

The Virginia Louise Howell-West Memorial Scholarship

Mission:

The Virginia Louise Howell West Memorial Scholarship is committed to offering financial support to deserving high school seniors pursuing formal post-secondary education and training from an accredited College, University or Trade School with the purpose of honoring the life of its name sake and all that she did to help and encourage those she came in contact with in their personal pursuit of higher education.

Vision:

We believe that by offering financial support to deserving high school seniors in pursuit of higher education, it will present an opportunity that may not have otherwise existed for them to follow their dreams and accomplish their future goals.

History:

The Virginia Louise Howell West Memorial Scholarship was established in her honor in 2017 by her family after her passing. The VLHW Memorial Scholarship was founded with the mission of offering financial support to deserving high school seniors pursuing formal post-secondary education and training from an accredited College, University or Trade School, to assist with associated expenses including tuition, books and supplies. Because of her passion for education and her constant desire to see others succeed and reach their maximum potential in life, her family saw fit to create this Memorial Scholarship in her honor to mark her legacy for generations. The VLHW Memorial Scholarship Fund operates under the US Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) for federal tax exemption of non-profit organizations and is based in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

One of the youngest of nine children raised by Richard "Bub" and Rebecca Jefferson-Howell, she was taught the value of working hard and not giving up or letting anything or anyone stop her from following her dreams. Louise, as she was affectionately known attended the public schools of Orangeburg County, attending Roberts High School in Holly Hill, South Carolina where she graduated as class valedictorian in 1956. It is not uncommon to hear stories of how she would study by the light of a lantern underneath the covers until her mother strongly enforced lights out or how having studiously completed her homework at home before the assignment was due, could be found working on her baby brother or cousins homework on the school bus on the way to school resulting in them getting a better grade on the assignment than she did. She went on to further her education at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, California and earned a Certificate from the International Business College for Medical Receptionist – Transcriber. Louise became disabled in 1998 after her second fight with cancer. Although she was unable to walk without the assistance of crutches or a walker and at times would be seen in a wheelchair, she never considered herself disabled and always focused on her ability and with that same spirit and principle she took on for herself, encouraged others. Regardless of what she was doing, she always made sure that she took good care of her family, especially once she became an elder matriarch of the family. She was a strong believer in education, reminding her loved ones often of Philippians 4:13 that "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.", and encouraging her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and even great nieces and nephews to follow their dreams and work hard in school and pursue higher education. She believed in the solid foundation of obtaining a good education and did what she could to support those she loved in that effort.

She motivated her children, students and many others with encouraging words to respect themselves and their elders, dream big, pray and work hard to achieve goals. She led by example with a strong work ethic while working alongside others.

It is with honor that we continue the work that she did for so long through the Virginia Louise Howell West Memorial Scholarship in the hopes of impacting the lives on many young scholars for generations to come.

**2024 Virginia Louise Howell-West Memorial
Scholarship Application**



APPLICANT INFORMATION					
Last Name		First		M.I.	Date
Street Address					
City		State		ZIP	
Phone			E-mail Address		
High School					
School District				GPA	
Religious Affiliation					
Community Service Activities					
Parent/Legal Guardian Name & Telephone Number					

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
Completed scholarship application 3.3 GPA Recent copy of High School Transcript Traditional Religious Affiliation 2 Letters of Recommendation (one from School/Community Leader, one from Church/Religious Leader) Essay Community Service Activities Verification Letter(s) Letter of acceptance from accredited College, University or Trade School

ESSAY QUESTIONS
All essays must be attached to the application, at least 500 words, typed, Times New Roman, 12pt font and double spaced. Please answer one of the following questions: What is the most impactful way you have served your community? How will the scholarship assist you in achieving your future goals?

DISCLAIMER AND APPLICANT SIGNATURE				
I am submitting my application by May 1, 2024 of my senior year in high school in order to be considered for the VLHW Scholarship. I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and I understand that false or misleading information in my application will result in my application being discarded.				
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Signature		Date		

DISCLAIMER AND PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE				
In consideration for applicants' participation in the VLHW Memorial Scholarship Program, I hereby grant permission to the VLHW Memorial Scholarship and its representatives to take photographs, video and/or audio recordings of the applicant and their submission. I give the VLHW Memorial Scholarship permission to use these images, recordings, name and likeness to copy, reproduce, distribute and display at the Committees discretion for any purpose throughout, including but not limited to education, advertising and promotion of this scholarship fund. I agree that I will receive no consideration for these uses and that the VLHW Memorial Scholarship owns all rights to the images. I waive the right to inspect or approve uses of these images, recordings and written copies of works featuring the applicant and I understand that the VLHW Memorial Scholarship is not obligated to use any of the rights granted under this Agreement.				
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who is eligible for the Virginia Louise Howell-West Scholarship Program?

Any high school senior from Berkeley County School District, Orangeburg County Consolidated School District, whose GPA is 3.3 or higher may apply to this scholarship program. All applicants must include two letters of recommendation (one from a school official or community leader and another from a church or religious leader), an essay and at least one letter to verify community service, multiple letters will be accepted.

2. How much financial assistance do recipients receive?

The top recipient will receive a minimum award in the amount of \$1000. Any amount awarded exceeding \$1000 is dependent on the amount of money raised by the Scholarship Committee. In the event that scholarship funding is not available, this scholarship is not guaranteed.

3. When is the deadline for applications?

All applications must be submitted electronically by May 1, 2024 to vlhwscholarship@gmail.com. Please keep a copy of your application, essay and letters for your own records. Application packets will be retained by the VLHW Scholarship Committee and may be used at the Committees discretion for further promotion of this scholarship fund.

4. When are letters of recommendation and community service letters due? Can they be sent separately from my application?

All letters of recommendations and community service letters must be submitted electronically with the application. They cannot be emailed separately.

5. Do I need to include my SAT and ACT Scores?

It is not required that you submit your SAT or ACT scores.

6. Can I mail or fax my application?

Applications may not be mailed or faxed.

7. What will happen if I don't submit everything that was requested?

Incomplete applications will not be returned and will be retained by the Committee.

8. I missed the deadline. Can I still apply?

If you have a legitimate reason, beyond your control, for missing the deadline, you may request an extension. Approval must be given by the VLHW Scholarship Committee for the deadline to be extended.

9. Can I use the VLHW Scholarship at any College or University and for any major?

The scholarship may be used at any accredited degree-granting College, University or Trade School for any major.

10. Are applicants who have not been selected notified? When are the recipients notified?

All applicants will be notified. Recipients of the VLHW Memorial Scholarship will be contacted.

11. When will I receive my award check?

All award checks will be mailed directly to the recipients College, University or Trade School in the name of the recipient.

*Tanisha West - Chairperson
Bryant Childs, Jr. - Co-Chairperson
Sharon West - Treasurer
Samone Thompson - Secretary*

Jennifer Gilmore, Lanesha Sheard, Loreal Ellington - Committee Members