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**The Denise Calabrese Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded by the Rotary Club of Peekskill Foundation, Inc.

The Denise Calabrese (Bovich) Memorial Scholarship was established to honor Denise’s lifelong desire to be a philanthropist and help those in need.  Denise attended Peekskill High School where she excelled as a student, achieving both national honor society and national math honor society recognition.  She was active as a band member, chorus member, wrestling statistician and community volunteer. Denise attended Pace University on scholarship where she was the lone woman in the Business Management Program and graduated with honors. She began and ended her business career at the Peekskill Area Health Care Center, now renamed Sun River Health. She rose to be the vice president of finance of the largest non-profit health care center in the country. She chose to stay here in Peekskill to help her community have a better quality of life through higher-level health care.  Denise had an innate ability to be fair and compassionate to all around her while nurturing and developing her colleagues’ individual talents along the way.  She loved Peekskill High School, athletics, her community, Sun River Health, and her family.  Denise strongly believed that giving back to the community and helping others was the only real way to achieve true happiness.

This scholarship is designed to recognize students who demonstrate a similar passion for public service and who demonstrate academic potential, community involvement, athletic participation, community involvement and financial need. A $1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded.

**Eligibility Considerations:**

* First family member to attend college
* Current graduating student from Peekskill High School
* Student in financial need and enrolled full time to attend college or secondary education training
* Minimum 2.5 grade point average (based on a 4.0 max scale)
* Demonstrated commitment of service to community, school, and family.
* Participation in high school athletics
* Desire to pursue a health care or law enforcement career path

It is noted that some students in financial need may not fulfill all of the above-mentioned criteria due to family responsibilities and work commitments.  Please include that related information.

**Required Application Documents**

Applicants are required to submit the following application documents to be considered for the Denise Calabrese Memorial Scholarship. **Applications are due by April 22, 2023.  Mail applications and supporting documents to:**

The Denise Calabrese Memorial Scholarship

119 Benefield Blvd.

Peekskill, NY, 10566

1. **Personal Statement**

Submit your personal statement of 500-750 words that includes the following prompts:

* Describe your long-term goals for a career in health care or law enforcement/criminal justice and how furthering your education will assist you in reaching those goals.
* Comment on the personal characteristics, educational and extracurricular activities that have helped prepare you for college.
* Reflect on your personal journey (significant accomplishments, challenges and/or hardships) and any life lessons that you think will or have help (ed) you succeed in college.
* Describe why you believe you are a good candidate for the Denise Calabrese Memorial Scholarship

2. **Extra Curricular Activities/Community Service/Employment**

Include a list of any Extra Curricular activities, community service activities or employment.

3. **Two Letters of Recommendation**

Your two letters of recommendation must be signed and dated. Recommendations maybe be from:

* A teacher or academic advisor on school letterhead; and
* A volunteer or work supervisor, community leader or personal acquaintance. (Volunteer or work supervisor letters must be on the organization’s letterhead. Personal acquaintance letters cannot come from parents or relatives.)

*Letters of recommendation which were written for other scholarship or college applications can be submitted, but must be for the current year.*

4. **Unofficial or Official Transcripts of Grades**

Unofficial or official transcripts are to be submitted with application.

5. **Financial Aid Award Letter**

Please include a copy of the “Financial Aid Award” Letter from the institution you will attend, if applicable, and any other scholarships you have received.

6.. **Detailed description of your financial need**

The more detailed and verifiable information provided increases the weight of the statement.  Information provided is viewed only by the 3 evaluators.

Students awarded this scholarship are encouraged to donate to the Denise Calabrese Memorial Scholarship Fund, when possible, to “pay it forward” for others in need.