

Scholarship Description

This \$5,000 scholarship is available to Howard County residents who are currently in their senior year at either a Howard County public high school or Maryland private high school, and have played on a SAC/HC travel or recreational team during one or more of their high school years.

About Amanda Josephine Post



This scholarship is offered in loving memory of Amanda Josephine Post, who passed away in 2009 during her freshman year at River Hill High School and in her ninth year as a Soccer Association of Columbia/Howard County player, due to complications from a bone marrow transplant (BMT) for relapsed Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML).

Amanda was diagnosed with AML as a seventh-grader at Folly Quarter Middle School, undergoing five rounds of month-long inpatient chemotherapy at the Children’s Hospital at Sinai in Baltimore, and having entered remission after the first round. Upon returning to school in 8th grade, she made straight A’s, and resumed playing travel soccer with her SAC/HC Lady Diplomats’ team. In Fall 2008, she entered River Hill High School as a member of the Class of 2012 and secured a spot as a starting forward on the girls’ JV soccer team, as well as began her seventh season as a Lady Diplomat, wearing her lucky number “24” (also her birthdate in

April) on both jerseys. Halfway through the season her AML returned, at which time she had to undergo two relapse rounds of chemotherapy at Sinai, followed by a BMT at the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC.

Amanda loved being a member of the SAC/HC Lady Diplomats’ soccer team. In Fall 2008, she was one of only three remaining original “Lady Dips” from the team that was started in her first year of eligible travel soccer play when she was eight years old. Prior to that, Amanda played for two years on SAC’s “Blue Angels” recreational girls’ soccer team. For a month in Fall 2008, Amanda lived with the knowledge that her leukemia may be returning, yet maintained straight A’s in her classes, was the second highest scorer on her girls’ JV soccer team, and continued as a starting forward on her Lady Dips’ team. Amanda was incredibly proud to be a Lady Diplomat, wearing her SAC sportswear even while undergoing treatment and decorating her hospital rooms with pictures and posters of her beloved Lady Dips’ team.

Amanda was a lifelong resident of Clarksville, and attended Glenelg Country School from Pre-K through fifth grades. In addition to excelling academically and on the soccer field, she performed in school plays, took dance, guitar, and horseback riding lessons, had been a gymnast and played girls’ ice hockey, and was voted freshman Homecoming Princess by her RHHS classmates. Amanda was also involved with her family in fundraising for the pediatric expansion project for the Children’s Hospital at Sinai in Baltimore, speaking about her AML in a fundraising video and presenting a poem about the day of her diagnosis to over 100 candidate donors. Amanda was absolutely passionate about her family, her friends, classmates and teammates, those who cared for her medically, and living her everyday life to the fullest.

The Amanda Post Memorial Fund was established by family, friends, classmates and teammates who experienced Amanda’s vibrancy in their lives, witnessed her passion in the classroom, on the field, and in every other venture in which she participated, and were captivated by her joyful zest for living each moment to the fullest. The Amanda Post “AmandaWins” scholarships are named to reflect Amanda’s winning attitude and lively spirit for everything she did in her life.

Eligibility Criteria

Candidates for the **Amanda Post “AmandaWins” Soccer Association of Columbia/Howard County Student-Athlete Scholarship** must:

1. Be a Howard County resident;
2. Currently be in their senior year at a public high school in Howard County OR a Maryland private high school;
3. Have played on a SAC/HC travel or recreational team for one or more years while in high school.
4. Plan to attend a two- or four-year college/university or trade school; and,
5. Have an unweighted 3.5 or higher cumulative grade point average through Grade 11. In addition, an unweighted grade point average of 3.5 or higher must be maintained through the first semester of Grade 12.

Application Materials

Applications for the **Amanda Post “AmandaWins” Soccer Association of Columbia/Howard County Student-Athlete Scholarship** must include:

1. A complete and signed application form;
2. A response to the following statements:
 - a. Describe the impact that being a student at your high school has had on your academic success;
 - b. Describe the impact that participating on a SAC/HC travel or recreational soccer team has had during your high school career;
 - c. Discuss your career goals, listing the top three schools to which you have applied. Describe your envisioned “college experience” at these schools – to include the schools’ academic experience plus the extra-curricular and/or other school/pre-professional/community-based opportunities you may pursue – which will help you attain your career goals; and,
 - d. Provide an example of “Winning” in the classroom, on the field, or elsewhere in your life, which reflects a joyful and zestful passion for living, consistent with that of Amanda’s.

3. A confidential academic letter of recommendation from one of your high school teachers in whose class you were a student;
4. A confidential athletic evaluation from a SAC/HC coach under whom you played on his/her SAC/HC team; 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 and members of the “AmandaWins” Committee, will evaluate all applications based on the following criteria:

1. Compliance with the eligibility criteria.
2. Student essay.
3. Confidential athletic evaluation.
4. Confidential academic letter of recommendation.
5. Strength of student’s transcript.

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.