



Fulfilling Our Community's Promise

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A Scholarship Fund of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation

Scholar Spotlight



My name is Batula Hassan. I am a junior at James Madison University majoring in mathematics. My journey here was very long and bumpy. After high school I went to Piedmont Virginia Community College for two years, where I received my associate degree in liberal arts. Initially, I had very low expectations for PVCC because I had always heard people talk about

community college with negative connotations. However, my two years at PVCC were nothing like I expected. It was a nice transition from high school and I had small classes, which allowed me to build a strong relationship with both my professors and classmates. The thing I loved the most about PVCC was the support from the academic advisors. Kristen Greer, a transfer advisor, greatly guided me during my time at Piedmont. I met with her fairly regularly and she assisted me with the selection of courses in order to receive my associate degree. She supported me when I changed my major a million times and when the time came, she helped me make sure I had all the required credits to be able to transfer to JMU in the fall of 2019 as a junior with my general education credits waived. I am so grateful to have received the support of PVCC.

For me, being a part of the Charlottesville Scholarship Program means not only receiving financial aid to attend college but also emotional aid through meeting with Joy Sabol and Stephanie Leech, both people in the community who genuinely care about me and helping me be successful. To me it feels like a family because when we meet, we don't just talk about academics, we check in on how I'm doing on both an emotional and physical level, catch up on exciting events that are taking place in our lives, and simply enjoy each other's company. This is very important to me because I am not just getting money to go to school, I am also building strong, long-lasting relationships with individuals in my community who are rooting for me to be the best that I can be. It genuinely makes me happy.

I greatly encourage high school students to apply to be a part of this program and to become a part of the family. I also encourage community members to donate to this program because it is making a big difference. CSP removes financial stress and promotes family and community for its members.

Fast Facts



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For more information contact
scholars@cvcillescholarship.com or
 visit www.cvcillescholarship.com

Sponsors

The Charlottesville Scholarship Program recognizes the following community partners for their generous support:



Navigator Spotlight

Name: Alex Urpi

Hobbies: My hobbies include fiction writing (novels and short stories), playing and song-writing on the piano, and afternoons of tennis or ultimate Frisbee with siblings and friends.

Favorite book and movie: My favorite book is the one that set me writing: *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne. My favorite movie is the 1956 version of *Ben-Hur*.

Why did you become a navigator? Hearing the ways in which our navigators are able to encourage their scholars while also experiencing the fruitful connections of being a mentor persuaded me to become a navigator also! Having had the blessing of parents who had been to college to support me when I first attended, I wanted to pass that support on to those who might not have that advantage, as many of our courageous scholars are the first in their family to attend college.

How do you support your scholar? I check in on how the semester is going, offer suggestions about enrollment and so on, and send reminders of important scholarship program dates to remember. I try to always be there to encourage my students on the exciting journey they're on!

How has being a navigator affected you? I would say twofold: first, being a navigator, and being part of a group of navigators, opens your eyes to the great challenges that our scholars are overcoming in an especially personal way because you see firsthand both how far they've come and where they can go. Second, it is a process that helps to inspire you as you see (or see again) the excitement and new opportunities a young person attending college for the first time experiences and how important it is to approach the rest of life with that same spirit.



More Fast Facts

- Charlottesville Scholarships can be renewed annually to support the student through his or her program of study or undergraduate education.
- Scholarships typically begin at \$1,500 with an annual increase of \$500 with successful academic progress.
- Annual grants for renewing scholars are increased to make up for the decline in other financial aid so that students can reduce or eliminate their college-related debt.
- A student can receive up to \$9,000 over the typical 4-year undergraduate program.
- In 2019, CSP will award a total of \$67,250 in scholarships. All award funds are sent directly to the educational institution for application to the scholar's student account.
- CSP provides scholarships to adults who seek to improve their lives through education. Adults can receive initial awards of up to \$1,500 in a year.
- We will be financially assisting 33 students during the 2019-2020 academic year. Many are the first in their family to attend college.

About the Charlottesville Scholarship Program

Established in 2001 with a \$250,000 gift from Charlottesville City Council, the Charlottesville Scholarship Program provides college scholarships to low- and moderate-income graduates of Charlottesville City Schools, and to City employees. We support students through the completion of their undergraduate course of study, and we support adults who are furthering their education. Scholarships increase each year, which encourages students to complete school and lessens overall student debt. To date, we have helped 146 students pursue higher education.