

Katie McBride Memorial Scholarship

Honoring Strength, Service, and the Lessons That Shape Us. The Katie McBride Memorial Scholarship is awarded each year to two graduating seniors who embody the spirit, resilience, and generosity that defined Katie’s life. This scholarship recognizes students whose lives have been touched by cancer—either personally or through a close family member—and who have grown through that experience in meaningful ways. Because not all students share this journey, we also honor applicants who have shown an exceptional commitment to community service, reflecting the kindness and compassion Katie brought into the world.

About Katie

Katie was a bright, joyful, imaginative young girl with long blonde hair, sparkling blue eyes, and a smile that made everyone feel welcome. She loved drawing, singing, dancing, and being part of her community—as a Girl Scout, altar server, teammate, and the neighborhood’s unofficial welcome committee with her homemade cookies.

On June 18, 2007, on her 11th birthday, Katie was diagnosed with Burkitt’s Lymphoma, a rare and aggressive childhood cancer. She faced surgeries, chemotherapy, and countless challenges with extraordinary bravery and her trademark humor and kindness. After a brief remission and a courageous bone marrow transplant, Katie passed into God’s hands on March 1, 2008, celebrating her 12th birthday in heaven.

Katie was a blessing, and her spirit continues to guide the work of the **Katie McBride Foundation**. The mission of the Foundation is to honor Katie’s memory—and the families of all children battling cancer and other life-threatening illnesses—by offering support, raising critical funds for families in need, and increasing awareness of Ronald McDonald House Charities New York Metro and its family support services. The Foundation is also committed to giving back to the community, and this scholarship program is one of the most meaningful ways we continue to honor Katie’s legacy.

Scholarship Eligibility

Applicants must:

1. Be a graduating senior of East Islip High School
2. Be accepted as a full-time student at a college or university (include acceptance letter)
3. Have a clean behavior record
4. Hold a GPA of 3.0 or higher (include transcript)
5. Submit a brief essay responding to one of the prompts below

Essay Prompts: *(500 words or fewer; please include your name and phone number)*

Choose ONE:

1. Personal Experience with Cancer

Describe how cancer has touched your life—either personally or through a close family member or friend—and explain how this experience has helped you grow emotionally, personally, or spiritually.

2. Commitment to Community Service

Katie believed deeply in helping others, and our family experienced firsthand the extraordinary power of community support during her illness. In that spirit, we offer this scholarship as a way to “give back.” Tell us about your own service to your community, or a time when you benefited from the service of others. Why is giving back important to you?

Application Submission: Please return your completed application and essay to the Guidance Department on or before the posted due date.