Charleston County School District
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Media Release

Historic Rotary Club of Charleston and Charleston Miracle League Make Unique Scholarship Available for CCSD Students attending the CharlestonLIFE™ Program at the College of Charleston

Charleston, S.C. (October 13, 2026) - A new partnership between the Historic Rotary Club of Charleston and the Charleston Miracle League will help make higher education more accessible for students across the Lowcountry with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD).

Starting in the fall of 2027, the organizations have established a four-year $5,700 annual scholarship for a student accepted into the CharlestonLIFE program at the College of Charleston (CofC). The scholarship will help offset the program's approximately $37,000 annual tuition, with the Historic Rotary Club of Charleston and the Charleston Miracle League contributing each year. Charleston County School District (CCSD) students are encouraged to apply.

CharlestonLIFE™ is a fully inclusive, four-year, non-degree certificate program designed for students with mild intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The program provides students with opportunities to develop academic, independent living, social, and career-readiness skills while becoming an integral part of the College of Charleston community.

The scholarship idea was born from a shared commitment to creating opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Charleston Miracle League founder Channing Proctor, who is also a member of the Historic Rotary Club of Charleston, recognized an opportunity to support CCSD graduates and students in the tri-county area as they pursue their next chapter through CharlestonLIFE™.

"Every student deserves the opportunity to discover the magic of what they are capable of and to pursue their life's goals," said Proctor. "This scholarship is about opening a door and giving students the support they need. For over two decades, the Charleston Miracle League has been focused on making a similar impact within the special needs community, and we are proud to partner with the Rotary Club to make more opportunities possible."

The Charleston Miracle League, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2002, provides children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy the game of baseball in an inclusive

and accessible environment. The organization's mission is to help players have fun, make friends, build confidence, and experience the joy of being part of a team.

The Historic Rotary Club of Charleston is committed to service above self and impacting the community in meaningful ways. The club is contributing the majority of the scholarship funding.

"Creating the initial four-year CharlestonLIFE™ scholarship and working toward our $50,000 goal for an endowed scholarship with the College of Charleston is our club's way of creating lasting impact," said Rotary Club of Charleston's President, Dr. Marion Platt. "We're investing in students today while creating a legacy that will serve Charleston for generations."

CharlestonLIFE™ provides students with a college education that extends beyond the classroom. Through inclusive coursework, campus involvement, independent living instruction, and career preparation through internships, students build knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to pursue greater independence, meaningful employment, and an engaged life.

"CharlestonLIFE™ is built on the belief that every student has gifts, talents, and goals worth investing in," said Andi Judt, College of Charleston Gift Planning Officer. "We are incredibly grateful to the Charleston Miracle League and Historic Charleston Rotary Club for recognizing the potential of our students and helping make this experience more accessible. Scholarship support can make a real difference for students in CharlestonLIFE™. This financial assistance will reduce one of the key barriers that can come with a college education."

For CCSD, the scholarship represents another opportunity to help students transition successfully from high school into postsecondary education and adult life.

"We are grateful to the Charleston Miracle League and Historic Charleston Rotary Club for investing in the futures of our students," said Sherry Bell, Executive Director of CCSD's Department of Exceptional Children. "Partnerships like this remind our students that their community believes in them and wants to see them succeed. This scholarship provides more than financial assistance; it provides opportunity, encouragement, and a pathway toward greater independence."

Dependent on acceptance into the CharlestonLIFE™ program, the $5,700 scholarship will be awarded annually to a CCSD student first, a Tri-county student second, and a South Carolina student third (if neither of the first two geographic preferences is met).

For more information, please contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district dedicated to ensuring every student has access to a high-quality education and the support needed to thrive. As South Carolina's second-largest school system, CCSD serves more than 50,000 students across 91 schools and specialized programs throughout 1,300 square miles of coastal communities, representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Anita Huggins, CCSD is focused on accelerating student achievement, expanding opportunities, and preparing every student for success in college, career, and life. Recent district accomplishments include record-high academic performance on state

assessments, increasing graduation rates, and significant gains in college and career readiness, reflecting the district's commitment to continuous improvement and educational excellence. Through the Peninsula Promise, CCSD is also expanding access to early learning, college and career pathways, arts, and family support services to create seamless opportunities for students living on the historic Charleston Peninsula.

CCSD offers a diverse and expanding portfolio of educational choices, including neighborhood, magnet, charter, Montessori, and International Baccalaureate (IB) schools and programs. Students have access to rich learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); visual and performing arts; world languages; military and leadership programs; career and technical education; dual enrollment and early college opportunities; and other innovative pathways designed to meet a wide range of interests and aspirations.

Working in partnership with families, community organizations, higher education institutions, and industry leaders, CCSD remains committed to creating equitable opportunities, fostering student success, and ensuring that every graduate is prepared to contribute and compete in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. Dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities, the organization has been a leading source of health information for more than one hundred years. Supported by more than 35 million volunteers globally, we fund groundbreaking research, advocate for the public's health, and provide critical resources to save and improve lives affected by cardiovascular disease and stroke. By driving breakthroughs and implementing proven solutions in science, policy, and care, we work tirelessly to advance health and transform lives every day. Connect with us on heart.org, Facebook, X or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.