

# Allendale

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## community foundation<sup>SM</sup>

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### 2009 Scholarship Application Packet

#### Included in this packet:

- A list of Scholarship Opportunities available through Funds of the Allendale Community Foundation
- Tips and suggestions for completing the Scholarship Application

#### Instructions:

- Please read through this information carefully.
- The General Scholarship Application, along with instructions for completing and submitting your application, is available on our website:  
<http://www.ghacf.org/scholarships/application.htm>
- You must create a log in name and password to begin the application process.
- Use the “tab” key to move through the fields within the application.
- Be sure to save the file as you are working with it. You may return to work on your application at any time by “logging in.”
- Only completed applications can be submitted. If you have not completed a section, you will be asked to “Fix It.”
- After you have submitted your application online, you must print a paper copy of your application and mail it with all necessary attachments to the Allendale Scholarship Committee at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. (If the word “**Draft**” appears on any pages of the application after printing, go back to the “Finish Page” and “**Submit**” the application. **Applications will not be considered submitted if they are in Draft form.**)
- A completed application has the following elements:
  - ◇ All pages of the scholarship application.
  - ◇ Current high school or college transcript.
  - ◇ Page One of your SAR (Student Aid Report) from the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Form, unless you are only applying for scholarships that do not consider financial need.
  - ◇ Please print and submit the Financial Information Form to the Financial Aid office of your college/university.
  - ◇ If a Letter of Recommendation is required for any of the scholarships for which you would like to be considered, please include it in your packet.

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Grand Haven Area Community Foundation  
One South Harbor  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
616-842-6378 [www.ghacf.org](http://www.ghacf.org)

Please review the scholarship descriptions below. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of a competitive process, which considers financial need, academic achievements, extracurricular activities, educational goals and personal aspirations. Complete the online application and follow the instructions for submitting your application.

Please note: a separate application form must be completed for the **Allendale Chamber of Commerce Scholarship**. Available at the Chamber of Commerce.

The **Lindsey Bakale Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established in 2001 in loving memory of Lindsey Bakale who died at a young age. This scholarship is designed to provide qualifying graduating seniors of Allendale High School with a one-time award for the purpose of post-secondary education.

#### **Detter Family Foundation Education Scholarship**

This award will be presented to a current graduate of Allendale Public Schools planning to pursue a career in the field of education. This may include teacher, counselor, school psychologist or education administrator. Students must demonstrate leadership and have participated in extracurricular activities and have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.0. Financial need is a consideration.

The **David James Merkle Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established in 2006 in loving memory of David James Merkle who unexpectedly died. Requirements for this scholarship are still in process. When available, information will be posted.

#### **West Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association Scholarship Fund**

This award was created to assist graduating high school seniors and currently enrolled college students planning to pursue a horticulture or green industry career at a two- or four-year college or university. Eligible students must reside in Ottawa, Oceana, Newaygo, Muskegon, or Allegan Counties.

The **Herman J. and Helen D. Wyngarden Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established in memory of Herman J. Wyngarden, a long-time educator. This fund commemorates Dr. and Mrs. Wyngarden's commitment to education and will help deserving students further their education beyond the high school level.

#### **Tips and Suggestions for Completing the Scholarship Application**

- Apply only if you are eligible. With very few exceptions, only those students residing in Allendale Charter Township may apply. Please call if you have questions about your eligibility.
- Remember - Your scholarship application represents YOU!
- Give your application the time, attention, and preparation that it deserves. Complete all sections.
- Read and follow the instructions carefully.
- Neatness counts! Complete your application online at <http://www.ghacf.org/scholarships/application.htm>.
- Proofread your work - especially your responses to the narrative questions. Check the spelling and grammar. Ask a parent, friend, or teacher to proofread your completed application.
- Be honest and be yourself.
- Don't be afraid to highlight your strengths and talk about yourself.
- Watch Deadlines - financial aid offices and scholarship personnel adhere to them!
- You are responsible for making sure that ALL parts of the application arrive on time, including your transcript, Student Aid Report, etc. Be sure to allow those providing this information enough time to respond as well.
- Print a copy of the application for your file.
- Ask for help if you need it.

Responding to the Scholarship Narrative Question: This question may be the hardest part of your application to complete. But, it is also where you can stand out from the crowd. The key to writing a strong essay is to be personal and specific. Include details about yourself so the reader can get to know who "you" are and what you stand for. Be truthful and honest. The scholarship selection committee has hundreds of essays to review. It is YOUR job to get their attention. Here are tips that may help you:

- **Think before you write.** Brainstorm to generate some good ideas, and then create an outline to help you get going. Make sure to address specific questions clearly.
- **Be original and be creative in your answers.** Show, don't tell. Use examples to individualize your responses. Demonstrate the point you want to make. Avoid vagueness to make a strong impression.
- **Create a portrait of a winner.** By doing this on paper, you create a vivid portrait that will depict the person behind the grades, activities and awards. If a judge feels like he or she knows you, you have done your job and created a powerful emotional connection that elevates your application, makes it stand out from others.

### How are Scholarship Applications Judged?

The scholarship selection committee pays special attention to the following:

- **Academics** - It may be important to have a competitive GPA; however, they may consider how challenging your course load and school is. They will also check to see if you are taking the right courses to reach your goals and how well you did in those courses.
- **Leadership** - If this is part of the criteria for an award, committee members may examine your activities in this area and they may also look for a range of leadership roles you have played.
- **Service** - Community and volunteer service is a key component in many awards and committee members will be interested in what service you have provided to your school, community or church. They may look at activities that go above and beyond the required service job.
- **Creativity** - You can show your creative side, if you play an instrument, write stories, paint, act, etc. Demonstrate your ability by highlighting awards you may have won.
- **Financial Need** – The SAR (Student Aid Report) of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Form provides this important information. Please be sure to file your FAFSA by February 15<sup>th</sup> in order to have this information by the Scholarship Application Deadline of March 6, 2009.
- **Special Circumstance** – If you have overcome an obstacle to achieve your goals, or are facing a special circumstance, the selection committee wants to know about it.

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