

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS PURSUING SKILLED TRADES

The following scholarships are available through the Main Street Community Foundation in 2021 and have a deadline of March 12, 2021 unless otherwise noted. Please read all the requirements completely and carefully before submitting an application.

The below scholarships utilize an online application. To apply for one, visit mscfscholarships.communityforce.com and choose the scholarship(s) you wish to apply for:

Stanley P. Bitel Memorial Fund

\$5,000

This scholarship was established in 2015 through gifts from family and friends to honor the life of Stanley P. Bitel, the founder of Rowley Spring and Stamping Corporation in Bristol which was founded in 1954. He personified entrepreneurial spirit, continual learning and self achievement all characteristics that should be displayed by the recipient.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Open to residents of the state of Connecticut who are a graduating high school senior, currently enrolled post secondary student or an adult learner seeking qualifying skilled training in the manufacturing trade
- Past recipients of the scholarship are not eligible to reapply
- Qualifying training includes apprenticeship programs, technical education/trade schools, workforce development programs or pursuit of a four year degree in business or engineering as it relates to a career in manufacturing
- Work history
- Academic achievement, with a minimum of a B average (3.0 on a 4.0 scale)

Letter of Recommendation Requirement: Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a teacher and one of which must be from an employer, that demonstrates that the applicant is a “go-getter”.

Essay requirement: The manufacturing industry has an abundance of career opportunities including engineering, sales, finance, management, precision machinist, distribution, quality control inspectors, tool & die maker, lean manufacturing, supply chain management, just to name just a few.

Write a one page essay introducing yourself and describing why you wish to pursue a career in the manufacturing field.

Rit Croce Academic and Vocational Scholarship

\$1,000

This scholarship was established in 2014 by the family and friends of Rit Croce to honor his life and his commitment to local students.

Eligibility requirements:

- Resident of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington or Wolcott
- Either an adult returning to school or a graduating senior pursuing post secondary education at a vocational school or a two-year or four-year college or university
- Preference will be given primarily to adult learners pursuing a trade or major in education
- Financial need
- Evidence of good moral character and the ability to deal with challenges/obstacles in life

Letter of Recommendation Requirement: Two letters of recommendation, which must be from a coach, teacher, employer, etc. who knows you well.

Essay requirement: Write a brief essay explaining your goals and any special circumstances that you feel demonstrate your need for this scholarship.

Jeffrey Downes Memorial Scholarship Fund for the Trades**\$500**

Established in 2015, this scholarship fund honors the memory of Jeffrey Downes who passed away in 2015 after a hard fought battle with cancer.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Resident of Bristol, Burlington, Harwinton, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington or Wolcott
- Applicants must be seeking qualified skilled training as a commercial driver or other skilled trade. Qualified training includes apprenticeship programs, technical education trade schools, other career training program with a focus on a skilled trade area (i.e. CDL, electrician, plumber, HVAC, precision machining, automotive technology, welding and metal fabrication, etc.)
- Preference to applicants seeking a commercial driver license (CDL)
- May not be at the top of the class academically but maintain a minimum of a C average
- Preference for applicants that do not qualify for financial assistance from other sources
- Must demonstrate a passion for their chosen profession

Letter of Recommendation Requirement: No letters of recommendation required.

Essay Requirements (no more than a paragraph each):

- Describe your passion for your chosen profession and how you plan to use your training to accomplish your career goals.
- What does philanthropy mean to you and how do you plan to “pay it forward” in the future?

Ray Machine Corp./Ray & Darlene Lassy Family Fund**\$1,790**

Ray Lassy, a longtime resident of Plymouth, established this scholarship fund in 2017 to assist students who have the same passion he did. Working for over 50 years in a field he loved, Ray started a small tool and die business in the basement of his parents' house while working at a machining manufacturer. He eventually opened his own shop in Terryville before expanding the business to Ray Machine Corporation, also located in Terryville. Ray held several patents for parts he designed and tooled and was passionate about the work he did.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Graduating senior from Terryville High School
- Applicants must be pursuing a two-year or 4-year study program or equivalent in precision machining (i.e. CNC operator, machinist, etc.), mechanical engineering, or manufacturing and design at a qualified technical education school, community college, or four-year college or university
- Must have dealt with challenges/obstacles

Letter of Recommendation Requirement: No letters of recommendation required.

Essay Requirement: No essay required.

NESMA Scholarship Fund**\$1,010**

In March 2010, the New England Spring and Metalstamping Association established a fund to provide two scholarships that will be awarded annually.

Award #1 to a graduating senior attending high school in a New England state (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Eligibility Requirements:

- Pursuing a certificate program in advanced manufacturing

OR

- Pursuing post-secondary education in mechanical engineering
- Preference will be given to those applicants entering an advanced manufacturing program
- Evidence of successful completion of courses relevant to your chosen career field
- Community Service
- Financial need is considered

Letter of Recommendation Requirement: Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a math or science teacher and one from someone who knows you well.

Essay Requirement: Write an essay addressing your desire to enter your chosen field and state your career goals. Limit your thoughts to no more than one page.

Douglas Roland Aid for the Trades Scholarship Fund**up to \$8,170**

This scholarship was established in 2009 by the parents of Douglas Roland to honor his memory.

Eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must possess a high school diploma or a GED certificate and be residents of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington or Wolcott
- Financial need
- Be seeking career training in an occupational program
- Preference given to applicants entering a training program that does not exceed two years

Letter of Recommendation Requirement: Two letters of recommendation.

Essay requirement: Write a brief personal statement of how this scholarship will help give you a "step up" to become more self-sustaining and how you will financially contribute to your career training.