



## **Ciara O'Driscoll Memorial Scholarship of Hope 2024/2025 Application**

The Ciara O'Driscoll Memorial Scholarship of Hope is a \$1,000 scholarship granted to a graduating senior with identified special needs for post- secondary school education and/or training.

) • • Funds awarded by Ciara's Light Foundation are non-negotiable. The Ciara O'Driscoll Memorial Scholarship is a scholarship ranging from \$500-\$2500 granted to a 2024 Masuk graduating senior who will be pursuing education/special education and who has currently been accepted in a full-time bachelor's degree program.

### **TO BE ELIGIBLE, AN APPLICANT MUST:**

- Be a resident of Monroe, CT at the time of application
- Be a 2024 Masuk High School Senior
- Have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4-point scale (or equivalent)
- Have a special need that is recognized by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Has a disability under Special Education Law or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 • All applications are reviewed without regard to race, gender, religion or national origin. • All applicant information will be kept strictly confidential and disposed of properly.
- Applicants must be currently enrolled in a four-year program in the field of Elementary Education or Secondary Education at an accredited college or university
- All applications are reviewed without regard to race, gender, religion or national origin
- All applicant information will be kept strictly confidential and disposed of properly
- Funds awarded by Ciara's Light Foundation are non-negotiable

### **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

- **Application deadline: May 31, 2024.** *Applications received after this deadline will NOT be considered.*
- Mail the following items to the address below:

#### **All applicants:**

- ◆ One completed scholarship application. *Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.*
- ◆ *Two letters of Recommendation:* from teachers, employers or other professionals who know you well. One must be from a current Masuk teacher or counselor.
- ◆ *One Official Copy of your high school transcript (may be obtained from your guidance counselor).*
- ◆ *Copy of college acceptance letter*

**Ciara's Light Foundation Scholarship Program**  
**c/o Lori O'Driscoll**  
**11 Nancy Drive**  
**Monroe, CT 06468**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD**

- The recipient of the Ciara O'Driscoll Memorial Scholarship will be announced at the Annual Awards Night at Masuk High School and are invited to be recognized at Chasing Ciara's Light 5k/12k Trail Run at Great Hollow Lake in October 5, 2024.

*If you have any questions, please contact Lori O'Driscoll at [lori@ciaraslight.org](mailto:lori@ciaraslight.org).*

## **I. PERSONAL/FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Applicant's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**\_\_\_\_\_ **City/State/Zip:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents' Marital Status (circle one):**

Married      Single      Divorced/Separated      Widowed

**Parents' Income** (combined income, including child support received if applicable):

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### # of Dependent Children & Their Ages:

Number

### Ages

# of Dependent Children Attending College/University Fall 2024: \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Family Circumstances (if any) – Examples of Special Family circumstances include recent divorce, death, financial problems, illness, etc.:**

## **II. ACADEMIC / VOCATIONAL INFORMATION**

- A. List any Early Childhood Education classes you have completed during your high school career (if any).
- B. List any jobs, internships or volunteer activities you have had working with children/teens with special needs. Include a short summary of your experience, including duties, total weekly hours and duration of service.

### **III. EDUCATION SAVINGS**

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- A. Outline below your efforts to earn/save money toward your education. Include a short summary of your work experience including duties, total weekly hours and duration of service.

B. Are you working while at school or on summer break (be as specific as possible)?

C. Have you received any other grants, scholarships or financial aid toward your education?

Total Dollar Amount:

*Please describe:*

D. Are you working while at school or on summer break (be as specific as possible)?

### **IV. COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

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A. Basic Information

School You are Attending:

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Minor:

Special Education selected: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Financial Information

Tuition:

Room/Board:

Other Fees:

Total:

### **V. ESSAY** *(submit your essay on a separate page)*

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Describe an experience that has affected your decision to pursue a career in Special Education along with your career goals. Please attach your essay double spaced, typed in 12 font Times New Roman. Essay must be a minimum of 2 pages and maximum of 4 pages.

### **VI. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION** *(attach separately to application)*

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Include two letters of recommendation from teachers, employers or other professionals who know you well.

### **VI. CERTIFICATION**

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**I hereby declare that I have read the above statements and that all information included herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Full Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian's Full Name (Printed)