

## Scholarship Description

A \$1,000 scholarship is available to a student currently in their senior year attending a Howard County public high school.

## About Robert J. Gaw

### The Bridge Builder

An old man going a lone highway  
Came at the evening cold and gray,  
To a chasm, vast and wide and steep,  
With waters rolling cold and deep.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
That sullen stream had no fears of him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,  
“You are wasting your time with building here.  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way.  
You’ve crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build you this bridge at eventide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head.  
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said.  
“There followeth after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been naught to me  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim,  
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him.”

*By Will Allen Dromgoole*

Robert J. Gaw, co-founder of The Ryland Group, Inc., had broad interests and areas of expertise. Trained as a pharmacist, gifted in math; he became the chief financial officer of Ryland and president of their mortgage company. He encouraged his children, friends and co-workers to follow their dreams and interests. This scholarship is established as “a bridge” to help a Howard County student achieve their dream.

## Eligibility Criteria

Candidates for the **Robert J. Gaw Scholarship** must:

1. Attend a Howard County, Maryland public high school;
2. Plan to attend a two- or four-year college/university or trade school; and,
3. Have an unweighted 3.0 or higher cumulative grade point average through Grade 11. In addition, an unweighted grade point average of 3.0 or higher must be maintained through the first semester of Grade 12.

## Application Materials

Applications for the **Robert J. Gaw Scholarship** must include:

1. A complete and signed application form;
2. A response to the following statements/questions, using examples drawn from their life experience and which are not present in their transcripts and/or resume, that shares the candidate's:
  - a. Describe your educational plans;
  - b. Describe your career goals;
  - c. Describe the impact this scholarship will have on your career plans and educational goals;
  - d. Describe how you reflect the goals and values this scholarship is seeking to recognize; and
  - e. Provide a statement of financial need;
3. A resume that outlines the candidates work history from Grade 9 through 12, highlights special awards and achievements, and describes community service.
4. One confidential personal letter of recommendation from an adult, such as a teacher, employer, etc.; and
5. An unofficial high school transcript through Grade 11; and,
6. An unofficial copy of the first semester Grade 12 report card.

Students are responsible for ensuring that all components of the application are submitted by the due date.

## Evaluation Criteria

The Community Foundation of Howard County will evaluate all applications based on the following criteria:

1. Compliance with the eligibility criteria

2. Student essay
3. Student resume
4. Confidential letter of recommendation
5. Strength of student's transcript
6. Financial need will be considered in the case of a tie

### **Award Notification and Acceptance**

The Foundation will provide applicants with updates and award decisions via the online application system.

The selected applicant will receive a certificate at the schools Senior Awards Ceremony and, upon receipt by the Foundation of the required materials, the scholarship will be sent to the accredited institution.

### **Questions**

The Community Foundation of Howard County can address questions about this scholarship program.

#### **About the Community Foundation of Howard County**

Founded in 1969 as The Columbia Foundation, the Community Foundation of Howard County has awarded more than \$17 million in grants to Howard County nonprofit organizations delivering human service, arts and cultural, educational and civic programs. Money for the grant programs comes primarily from income generated by the Foundation's endowment supported by more than 300 funds established by Howard County businesses, families and individuals.