

PASSAVANT MEMORIAL HOMES FOUNDATION COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

In memory of Jamie Ellenberger



PMHF Community Service Scholarship

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OVERVIEW

Passavant Memorial Homes Foundation (PMHF) was established to support Passavant Memorial Homes (PMH) and its commitment to enriching the lives of children and adults with intellectual disabilities, autism, and behavioral health needs. PMHF creates awareness of and provides additional financial resources for the quality programs of Passavant Memorial Homes Family of Services (PMHFOS), which care for the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of individuals while promoting choice and independence. PMHF upholds the contention that all people have the right to lead full, productive, and independent lives.

The PMHF Community Service Scholarship was created in memory of Jamie Ellenberger. Jamie was a young man who PMH was privileged to serve. He thrived in his community despite adversity. Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Jamie successfully transitioned from living in a state facility to becoming an active member of his new residential community at PMH.

While part of PMH's community residential program, Jamie was an enthusiastic and contributing member of society, both in community-based activities and in our vocational training program. His positivity and perseverance were always paired with kindness and a smile. After his passing, this scholarship was established in his honor, so his legacy can continue to make a lasting impact in the community in which he loved being a part of.

Through our scholarship program, we hope to encourage local students to pursue a post-secondary education as well as take a renewed look into their community and to find unique opportunities to become a part of its furtherance. We want our youth to recognize that community service can provide opportunities to acquire valuable life skills and knowledge as well as provide a service to those who need it most. We want to show students that their actions can have a lasting and a positive impact on our society at large. Community service can teach compassion and acceptance; it can foster cultures of inclusion and advocacy; it can build positive, lifelong relationships that can ultimately strengthen our communities. We want our next generation of leaders to experience that.

PMHF is a part of PMHFOS. For more information on PMHFOS and to access this information online, please visit our website at www.pmhfos.org.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

- One (1) \$10,000 award annually, granted to one (1) recipient

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Candidate must be a graduating high school senior in 2025-2026 school year
- Candidate must be graduating from a high school in one of the following western Pennsylvania counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Washington, or Westmoreland
- Candidate must be qualified and planning to attend an accredited two- or four-year post-secondary education program
- Candidate must complete the application form in its entirety, including all letters, references, and essay information
- If requested, the candidate must be available to participate in an interview with the PMHF's Scholarship Review Committee

ABOUT THE PMHF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

- The recipient will be selected by an internal committee
- The committee decisions are final, and deliberations of the committee are confidential
- The committee retains the right to withhold the scholarship award if no candidate is determined to be qualified
- The committee will always be objective and nondiscriminatory, and will award without regard to race (to include hair type, hair texture, or hair style), color, religious creed (to include all aspects of religious observances and practice, as well as belief), disability, ancestry, national origin (including limited English proficiency), age (40 and over), sex (to include pregnancy status, childbirth status, breastfeeding status, sex assigned at birth, gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation, and differences in sex), genetic information, marital status, membership in volunteer emergency responder organization, victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, family care responsibilities, reproductive health decisions, and retaliation for initiating a complaint of discrimination or opposing or participating in the investigation of a discriminatory practice

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SCHOLARSHIP FOCUS

The PMHF Community Service Scholarship is focused on our communities and giving back. Community involvement, community service, community initiatives, and/or community improvement, as well as the student's ability to showcase creativity in the essay section of the application, will play a vital role in the selection process. The candidate must also be in good standings with their high school institution.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Criteria for selection can include but need not be limited to:

- Community Service and/or Volunteer Activities
- Essays (*details described below*)
- Academic Honors and Additional Awards
- Extracurricular Activities
- Three Letters of Recommendation, with current contact information (*family members are not eligible to submit a letter*):
 - Community Leader
 - Character Authentication
 - Academic Substantiation
- Post-secondary Education Major and/or Area of Focus
 - Students focusing their studies on careers aligned with our mission may be given preference in this category
- Additionally, conclusions and assumptions can be drawn from the interview process as to the candidate's motivation, character, and ability to succeed

TIMELINE

- **February 13, 2026** – Applications distributed.
- **April 24, 2026** – Application deadline. All applications must be received by 3:00pm to be considered for the scholarship award.
- **May 29, 2026** – Award recipient will be notified via phone call; candidates not selected will be notified via email.
- **June 2026** (*exact date to be determined*) – Scholarship Luncheon at a PMHFOS office location. Scholarship recipient will have the opportunity to meet with leaders from PMHFOS. Luncheon invitation is extended to the family of the recipient as well as to their school counselor(s), principal(s), and/or favorite teacher(s).

HOW FUNDS WILL BE DISSEMINATED

- Scholarship recipient will be asked to provide proof of course registration before the scholarship check is granted.
- All scholarship checks will be made payable and sent directly to an accredited post-secondary education program in the student's name on or before June 30, 2026.

CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSION

- ✓ Is every section of the application completed (I thru VII) and signed by your school counselor(s) and/or principal(s)?
- ✓ Did you include in your submission your recommendation letters from the three (3) references identified?
- ✓ Are both essays responding to the *Essay Discussion Questions* typed and presented professionally and creatively?
- ✓ If submitting in hard copy format, is your application submitted in a presentation folder, with no staples, in numerical order, and with each section clearly labeled?

Should you have any additional questions or need more information, please contact Michelle Capobianco, Fund Development Director, via email at mcapobianco@passavant.org.

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APPLICATION FORM

- Applicants must be a graduating High School Senior in the 2025-2026 school year, who will be attending an accredited two- or four-year post high school education program.
- Please clearly print or type the information requested below.

SECTION I: CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Cell Phone:	
Email:	
Guardian Name:	
Guardian Phone:	
Guardian Email:	
High School:	
County of High School:	

SECTION II: POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION INFORMATION

School/College Attending:	
Financial Aid Office Address:	
Field of Study: <i>Priority may be given to areas of focus that align with PMHF's mission</i>	

SECTION III: SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE WITH LETTER

Print Name:	
Title:	
Signature:	
Date:	
Email:	
Phone:	

Please attach a separate letter stating that the candidate is in good standings with their high school institution.

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SECTION IV: COMMUNITY SERVICE

On a separate piece of paper, clearly mark the section number, and please list all Community Service and/or Volunteer Activities. Be sure to include organization information, dates, supervisor information, and special projects and/or unique involvements.

SECTION V: EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

On a separate piece of paper, clearly mark the section number, and please list any academic honors and/or additional awards as well as any school activities and/or sanctioned sports involvement.

SECTION VI: ESSAY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

On a separate piece of paper(s), clearly mark the section and question number. **Both questions must be answered.**

Essay Question 1:

Please describe an experience where you were faced with adversity and what you did to overcome it. *This essay should be no less than 300 words and no more than 500 words.*

Essay Question 2:

Please describe how you have contributed to your community and/or promoted inclusion of community members with disabilities, as well as how you plan to continue to do so in the future. *This essay should be no less than 500 words and no more than 1,500 words.*

SECTION VII: PHOTO RELEASE

If awarded the Community Service Scholarship, In Memory of Jamie Ellenberger, do you agree to take a photo(s) with PMHFOS personnel to be used in PMHFOS publications and/or social media posts, share your story, and provide updates to PMHFOS on how the scholarship has enhanced your educational experience? YES NO

PLEASE REMEMBER, TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:

- Every section of the application must be completed (I thru VII).
- Three (3) letters of recommendation must be included.
- Application must be signed by a school counselor or principal and accompanied with a letter stating that the candidate is in good standings with their high school institution.
- Essays must respond to the questions asked, be typed, and be presented professionally and creatively.
- Applications that are submitted in hard copy must be submitted in a presentation folder, with no staples, in numerical order, and with each section clearly labeled. Applications that are submitted via email must have all sections and components attached to the email and sent as one document.
- **All applications must be received by 3:00pm on Friday, April 24, 2026.**

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED OR *EMAILED TO

PMHFOS | **Attn:** Michelle Capobianco/Scholarship Committee | 163 Thorn Hill Road, Warrendale, PA 15086 or mcapobianco@passavant.org

All applications MUST be received by 3:00pm on Friday, April 24, 2026, to be considered for the scholarship award.
Due to the high volume of interest expected, any applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

***Emailed applications must be in order and sent as one (1) document**