

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Manatee Community Foundation Announces 2024 Scholarship Program Opening on January 1st

Bradenton, FL – January 8, 2023– The Manatee Community Foundation is thrilled to announce the opening of its annual scholarship program starting January 1st, 2024. Designed to support the educational aspirations of promising students, the application will run until March 1st, 2024, offering a vital opportunity for Manatee and Sarasota students to pursue their academic goals.

In the previous year, 2023, the Foundation proudly awarded 152 scholarships, embodying its commitment to fostering educational excellence and empowering our community.

**"We act today, for a better tomorrow** because we believe that **together, we can do greater things:** we are excited to open our scholarship program for the 2024 academic year," remarked Veronica Thames, Executive Director at the Manatee Community Foundation. "Our commitment to nurturing talent, the workforce of the future, and creating opportunities for local students to thrive remains steadfast. We encourage all eligible students in Manatee and Sarasota to take advantage of this opportunity and apply."

The scholarship program is a testament to the Foundation's unwavering dedication to investing in the future of our region by building the workforce needed and providing opportunities for everyone in our community to thrive. With a diverse array of scholarships tailored to various fields of study and academic achievements, the Manatee Community Foundation aims to provide accessible pathways to higher education for deserving local high school students and adults who want to attend college or trade school.

Applicants are required to complete a single application to be considered for all available MCF scholarships. Information needed to complete the application includes:

- A FAFSA confirmation email showing their Student Aid Index Estimation (required due to 2024 FAFSA changes)
- Two (2) reference surveys completed individuals known by the student (NOT family members or friends)
- A personal statement that highlights the student's life path, goals, and career ambitions
- Transcripts from the last school the student attended

For further details and application guidelines, prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the Manatee Community Foundation's scholarship [page](#). The link to apply for MCF scholarships will be live on this same page on January 1, 2024.

About Manatee Community Foundation:

At Manatee Community Foundation, we partner with our citizens to **strengthen and enhance our community through philanthropy, education, and service – now and forever.**

In a county with a tradition of authentic care and a giving spirit, MCF is the bridge between generous donors, business leaders, our government, and nonprofit partners, so together, we can invest in our community and everyone can thrive. We foster connections, share knowledge, provide funding, and engage others to **act today, for a better tomorrow**. Because we believe that **together, we can do greater things**.

Since our inception as a local grass-roots organization in 1998, we have invested over \$56 million dollars in the areas of health and human services, education, arts and culture, the environment, and animal welfare. We believe in **creating opportunities for all and are committed to the continuous investment and evolution of our diversity, equity, inclusion and access work**.

As the only community foundation in Manatee County, **MCF is your partner in philanthropy**, and the trusted steward of charitable legacies and the guide for current giving through donor advised funds, field of interest funds, designated funds, scholarship funds, unrestricted funds, and agency funds. See more information about Manatee Community Foundation at [www.manateecf.org](http://www.manateecf.org)

For media inquiries or additional information, please contact:  
Veronica Thames | [Vthames@ManateeCF.org](mailto:Vthames@ManateeCF.org) | 941.747.7765