



2022 FRESHMEN AND RENEWAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS REPORT

Scholarship Committee

Mike Hardy Lake Weir HS

Harold Williams (deceased) Wildwood MHS

Mike Napier Leesburg HS

Otis Lane, Chairman The Villages Charter HS

SOPHISTICATED GENTS OF FLORIDA
P.O Box #157, Lady Lake, Florida 32158-0157

Sophisticated Gents of Florida 2022 Scholarship Committee Award Report

OVERVIEW

The Sophisticated Gents of Florida, in order to promote continuing education, is offering scholarships to high school seniors from the surrounding Lake, Sumter and Marion communities. We are a social and civic minded group of seniors with an interest in serving students in the tri-county area. The process includes a student completing an application and a short essay about career aspirations. The high schools we serve are Leesburg, Wildwood, Lake Weir, and The Villages Charter.

APPLICANT CRITERIA:

- A graduating senior with at least a 2.50 GPA.
- Plans to enroll in a higher education endeavor (two or four-year college, trade or business school).

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE'S SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Applicant's expression of financial need to support higher education goals.
- Applicant's high school activities and accomplishments.
- Applicant's personal desire to achieve higher education and career goals.
- Scholarship Committee's overall evaluation of the student.

Scholarships Funding Sources:

The Friendship Golf Tournament Sponsors and Donors

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Sophisticated Gents of Florida & The African American Club of The Villages Friendship Golf Tournament, Sponsors, and Donors Scholarship Award Recipients

In memory of Harold Williams

The Scholarship Committee dedicates this Annual Report to our beloved Committee Member, HAROLD WILLIAMS. He served as a committee member and mentor for Wildwood Middle High School and Wildwood Elementary School for 8 years. He was also active in other club activities and events. He was Committee Chairman for the biennial Black & White Ball. The Harold H. Williams Memorial Scholarship Award is named in his honor and memory.

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Action Plan #1: 2022 Graduating Class

Students below were selected to receive the 2022 Gents Scholarship Award and Sponsor/Donor Scholarship Award:

Student Profiles:

Lake Weir High School

1. Rebecca Reid

Gents Award \$2,000

Gender Female

Ethnicity African American

GPA 3.87

College/Technical School Applied To: University of Florida

How scholarship award will help student:

This award will allow her to pursue a Bachelor Degree leading to Law School to receive a Law Degree. She wants to help marginalized groups who cannot help themselves,

2. Leah Gonzalez-Murphy

Gents Award \$1,000 (4Some Gone Wild Golf Group Scholarship Award)

Gender Female

Ethnicity Hispanic

GPA 3.6

College/Technical School Applied to: Santa Fe College

How scholarship award will help student:

She will be pursuing a degree in Cardio Sonography.

Wildwood Middle High School

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1. Sandra Barrientos

Gents Award \$2,000
Gender Female
Ethnicity Hispanic
GPA 3.4

College/Technical School Applied to: U. of South Florida

How scholarship award will help student:

She Her Parents are immigrants who moved to this country to give her a better life. She will pursue a degree in Business.

2. Leirin Byrd

Gents Award \$2,000
Gender Female
Ethnicity White
GPA 3.9

College/Technical School Applied to: Lake Sumter State College

How scholarship award will help student:

The scholarship award will help her in achieving her goals of going to college. She will major in Behavioral Analysis in Criminology.

Leesburg High School

1. Natasha Manns (Harold Williams Memorial Scholarship)

Gents Award \$1,000
Gender Female
Ethnicity African American
GPA 3.6

College/Technical School Applied to: Edward Waters University

How scholarship award will help student:

Natasha has a wonderful personality. She will attend Edward Waters University. She plans to major in Criminal Justice and minor in Psychology.

2. Mayah Thomas

Gents Award \$2,000
Gender Female
Ethnicity African American
GPA 4.0

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College/Technical School Applied to: FAMU

How scholarship award will help student:

This scholarship will help defray some of her expenses. She plans to work hard to achieve her educational goals.

3. Dencov Bryant

Sponsor Award \$2,000

Gender Male

Ethnicity African American

GPA 4.1

College/Technical School Applied to: University of South Flo

Dencov will enter the University of South Florida this Summer. This scholarship will go a long way towards helping him achieve his future educational goals.

The Villages Charter High School

1. Danielle Obiaja

Gents Award \$2,000

Gender Female

Ethnicity African American

GPA 4.5

College/Technical School Applied to: University of California At Irvine

How scholarship award will help student:

Danielle said that she “cares about the wellness of others.” That is why she wants to attend college and pursue a degree in public health and eventually go to medical school to become a doctor. She said the Gents scholarship will allow her to study under prestigious programs and focus on her academic advancement without worrying about how to fund her education.

2. Jonathan Estrella

Gents Award \$2,000

Gender Male

Ethnicity Asian

GPA 4.5

College/Technical School Applied to: University of Central Florida

How scholarship award will help student:

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Jonathan needs more financial support to adequately cover cost toward tuition, housing, textbooks and other expenses in college. He comes from a single parent family who are immigrants from the Philippines. He wants to major in Civil Engineering at UCF. He has always been fascinated with building things.

2022 requirements for the students above to receive the scholarship award:

- Attend our upcoming Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center at 11:30 A.M. The address is: 510 Colony Blvd, The Villages, FL 32162. You will be asked to speak about yourself and your education plans (no longer than 2 minutes). You will receive a certificate on your high school achievements, your college plans and your career aspirations. You can invite TWO (2) guests to accompany you at the Luncheon. The attire is shirt, jacket and tie (no sneakers/jeans) and business casual for the ladies. Please provide the names of your guests directly to me at 404-694-2374. Appreciate your response ASAP.
- Submit your College Letter of Acceptance.
- Submit your schedule of classes for the 2022 Summer or Fall semester.
- The address you will be using on campus. If you are commuting please indicate your updated home address. Your scholarship check will be mailed to this address that you submit.

All documents should be forwarded to Dr. Otis C. Lane, 675 Highridge Street, The Villages, FL 32163. Upon receipt of these documents your scholarship check will be forwarded to you.

Forfeiture of Scholarship Award: If a student that has been awarded a scholarship by the Sophisticated Gents has not enrolled in school by September 15, 2022, the money will be considered forfeited by the student. The forfeited amount will be returned to the scholarship fund. This rule shall be waived if the student shows proof that they were ill and contacts us during the enrollment period. Also, if the student elects to miss the first semester of the next school year and wants to attend the second semester instead, the scholarship committee will make the decision about that award on an individual basis.

Action Plan 2: Renewal Scholarship Award Recipients

***Anonymous Major Benefactor = \$30,000.00**

Students below are the (2018-2022) scholarship award recipients. All have been contacted and offered an additional scholarship award for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. They are:

Anonymous Major Donor			
Paloma Telfort	palomatelfort@gmail.com	\$2,000	USF
Andrew Jenkins	andrewjeno1@gmail.com	\$2,000	UCF
Esteban Ventura	bontopia14@gmail.com	\$2,000	USF GANNON
Nate Mikell	nathanmikell1129@gmail.com	\$2,000	U,

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*Micah Forsythe
(LHS)
Pollard Boykin M.
Sch.

yaboiimicah@gmail.com

Albany St.
\$1,000

Renewal Students Financial Need Statements:

1. Paloma Telfort

It is nice to hear from you! I am a third year Health Sciences major with a concentration in Biological Health/ Women and Gender Studies. I have shadowed in doctor's offices, as well as customer service positions, directing and conversing with those I work with. Within the positions I have worked in before, I have maintained communication paths through phones, emails, and in person assistance. I am looking toward to becoming an assistant who specializes in OB/GYN. I strive to be a leader in any place they put me. I also have an interest in the rights of minorities and diversity, as shown by my certification in SAFEzone training done in 2019. I will incorporate that in my future in the medical field. I have an interest in in the medical field, which shows that I can assist others and be able to identify complex problems and come up with proper paths to solutions. I pay most of my bills on my own due to not having financial assistance from my parents. I actually cannot afford classes for the Summer and Fall due to diminishing benefits from the government PELL grant. I am grateful that you thought of me!

2. Andrew Jenkins:

Upon entering the 2022-2023 school year, I will still be attending UCF and majoring in Psychology, specifically on the Clinical Track. I am still in need of financial assistance this upcoming school year due to the impact COVID-19 has had on my family and an increase in the number of people my parents are financially supporting. As a result of the job loss that occurred due to COVID-19, my expected family contribution has dropped over fifty percent for this upcoming school year. Another factor that contributed to this drop is there are now two additional family members in my household that are financially dependent on my parents. One of my family members who is now living with us is being treated for deteriorating cognitive function, which is currently believed to be the onset of dementia, and my parents are paying all the medical bills for their testing. Furthermore, my younger brother will also be attending college in the 2022-2023 school year, which my parents will be also contributing to. Receiving financial assistance will allow me to focus on my education as much as possible so I can maintain a high GPA, which will hopefully allow me to enter graduate school.

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3. Esteban Ventura:

A lot has changed since you first met me years ago in the conference room of Lake Weir High School. I'm grateful that our paths crossed then, and for the financial support I've received from The Sophisticated Gents of Florida. Words could not describe how much I am appreciative of you and your organization for helping me get through the financial struggles of undergrad.

As you may recall, I'm currently a commuter student at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Thanks to financial aid and the scholarships I received from the Gents, I was able to save up enough money to buy myself a 2005 Honda CR-V to make the commute less cumbersome on my mom and her Toyota Highlander. And it's been as equally fun as it's been challenging! I've put many miles on Rose – I named my car Honda Rose after her red paint job – and have countless memories in it as well. Not to mention the number of hours I put in listening to music and podcasts on the way to and from school...

I've loved every bit of it, from the mundane to the exciting, each moment has been an absolute blessing to experience, and none of it would've been possible without help from you and The Gents.

Continued support from you and The Sophisticated Gents of Florida would help me pay for gas, food, and car insurance in my senior year of undergrad. It may even help me secure housing in Tampa should the opportunity present itself. As of right now I'm working to save as much as I can before the Summer ends, but can only do so much on a bartender's salary. This is another reason why I'd benefit from receiving a scholarship. With a stipend I'd worry less about where I'm going to acquire the funds to pay the bills, and put forth the energy towards my studies. I've taken a lot more hours at work in order to meet my insurance payments as a result. However, with the Fall semester starting up soon, I'll have less time to bartend on a weekly basis and thus my paychecks will be cut significantly. A scholarship would help cushion the monetary difference.

I hope this letter finds you well, and should you or The Gents needs draft beer or wine, and satisfactory entertainment, do not hesitate to visit me at The Corkscrew in Lady Lake on Saturdays. I'll make sure you're taken care of!

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4. Nate Mikell:

Hey, my name is Oscene Nate Mikell and I have applied for this scholarship last year. This scholarship helped me cover my technology fees since my major is in Digital Media and my minor is in Computer Science. With this scholarship money I will be able to do more research with better technology that I already have. The money will help with my books for classes along with materials for my classes which is a pretty penny. This scholarship will help me very much. Thank you for this opportunity.

5. Micah Forsythe:

Throughout my adolescence, I can confidently say the only college graduate I knew were the educators I saw at my school. I find it astonishing that at the time I knew more people who've spent behind bars, or have felonies on their record, than those who obtained a college degree. How can I blame them? College is an emotional roller coaster filled with expenses that seem to fabricate from nowhere. Adding the fact that I'm a dual-sport athlete (football & track), you can imagine the monumental pressure on one's back. However, I can say I made it through my first year, a stepping stone in which no one in my family has achieved. This past year I've learned a lot about myself, had my fair share of faults and triumphs, and overall grew myself through HBCU on route to earn a degree in Mathematics. This is a privilege I have due to the help of Mary Boykins, and the scholarship she's blessed me with. To put it simply; reimbursement of the scholarship would help provide a means to pay for the amount Albany State University fees in which my football scholarship doesn't cover. It will help me continue my path to earning a degree, and becoming a first-generation college graduate. It will help continue my efforts athletically on the gridiron and on the track respectively. Most importantly, it will provide another child of color growing up with someone who graduated from a university, who looks just like them. The privilege I yearned for as a child.

Requirements below must be completed for the students above to continue to receive the \$2,000.00. Gents scholarship award amount may vary from year to year:

1. Must be enrolled in college or technical school full-time.
2. Provide a copy of 2021 college or technical school transcript.
3. Provide a copy of 2021 Fall Semester or Quarter schedule of classes.
4. Write a short paragraph explaining a need for continued financial support for your education.

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The above requirements must be completed by August 30, 2022. If a student that has been awarded a multi-year scholarship by the Sophisticated Gents has not enrolled back in school by August 30, 2022, that money will be considered forfeited by the student and returned to the general scholarship fund. Extenuating circumstances request by a student will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.

2022 Sophisticated Gents Scholarship Fund Account

	SGF	Sponsor/Donor/Grant
Total Scholarship Fund	\$22,000.00	
Anonymous Major Donor		\$30,000.00
Total Action Plan #1	\$17,000.00	
Total Action Plan #2		\$8,000.00
Total Sponsor/Donor		\$8,000.00
Total 2022 Carryover Fund	\$5,000.00	\$22,000.00

SUMMARY OF GENTS & TAAC SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVES (2014 - 2022):

1. Total number of student scholarships awarded. **207**
2. Total amount of scholarship money awarded to new & renewed students. **\$281,000**
3. Total number of students retained and graduated. **203 (99%)**
4. Total number of students that received additional financial support. **67 (3%)**
5. Total number of students dropped out or did not graduate. **4 (.02%)**