

“Home for the Holidays” Scholarship

The History of the “Home for the Holidays” Organization

Downtown retailers found that people were going out of town to shop on Thanksgiving weekend, traditionally the busiest shopping weekend of the year. The downtown area has many unique shops and restaurants, but people were looking elsewhere to meet their shopping and dining needs. Something needed to be done to draw the people back to their hometown, especially their downtown.

A core committee consisting of business people, teachers, private citizens, and anyone who was interested in highlighting his or her downtown met to brainstorm ideas. “Home for the Holidays”, a two day community event held each year on Friday and Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, was created to encourage people to rediscover, appreciate, and utilize all that the downtown of Morris has to offer. The name “Home for the Holidays” was selected because it simply states what a dedicated group of volunteers wished to accomplish – that people shop and conduct their business in their hometown, especially during the holiday season. Thanksgiving weekend was chosen for the event because it traditionally is the kick-off of holiday shopping plus, as was previously mentioned, the busiest shopping weekend of the year.

One of the most important elements of “Home for the Holidays” is that volunteers give many hours of community service to make the event happen. We, as a committee, want to encourage young people to be involved in their community and to give freely of their time for the betterment of all. These scholarships have been created to help young people who are involved in community service continue their education after high school.

The “Home for the Holidays”
Committee

Home for the Holidays Application

Morris Community High School

One \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to a Morris Community High School GAVC senior and one \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to a Morris Community High School senior.

This application should be completed and returned no later than **March 8, 2012** to the Morris Community High School Guidance Office.

Date _____

General Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Are you currently taking classes at GAVC? Yes _____ No _____

College, University, or Trade School you will attend after graduation from M.C.H.S.

Please provide one letter of recommendation from a significant adult such as a teacher, employer, Pastor, or Youth Group Leader. This person must agree to write only one letter of recommendation for this scholarship. He or she may not write a letter for any other student applying for this scholarship.

List the name of the person writing the recommendation.

What other scholarships have you applied for? Have you received any at present?

On the following page, please write a short essay about three service projects in which you made a significant contribution during your high school years. Please include the person's name for whom or with whom you did the service. This is for verification purposes if necessary.

Information for M.C.H.S. Guidance Department and Selection Committee

Community service efforts, with no consideration of gender, shall comprise the primary basis for selection. The “Home for the Holidays” Committee anticipates that between the two scholarships winners:

- one will have devoted significant time and energy to classes at GAVC, and may even plan to go on to a vocational or trade school.

-while-

- one will have committed his/her high school curriculum to a more traditional college preparation with the stated intention of attending a more traditional two or four year college/university professional program.

All monies for these scholarships will be given to the Morris Community High School Foundation Fund. Student winners shall be given a verification form that they must submit to their school’s financial aid office.

A committee of one Administrator, one Guidance Counselor, one Faculty Person from each department at M.C.H.S., and one Representative from the “Home for the Holidays” Committee will participate in the selection process to determine the scholarship recipients.

Note: In the event that two or more candidates appear equal in qualifications, then the selection committee may choose to award the scholarship to the candidate who has not been awarded any other scholarships.