



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Scholarship Description

Name of Scholarship: Clark Family Mental Health and Disability Scholarship

About the donors: Barbara and Tom Clark have been blessed with good health, four children who live nearby, grandchildren, and a comfortable lifestyle. They come from modest backgrounds with parents who provided them with educational opportunities and a strong work ethic which has enabled them to be in a position to share their good fortune with others. Their youngest child, born with Down Syndrome, has been the beneficiary of many services provided by agencies and health systems serving the developmentally disabled. With their help, she has grown into a fine young woman.

Both Barbara and Tom have been closely involved with agencies serving the disadvantaged and have personally witnessed the skills and dedication of those who have chosen this career. This scholarship was established to assist individuals dedicated to serving in the field of developmental disabilities or mental health with their advanced educational pursuits. Through this scholarship, Barbara and Tom Clark desire to help these individuals with the educational requirements to improve their skills in serving those in need.

Purpose of the scholarship: To provide financial support for nonprofit professionals working in the mental health or developmental disabilities field within the six-county area surrounding Rochester (Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, Ontario, Orleans, and Genesee Counties) who wish to pursue advanced degrees (master's or doctorate) in their field.

Size of the award: Number of awards varies, maximum of \$5,000 a year per award. The amount awarded will be a determined based on the student's actual cost of attendance, financial need, and receipt of other available grants/resources. While funding will not cover the entire cost of attendance, the award assists students in closing the gap between the expected contribution and the actual cost of attendance.

Allowed uses of the award: Tuition, books, and supplies for part- or full-time study.

Eligibility Criteria: For nonprofit professionals who

- Are currently working in the mental health or developmental disabilities fields in a nonprofit organization within the six-county area surrounding Rochester (Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, Ontario, Orleans, and Genesee Counties).
- Are matriculated in an accredited school by the beginning of the first semester of the award period, and plan to attend either full or part-time.
- Are working toward an advanced degree (clinical or administrative) in the mental health or developmental disabilities field.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Are committed to working in the mental health or developmental disabilities field in the greater Rochester area for at least two years after degree attainment.

Application Process: The Community Foundation sends an application to Coordinated Care Services Inc. in January. The application is available on the CCSI website, www.ccsi.org, and consists of the Clark Family Scholarship Application form, a personal statement, two letters of recommendation, Financial Need Form and requires the first two pages of the applicant's current federal income tax return. The completed application packet must be **submitted to CCSI by the second Friday in April**. Applications are sent to:

Anne Wilder
Coordinated Care Services
1099 Jay Street
Bldg. J 3rd floor
Rochester, NY 14611
Attn: Clark Family Scholarship

Review and selection process: A committee convened by CCSI, comprised of professionals from the mental health and developmental disability service fields, representatives of CCSI, representatives of the Community Foundation and members of the Clark family, will review applications and select recipients. Interviews may be requested.

Award announcement and payment: An award letter is sent to the student with instructions for claiming the award. Payment is sent to the school for the student's account.

Renewability: Since the goal of this award is to help worthy recipients obtain an advanced degree, it is renewable upon receipt of documentation indicating good academic standing, continued enrollment, continued financial need, continued association with a non-profit in the mental health or developmental disabilities field, and continued alignment with the award criteria. This scholarship is renewable up to a maximum of four times during a consecutive six-year period. Recipients are expected to obtain an advanced degree within 6 consecutive years. Renewal letters and forms, due by the second Friday in April, are available on the Community Foundation's website, www.racf.org, and CCSI's website, www.ccsi.org.

Clark Scholars: Recipients will be known as Clark Scholars and will be expected to participate in an annual Clark Scholars recognition event.