



# **Bernie Scholarship Awards Program**

## **2017 Spring Newsletter**

*The Mission of The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program (BSAP) is to provide financial assistance for college or training programs to graduating high school seniors and other adults who are low-income and live in subsidized housing in Montgomery County, Maryland.*

### **Keynote Speaker and Community Service Awardee for May 18th BSAP Awards Event**

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*Craig Rice*

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program will honor Councilmember Rice with its Community Service Award at the 2017 Awards Ceremony. We recognize Council member Rice's dedication to supporting education in Montgomery County for all of its citizens. From his advocacy on the County Council's Education Committee his public forums on supporting education in Montgomery County, his leadership as former County Council President, his advocacy for a stronger commitment to education from the State of Maryland and his leadership to put education first, Councilmember Rice is seen as one who leads by example

and stands up for education. We at The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program certainly believe that education is the greatest equalizer of opportunity.

The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program's Awards Ceremony will take place on **Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 5:30p.m.** The location is the Executive Office Building Cafeteria, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20950.

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### **BSAP Receives \$100,000 Bequest**

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*Gene Ford, Sr.*

**Gene Ford, Sr.**, a long-time donor and supporter of the Bernie Scholarship Awards Program, has made a \$100,000 bequest to the Bernie Scholarship Awards Program. Mr. Ford's company Mid-City produced thousands of housing units throughout the Washington-Baltimore region that served many low-income residents, he recognized that people were not poor by choice and that housing in itself would not substantially change their lives. As a result, he leads the way in adding housing services in Mid-City Developments and the Community Preservation and Development Corporation, a non-profit

he formed.

Realizing his sincere commitment to changing the lives of low income people, the Bernie Scholarship Awards Program honored Mr. Ford with our Community Service Award in 2001. At the awards ceremony, he listened to the inspiring stories of those receiving scholarships and recognized that education of these scholars was breaking the cycle of poverty. He became a benefactor of the BSAP until his death and now even beyond.

Co-Founder of the BSAP Jim Brodsky remembers Mr. Ford as follows:

*Gene Ford, Sr., whom I also knew personally, was a remarkable public figure who set aside immense amounts of his energy and talent and resources to help people who would benefit from and deserved that help to achieve their dreams. In that regard, he both "thought" and did "big." As a smaller of many such examples, he founded and funded the Community Preservation and Development Corporation headquartered in Silver Spring (on whose Board I also serve) that has developed 25 communities from Richmond through Washington DC to Baltimore where 10,000 low-income residents grow and thrive and strive to achieve their dreams just as our own Bernie Fund Scholars do. Under these circumstances, it is, it seems to me, both remarkable and unremarkable that Gene Ford, Sr so generously included the Bernie Fund in his annual giving and now has left this very generous bequest. It is unremarkable because that is what he did, over and over again. It is remarkable because, frankly, he did it for (and also included) us and the Bernie Fund in that giving and support.*



*Robert Saloschin*

### **Robert Saloschin – Citizens for Quality Civilization**

When the group that he formed ceased operations, the remaining fund balance was donated to the BSAP. Citizens for Quality Civilization was a non-profit civic education group that produced handbooks to improve education, healthcare, transportation, and globalization policies. Robert Saloschin was a Justice Department lawyer who found an unconventional legal basis for the federal government to order the racial integration of interstate bus travel and bus terminals during the violence-wracked Freedom Rides of 1961. It was at that point that Mr. Saloschin suggested a petition to the Interstate Commerce Commission. He said, "Well, the Attorney General can formally and publicly petition the Commission to desegregate all buses and terminals if he wants to..."and, that's what happened affecting public accommodations laws throughout the country. Mr. Saloschin devoted his life to social justice issues and civic responsibility including organizing recreational and library facilities and leading in land use disputes for homeowners.

## Students in the News

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### **When a Few Bucks Can Get Students to the Finish Line** - NY Times Article



Kalif Robinson is a star at Georgia State University in Atlanta. He's a straight-A senior, majoring in economics and minoring in Arabic. In the fall he'll start a two-year Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship, studying foreign affairs in Washington and training to be a diplomat.

It nearly didn't happen. Robinson has stitched together his Georgia State tuition and fees with loans, a federal Pell Grant, Georgia's Hope Scholarship and two jobs. He's worked nearly full-time since his freshman year; today he's a waiter and works at the Campus Advising Center. His father is a musician and music teacher. "More often than not, I've had to give my parents money," he said.

Here's the link to the follow article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/14/opinion/when-a-few-bucks-can-get-students-to-the-finish-line.html>

## BSAP 2017 FriendRaiser

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### **Maryland's Attorney General, Brian Frosh, and First Lady of Montgomery County, Catherine Leggett, attend this BSAP March Event**

Maryamawit Abate and Nia Smith, past BSAP awardees, gave brilliant and moving talks about their experiences, educational goals and how The Bernie Scholarship has helped them achieve success to a group of 30 Bernie Scholarship friends and supporters. The evening raised \$21,500 in scholarship funds.

The BSAP can help fund the education of many more deserving students with your tax deductible contribution. Please think of us for:

- an annual donation of any amount
- a \$1,000 donation that will allow for a scholarship named after someone you choose
- a Sustainer Donor donation for 3 Years
- a Bequest

- a gift of stocks or annuities

For more information about supporting The Bernie Scholarships Awards Program, check the website at <https://www.berniescholarships.org>

## **Awardee Corner**

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Find out what the BSAP awardees are saying about Bernie Scholarships:

**“Being granted the scholarship gave me a warm feeling that other people care about my future and want to help.”**

“With this scholarship opportunity, I will be able to continue my education to a higher level. I will be able to relieve a small amount of the large financial burden from my father who already has so much on his hands by supporting a household of eight and being the only one who works. More significantly, I will use this scholarship to give back to the community as a Nurse Practitioner because being a Nurse Practitioner requires me to help those who need medical attention on a daily basis.”

***-Idman Guled***

“The Bernie scholarship has helped me financially with my college bill. It also gives me a warm feeling that other people care about my future and want to help. I have been given the Bernie scholarship three years now and I love attending the ceremony's to meet the people who are supporting the program because they truly want to help change peoples' lives.”

***-Korey Platt***

“The Bernie Scholarship has made my goal in becoming an entertainment lawyer easier. Not only did the board grant me a scholarship they also showed me they care a lot by asking about my academic progress. The Bernie Scholarship has helped me by taking a little bit of stress out of my life by working while working toward my degree. Knowing that I have been granted this money to attend school makes me appreciate and understand the importance of having an education. An eye opener, really.”

***-Phallon Kennedy Thompson***

## **The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program is looking for Past Awardees to Participate in its Effectiveness Study**

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If you are a past scholarship recipient or know someone who is, please email us at [berniescholarship@gmail.com](mailto:berniescholarship@gmail.com) and provide the scholarship recipient's name and preferred email address, so that a copy of the survey can be sent to him or her as soon as possible.

## **Thank You**

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*Thank you for your support of the 2017 Scholarship Awards!!! Please mail your 501(c)(3) tax-deductible donation to:*

**The Bernie Scholarship Awards Program  
P.O. Box 2514  
Rockville, MD 20847**