

The Spring 2026 Scholarship Recipients (Photo by Jim Austin)

CCF OPENS APPLICATION PORTAL

FOR $281,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ADULT & HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS ALIKE

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PUNTA GORDA - The Charlotte Community Foundation (CCF) online portal for 2027-28 academic year scholarships is now open through year-end for a total of $281,500 in awards. Scholarships sponsored by local residents, for local residents, cover all levels of post-secondary training and study from certificate/trade programs through graduate programs for both working adults and traditional-age students.

Applicants have until December 31 to apply online at **charlottecf.org**. One application covers all the awards available for current or future students. Awards range from $1,000 to $7,000 to be used toward the cost of attendance. As in the last grant cycle, approximately 60 scholarships will be granted with increased award levels.

CCF Vice Chair and Scholarship Committee Chair Deelynn Bennett and Scholarship Coordinator Carolyn Gorton are assembling community members with backgrounds in education and health care to review the scholarship applications. Half of CCF's scholarship funds focus on health care—from those entering the field to health care professionals pursuing advanced education to enhance their careers. Community members with these backgrounds interested in serving as reviewers early in the new year should contact scholarships@charlottecf.org. Both Bennett and Gorton bring extensive experience in education and years of service in the Charlotte County Public Schools (CCPS).

Funds that make these scholarships possible include the significant Betty Conley Brooks and Robert Charles Brooks Memorial Scholarship Fund, an endowment that offers several awards for pursuing trades/certificates, associates degrees, and bachelor's degrees. Other funds include

The CCF Scholarship Fund: Supporting Future Leaders for Charlotte County like Leo Wotitzky
The Cherian Family Scholarship Fund for General Studies
The Roger Geimer Scholarship Fund for Future Educators
The Michael Gulvezan General Education Memorial Scholarship Fund
The David Gerdel Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Virginia B. Andes Health Care Scholarship Fund
The Health Professions Scholarship Fund
The Nora Penton Beatty Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Dr. Dennis Munholand Memorial Fund
The Phyllis A. Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Doug Thatcher Memorial Scholarship

More information is available at charlottecf.org on applying for funds as well as to make a gift of any level to The CCF Scholarship Fund: Supporting Future Leaders for Charlotte County like Leo Wotitzky.

The Charlotte Community Foundation (CCF) is a philanthropic organization dedicated to enriching the quality of life in Charlotte County, FL. Through committed volunteers and a small professional staff, CCF connects people, charitable causes, and permanent capital for community impact. As it builds on 20 years of operating as a community foundation since 2004, CCF is under new leadership and focused on a new Mission: Foster philanthropy across Charlotte County to enhance our community for generations.

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