



Founded in 1959 by Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson  
PREVENTION and TREATMENT of CHILD ABUSE

# Childhelp Ross Scholarship Fund

## *Guidelines & Procedures*

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# Organizational History & Philosophy

## History & Philosophy

Childhelp, founded in 1959, began with the work of co-founders, Sara (Buckner) O'Meara and Yvonne (Lime) Fedderson, two fledgling actresses who were on a goodwill tour in Japan during the Korean War. They found their lives' mission when they happened upon a group of abandoned children on the eve of a typhoon. Soon thereafter, Sara and Yvonne funded and provided supplies to orphanages and a hospital. Over 60 years ago, the focus of their efforts moved stateside to protect American children from abuse and neglect. The organization has grown to become one of the nation's leading authorities on abuse prevention, intervention and treatment. Childhelp's advocacy centers, villages for the care of children, foster care agencies and other programs are located in California, Arizona, Tennessee and Virginia, while Childhelp's National Child Abuse Hotline and prevention education programs are at work meeting the needs of abused, neglected and at-risk children nationally and internationally.

Through its various programs and partnerships, Childhelp strives to raise public awareness of abuse; provides the necessary intervention and treatment services for victims of abuse; provides training in the detection of signs of child abuse and neglect to professionals considered mandated reporters; offers prevention/education services; and, actively supports child protection legislation.

The Founders' visionary beliefs have always been the heart of Childhelp:

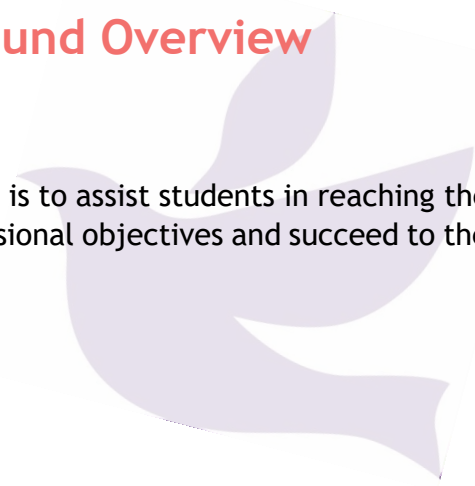
- ✓ Every child has a unique contribution to make. Childhelp does everything within its power to help each child heal and develop self-esteem to reach their God-given potential.
- ✓ Unconditional love is the foundation upon which all healing begins. The entrance of each Childhelp facility features the words "All Who Enter Here Will Find Love."
- ✓ These children, who have seen the worst that life can bring, deserve the best that Childhelp can provide while they are in its care.

These beliefs stay close to the hearts of all involved in Childhelp to ensure that the aspirations for the organization remain consistent with those from Childhelp's beginnings.

## Childhelp Ross Scholarship Fund Overview

### Purpose

The purpose of the Childhelp Ross Scholarship Fund ("CRSF") is to assist students in reaching their educational goals, guide them on a path to meet their professional objectives and succeed to their fullest potential.



## Funding Available for Awards

The CRSF is funded by Michael Ross and donations from individual contributors. The amounts to be awarded in scholarships and the number of such scholarships are determined at the sole discretion of the CRSF Selection Committee.

## Scholarship Guidelines & Procedures

### Eligibility Criteria

Scholarship applicants must be graduating high school seniors, college or junior college or trade school bound students, or current undergraduate students who have received services at one of the following Childhelp programs:

- California Village
- California Non-Public School
- California Group Homes (Joann, Johnson, or Baker Homes)
- California Foster Family Agency (San Bernardino or Hollywood)
- Arizona Advocacy Center
- Tennessee Foster Family Agency
- Tennessee Advocacy Center
- Virginia Village

Applicants should maintain an overall minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Recipients may submit a scholarship application in succeeding academic years. Awards are eligible for full or part-time students. Applicants must demonstrate good character and leadership. Primary award criteria include, but may not be limited to:

- Academic achievement, including grades, class rank, standardized and achievement test scores
- Community/extracurricular involvement
- Leadership
- Awards and recognition

### Non-Discrimination

The CRSF does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of any applicable protected classification in any of its activities or operations, including, but not limited to, race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status.

### Applications

All scholarship applicants shall submit an application, including a typewritten essay (1,000-word maximum), requested amount and an explanation of how the funds will be used (500-word maximum).

## Application Procedures

Applications for the CRSF are now available. More information may be found [here](#). All applications must be submitted either online via this [link](#), via email to [pold@childhelp.org](mailto:pold@childhelp.org), or via U.S. Mail to the following address.

Childhelp Foster Family and Adoption Agency of California  
Attn: Patricia Old  
1955 Hunts Lane, Suite 200  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

## Selection Committee

A Scholarship Selection Committee (“SSC”) has been established and includes three (3) members of the Childhelp Leadership Team and one (1) Childhelp stakeholder. Application materials for all applicants shall be forwarded to the SSC members for their review and final determination that the applicants meet the criteria established by the Scholarship Guidelines and Procedures stated herein. In-person or video chat meetings with individual applicants may also take place with SSC members. Along with the application materials, the SSC must also submit signed verification confirming that no individual award was recommended to an applicant related to any member of the SSC and that the applications were available to a broad class of eligible individuals.

## Selection Process

The SSC will meet as necessary to review completed applications and determine scholarship awards. If available, a current or former Childhelp staff member from the operations leadership team in the program in which the applicant is/has received services will participate in the review process. The SSC has the ultimate decision-making authority regarding scholarship award distributions. Scholarships may be awarded for one year or longer.

## Award Amounts

Award amounts are currently available in \$250 increments up to \$3,000.

## Notification of Scholarship Recipients

Scholarship recipients shall be notified after the SSC has given its approval of the applicable scholarship award. The SSC shall provide each scholarship recipient with a letter via email or regular mail notifying him/her of the scholarship amount awarded and specifics regarding what the amounts must be used for (e.g., tuition, computer, computer software/hardware, books, supplies, room/board expenses payable to the institution, or any other expense the SSC deems appropriate.) The notification shall inform the student that no funds will be disbursed until the CRSF receives confirmation that the student is enrolled in the applicable educational institution. The notification shall also describe the reporting requirements set out below and shall specify the date by which the recipient must comply with the reporting requirements. The recipient shall be required to return a signed copy of the email/letter indicating his/her acceptance of the scholarship and its terms.

## Supervision of Award Amounts

Each quarter or semester, as applicable, each scholarship recipient shall provide a verified transcript indicating the recipient's courses taken, and grades received. Upon completion of the undertaking for which the scholarship was made, the applicant shall submit a final report or other verification describing his/her accomplishments with the scholarship and accounting for the funds received under the scholarship.

The CRSF shall transmit scholarship checks directly to the educational institution selected by the recipient and shall instruct the institution to deposit the check into the recipient's school account upon verification of the student's full or part-time status. If any funds remain after payment of the student's tuition in full or the student's other financial obligations to the school, the balance shall be returned via check to the CRSF. In the event the student transfers to another school during the academic year, any remaining monies shall be returned to the CRSF. If the student completes his or her schooling, or withdraws from school and does not attend another institution within the same academic year, the residual scholarship amounts, if any, shall be returned to the CRSF.

## Record Keeping

The CRSF shall keep records, which shall include:

1. All information that the CRSF secures to evaluate the qualification of potential scholarship recipients;
2. The name, address and other contact or identifying information for each scholarship recipient;
3. Any information on relationships that would cause the scholarship recipient to be a disqualified person with respect to the CRSF within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code § 4946(a);
4. The amount and purpose(s) of each scholarship;
5. A copy of the letter notifying the recipient of the scholarship award; and
6. The follow-up information obtained under '*Supervision of Award Amounts*'.