

RSF Program Helps Waterford Employees Pursue Higher Education

The Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation (RSF) includes as one of its subdivisions the Waterford Scholarship program. Waterford residents generously donate toward scholarships for their employees who then go through the same application process as all Rossmoor Scholarship applicants. All Waterford employees who have worked for six months or more are eligible to apply for these scholarships. A scholarship committee formed by Waterford residents works closely with a team from the RSF. The Waterford in-house committee takes care of publicity, making eligible students aware of the program, fund raising, and decisions regarding how many scholarships will be awarded each year. The amount of the scholarship must be the same as scholarships offered by RSF, and all other aspects of the Waterford program must coincide with RSF Bylaws.

Significantly, members of the Waterford in-house committee mentor students interested in applying for the scholarship since most of the applicants are the first in their family to attend higher education. Mentoring includes making students aware of various programs in local universities, community colleges and trade schools; helping students decide what program would best meet their needs; assisting them in applying to schools; and guiding them through the scholarship application process. Mentors frequently continue to work with students when students enter the next phase of education.

The RSF Waterford Committee coordinates between RSF and the Waterford in-house committee, helps with making students aware of the program, provides information about various educational programs, and interviews the students. Applicants are evaluated not only on their academic record but also on their work record, i.e. reliability, punctuality, ability to work with staff and residents, general work ethic. The RSF committee ranks the students and sends this information to the in-house committee which then decides how many scholarships will be awarded. Normally, eight to ten scholarships are awarded per year. Funds are released when students show evidence of enrollment in an accredited institution.

The eight 2025 Waterford recipients have goals to pursue fields which will be of benefit to society. These aspirations include Nursing, Ultrasound technology, Xray technician , Paramedic, Pediatric occupational therapy, Environmental science, and Kinesiology with plans for physical therapy. Most of the students plan to begin their education at Diablo Valley College or Los Medanos College; several plan to transfer to a university

Submitted by: Gloria Reid, RSF Trustee