

Hang Time

Fall 2021 Scholarship Application

Fall Deadline: June 5th, 2021

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Fall 2021 scholarship offered by Hang Time. We strive to make a difference and bring opportunities to our emerging young leaders who have lived through adverse experiences while growing up in Bridgeport/New Haven/Waterbury Connecticut.

In December 2014, Charlie Grady created and launched a grassroots effort to foster community and give voice to men and women (ex-offenders/returning citizens) who have been silent—or unheard—for far too long. The targeted group are those involved with gang/group violence and those that inherently suffer from Post-Traumatic & Present Stress Disorder (PTSD) resulting from urban gun violence. To jump start the effort, he formed a small cadre comprised of ex-offenders, a federal prosecutor, a local police officer, and social service workers to brainstorm on a format that would be successful. What resulted is now known as Hang Time™.

Our goal in Hang Time is to enlighten, educate, de-conflict, and problem solve through discussion. We seek to provide specific ex-offenders, group and gang members diagnosed (and/or yet to be diagnosed) with Post and Present Traumatic Stress, options in mental health treatment. We provide assistance with social service navigation and serve as a sanctuary for its participants, offering a respectful, safe, and empowering atmosphere to share insight on day to day issues. Our long term effort is to reduce the level of violence in the community and recidivism among returning citizens through empowerment, community engagement, and building connections.

These conversations are held during a two-hour long gathering every Tuesday evening in a comfortable centrally located space provided by Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust. The unlikely brotherhood and sisterhood of ex-offenders, legal and community leaders grows stronger each week when they all come together for a meal and group conversation. The environment is always welcoming and an informal forum for discussion. These free- flowing discussions run the gamut, covering topics from politics, race relations, economics, cultural diversity, and bucket lists to the history of music to ways to conduct oneself during an encounter with the police. Hang Time has now expanded to bring Real Talk to New Haven and Waterbury.

We look forward to hearing your stories of resilience and overcoming difficulty in your life. We appreciate your interest and hope you continue to strive for your goals. Please see the entire packet for the guidelines and requirements for both the essay portion and the additional information required.

- The Hang Time Team

Eligibility Requirements

- A resident of Bridgeport, New Haven or Waterbury, Connecticut.
- Graduating high school senior or current student (6+ credit hours) pursuing higher education (including an accredited two year, four-year college or university, technical or vocational school) with a ≥ 2.7 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Must be personally impacted by a parent or family member being incarcerated (past or present)
- Must meet all application requirements and provide supplemental material

Application Instructions

Please include following materials for the scholarship application process:

Hangtimescholarship@gmail.com

- Completed application form
- Completed essay response
- An official transcript from current high school, college, or university
- Completed Reference form
- Minimum of one (1) Letter of recommendation, either or both:
 - High school official (such as a teacher or counselor) who is familiar with the applicant's academic history
 - Community member or personal reference of choice who can attest to the applicant's community involvement, strengths, and accomplishments

**Please note, family members may not serve as a reference.*

- Verifiable evidence to substantiate that a parent or family member is or was incarcerated
- *Optional* : Current resume or sheet discussing community involvement, personal accomplishments and employment experiences

Deadline

This application form and all other required documentation listed above must be received by **June 5th, 2021** at 12am ET. Questions and submissions may be directed to:

Hangtimescholarship@gmail.com.

250-500 Word Essay: (Maximum of 500) **required*

In this essay, please discuss your experience growing up with an incarcerated parent or direct family member. The essay should highlight the challenges you faced and the ways you have experienced personal growth. Please address how you plan to use your education as a way to help others in similar situations to overcome adversity in their future. We want you to tell your story of overcoming obstacles and what inspired you to be the voice of change within your community.

*****You are welcome to use the fillable box below to type your essay.**

Application Form

General Information

Applicant Name (First, Middle, and Last): _____

Gender: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Academic Background

High School: _____

Graduation Date: _____

Cumulative GPA on 4.0 Scale: _____

Are you currently enrolled at a college/university? Yes / No

If Yes, School: _____

Current Major/Area of Focus: _____

I will be entering the Fall 2021 year at a college/university as a:

Freshman *Sophomore* *Junior* *Senior*

Other: _____

Projected Graduation Date: (mm/yyyy) _____

Personal Background

Are you the first person in your family to go to college? Yes / No

Do you have a parent or other family member who is currently or was formerly incarcerated?
Yes/No

If yes, what is their name, and what is their relationship to you? _____

If yes, how long and in what institution is/was your incarcerated family member being held,
including city and state: _____

Reference Form

1. High School Official or Community/Personal Reference

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Relationship/Position: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

2. Additional Reference (*Optional*)

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Relationship/Position: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____