work.

The intent of the scholarship is for freshman year tuition assistance at a 4-year college or university in Arizona for a student seeking an undergraduate degree in Social Work, Social Justice, Peace/Justice Studies, Sociology, Public Administration, or Public Health. The scholarship does not fund degrees in Criminal Justice, Philosophy, Psychology, Nursing, or Teaching/Education.

The Angel Scholarship for Social Work, Peace, & Justice Studies is a one-time \$5,000 award toward freshman-year tuition at a 4-year college or university in Arizona.

Applicants must be full-time seniors attending a Catholic high school within the Diocese of Phoenix, must be registered practicing Catholics, and must be either a US citizen or Permanent Resident. Initial scholarship awards are not based on financial need nor high school GPA. The scholarship will be paid directly to the college/university.

# Ralph M. Knight Engineering & Chemistry Scholarship

## Overview

The Ralph M. Knight Chemistry and Engineering Scholarship was established in 2010 by Mrs. Nancy Knight in memory of her husband Ralph, who was a chemical engineer. The Knight family wishes to honor his legacy and help others contribute to society as he did.

The intent of the scholarship is for freshman-year tuition assistance at a 4-year college or university in the United States for a student majoring in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Materials & Science Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Solar Energy Engineering, or Structural Engineering.

The Ralph M. Knight Chemistry and Engineering Scholarship is a \$5,000 award toward freshman-year tuition at a 4-year college or university in the United States for students declaring one of the specified majors.

Applicants must be full-time seniors attending a Catholic high school within the Diocese of Phoenix, must be a registered practicing Catholic, and must be either a US citizen or a Permanent Resident. Initial scholarship awards are not based on financial need or high school GPA. The scholarship will be paid directly to the college/university.

# Important Dates

## **July 1, 2024**

2025 Scholarship Toolkit available

## **December 1, 2024**

Applications open

## **January 31, 2025**

Applications close

## **February 2025**

Applications evaluated

## **March 2025**

- Students notified of acceptance or denial
- Certificates of Award mailed to students
- Award info emailed to principals

## **July 1, 2025**

2026 Scholarship Toolkit available

## **August 2, 2025**

2025 Scholarship Award Ceremony  
(date subject to change)

**For questions and other inquiries:**



**480-651-8806**



**[scholarships@ccfphx.org](mailto:scholarships@ccfphx.org)**

