

“After learning of the Guardian Scholars program in California through its founder, Ronald V. Davis, a colleague of mine, I was eager to put my efforts to use for the cause and start a similar program in my home state of Iowa. I know that it can be extremely difficult for young adults without family support systems to make major, and most-often costly, changes in their life such as those that are made when attending college.

It is my intent that the Guardian Scholars Foundation Scholarship aid young women and men who have recently spent time in the foster care system so that they may pursue their four-year degree and build lifelong relationships without having to worry about the financial burden that accompanies secondary education.”

*— Craig W. Sandahl, Founder
Guardian Scholars Foundation
1927-2017*



The late Craig Sandahl pictured with former GSF Scholars Jessica and Dez.

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Scholarships for Foster Youth

Empowering Foster Care Youth
Through Education

GUARDIAN SCHOLARS FOUNDATION
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Our Vision

The Guardian Scholars Foundation is a scholarship and mentorship program that leverages the expertise and resources of both the public and private sector to create a synergy of support for youth who have spent time in the Iowa foster care system between the ages of 14 and 18 or in other similar situations.

Together, a network of academic institutions, community organizations, public service agencies, and private citizens create a community dedicated to assisting foster youth in achieving their educational goals.

What We Provide

Up to \$8,000 in scholarship funds per year to fill gaps in state/federal funds and school scholarships, with the goal to achieve:

- Paid academic tuition
- Free academic year room and board
- Stipend for textbooks

An adult community mentor who may arrange tutors, holiday stays, give career advice and supply other needs is also arranged for each student.

Why We're Passionate

Approximately 4,500 children entering the foster care system each year in Iowa alone.

Only 58% of foster youth graduate high school as compared to 87% nationally.

When a foster youth ages out of the system without graduating high school, it is projected that each individual will cost taxpayers \$300,000 in costs absorbed by the community over their lifetime.

Of the young adults aging out of foster care fewer than 3% will earn a college degree by age 25 (compared to 28% of all 25 years olds).

One in four of foster youth will be involved in the justice system within two years of leaving the foster care system. More than one in five will become homeless after age 18.

71% of foster women are pregnant by 21, facing higher rates of unemployment, criminal conviction, public assistance, and involvement in the child welfare system.



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SOME OF OUR SCHOLARS:



ALEXANDER, SIMPSON COLLEGE

Alexander has received many awards for chorus, speech and academics, and is interested in majoring in Music Performance. He strives to be the best version of himself.

TALIA, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Talia put in hundreds of hours of volunteer work as a homeless youth and plans to major in Graphic Design. She is a proud member of the LGBT community.

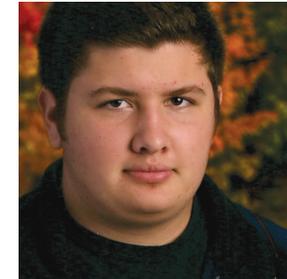


ANDRE, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

After becoming a part of the National Honor Society in high school, Andre moved on to Iowa State. He has since become a Management Information Systems (MIS) major.

MAKAYLA, NORTH-WESTERN COLLEGE

A National Honor Society recipient, Makayla has received numerous awards for her artistic abilities. She is considering majoring in Social Work, Art Education or to become a Personal Physical Trainer.



ADAM, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Adam is interested in literature, ancient history and business management. He likes woodworking, art, songwriting and the outdoors.

To learn more about the Guardian Scholars Foundation and to apply for a scholarship, please visit our website at:
www.GuardianScholarsFoundation.org

If you are interested in making a donating to our scholarship fund, please visit our website at www.GuardianScholarsFoundation.org

ALL APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 1ST FOR THE UPCOMING FALL SEMESTER.