

Printed in Jewish Voice, November 2008

Educational Scholarships Offer Opportunities

Education has always been a key value in the Jewish community, and in recent years local community leaders have promoted that value by establishing educational scholarship funds with the Jewish Community Foundation of the West. These scholarships, some designated for specific schools and others for specified fields of study, have enabled Sacramento area students to further their studies in a range of subjects.

The Blanche and Frank Goldstein Building Bridges Fund, established by the couple's children as a memorial to their parents' legacy of community service, is awarded each quarter to two UC Davis students participating in the school's program in Washington, DC. Scholarships are made available to any student who has demonstrated a commitment to the ideals of tolerance and social justice.

"My parents were involved in social action in the 1940s and 1950s," says Michael Goldstein, "and they interacted with people of all different backgrounds. My siblings and I wanted to pass that spirit on to future generations." Although the award is just \$500, "I hear all the time that the award made it possible for someone to come to Washington," says Goldstein. "We never thought that \$500 could change the world, but we're seeing that it does open new career possibilities for these students." To date, eighteen scholarships have been awarded; the donors plan to grow the fund into an endowment that can provide scholarship opportunities for a larger number of students in the future.

Students attending American River College are eligible for scholarships through the Saber Scholarship Endowment Fund, which was specifically set up for ARC students, while those pursuing general communications studies at Sacramento State University may benefit from the BMG Scholarship Endowment Fund. Both funds were established by an anonymous donor to help defray tuition costs for local students. Award recipients are selected by the schools and scholarships are distributed by the Jewish Community Foundation.

Elementary school students at the Shalom School Jewish day school may be eligible for scholarship assistance through the Judah Jacobson Scholarship Endowment Fund, a fund designated just for that purpose, as well as through the William and Sedele Belson Memorial Scholarship Fund, an endowment whose proceeds are available to students of Shalom School or any other Jewish school.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, four Sacramento area college students enrolled in Jewish studies courses at schools across the country were awarded scholarships through the Morton S. Goldstein, M.D. Memorial Endowment Fund. Additional money from that endowment was provided to the Yachad Community Jewish High School to facilitate its Jewish studies programs.

Board President Scott Shapiro encourages community members to consider creating their own legacy by setting up a new fund to benefit future generations of students, or to contribute to existing scholarship funds so as to further their important mission. “There is nothing more important,” says Shapiro, “than educating our children. By setting up new scholarship funds or enlarging current funds, each of us can make a critical difference.”

For additional information about any of the above funds, or to learn about setting up your own fund with the Foundation, please contact Cindy Klutznick, Director of Philanthropy, at 916-484-0954 or CindyJCFW@aol.com