

Diablo Subaru's Share the Love Scholarships

In 2023 Diablo Subaru began partnering with the Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation (RSF) to annually fund a series of scholarships with its "Share the Love" funds. Because RSF Trustees cover all administrative costs, every donated "Share the Love" dollar goes directly into a scholarship for academically gifted but financially hard-pressed students from six local high schools and two community colleges. In 2025 Diablo Subaru will be funding five "Share the Love" Scholarships.

In her application Mount Diablo High School graduate Zafirah Laguide shared a story her mother told her. "She was inspired by the story of her mother's delivery process of her older sister and the negative experiences she faced as a Black woman in the hospital." Laguide was so taken with her mother's tragedy she decided to become an OBGYN, "because as a Blackwomen, I hope to be a doctor who will treat my patients with the utmost care." This fall, she will be a biology major at UCLA.

"For me," Benjamin Osborn wrote in his RSF application, "the most significant risk I ever took was choosing to believe that I could rise above my past." Osborne's early life was marked with struggle that led to 24 years in prison. While incarcerated, he earned his GED and completed college courses with a 3.75 GPA. Once released he enrolled at Los Medanos College. "Education has been my bridge to a new life. It has given me confidence, purpose, and a future I never thought possible."

"I was born to pursue Neurobiology," wrote Diablo Valley College graduate Charles Metzler in his application. His quadriplegic father was born with cerebral palsy. From a young age he's been his father's primary caregiver, all the while earning a 3.96 GPA and a perfect 4.0 in STEM-related courses. "Different aspects of neuroscience have always influenced my life," Metzler wrote, "and always left me with a fascination with how the brain works."

Diagnosed with an atrial septal defect and cleft lip and palate at birth, Pittsburg High School graduate Diana Torres Arias always felt like a burden on her family. "My extensive medical conditions meant perpetual surgeries and follow-up cranial appointments that took up much of my family's time and exacerbated our financial issues." Because she didn't understand medical jargon well enough to effectively translate for her family the gravity of her condition, she decided to become "an impassioned pediatric nurse practitioner" to help her community members negotiate challenges within the healthcare system.

In the Fall semester, 2025, Shamim Taqdesi will become her family's first-generation college student. Fourteen when the Taliban came to power in 2021, her family decided to leave Afghanistan so she could continue her education. As they walked to the border, however, officials let Taqdesi and her ten-year-old brother pass, but held her parents and sister back. It was the last time she saw them. After two years in Pakistan she made it to the United States and enrolled in Ygnacio Valley High School in 2024. "The challenges I have faced fighting for an education have made me a stronger person and more confident of my goals," she writes. She will be attending Diablo Valley College.

Submitted by Wayne A. Wiegand, RSF Trustee