



## **The Elaine's Gift Scholarship Fund**

Established 2016

Elaine Fagan was a strong single mother of four children who worked tirelessly to provide for her four children. Born and raised in Temple Hills, Maryland, Elaine raised her children in her childhood home, teaching them the value of independence, responsibility, hard work, compassion, and inclusion.

Elaine earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) as an adult student, letting no adversity stand in her way: from juggling single motherhood and multiple jobs, to riding her motorcycle in harsh weather the 45 miles between home and campus. Her degree led her to work in drug and alcohol counseling with the Maryland Health Department, and later she went on to work in budget analysis for the US Department of Treasury.

She truly embodied a “never give up” attitude, and passed that on to her children, as well as their friends, neighborhood kids, and others who crossed her path. Elaine loved life, the beach, and people of all walks of life. She was known for her compassion, lighting up any room she entered, and giving the truth with grace and love.

On May 18, 2003, Elaine lost her short two-week battle with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), leaving behind her four adult children and three of her eventual six grandchildren. She had just celebrated her 58th birthday.

### **Purpose of Elaine's Gift Scholarship**

Elaine's Gift was established to honor her legacy and her desire to give her children every opportunity for advancement. This fund awards scholarships to the children of single mothers, who have demonstrated academic excellence, community involvement, and desire to pursue higher education through an accredited college, university, or trade school, yet are hampered by financial need.

### **Procedures**

All scholarship applications and supporting materials must be received by the Elaine's Gift Scholarship Committee **by April 8, 2026**. Selection will be made, and the recipient informed by the committee, by May 8th, 2026. Official presentation of the scholarship is expected to be made at the annual Elaine's Gift Brunch tentatively scheduled for June 2026 in Calvert County, MD, after the local high school graduation season. Scholarship awardee is requested to attend this event, and details will be confirmed upon scholarship notification.

Recipients must provide a copy of a letter of acceptance to the college, university, or trade school they plan to attend. Proof of enrollment must be received by July 31, 2026 for scholarship to be disseminated to the institution. Failure to provide documentation will result in revocation of the scholarship.

**The 2026 scholarship committee expects to award one scholarship of up to \$3,000, which will be disbursed directly to the institution that the recipient will be attending.**

### **Scholarship Criteria**

To be eligible for the Elaine's Gift Scholarship, the applicant must be the child of a single mother, and plan to attend an accredited two- or four-year college or university, or accredited trade school on a full-time basis. Selection will be based on the following:

1. Submitting this application in its entirety and with complete supporting documentation.
2. Excellent record of high school academic achievement with a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average, as demonstrated by academic transcript.
3. Demonstrated community involvement, which may include secular or religious organizations.
4. Two letters of recommendation from high school teachers, coaches, guidance counselors or community leaders.

**Personal Information** (please attach additional pages as needed)

First Name	
Last Name	
Date of Birth	
Street Address	
City, State and Zip Code	
Parent or Guardian Name	
Parent or Guardian Phone Number	
Parent or Guardian Email Address	
High School Applicant Attends or Did Attend	
High School Address	
Anticipated Graduation Date	
Cumulative GPA to date	

Accredited college, university, or trade school applicant expects to attend	
Have you been accepted?	
Please list your academic achievements	
Please list any awards or other forms of recognition you've received	
Please list your extracurricular activities	
Please list your community involvement	
Please attach 2 recommendations - this may include a high school teacher or coach, guidance counselor, or community leader.	

**How will this scholarship aid in your overall educational goal?**

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**Essay Requirement** - Please submit an essay of no more than 500 words in response to the questions below. Please use the space below or attach a separate document to respond.

1. How has being raised by a single mother shaped your personal character and desire to further your education?
2. How will you use this circumstance to shape your future?

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, and the page is completely blank except for the lines themselves.

## Signatures

I hereby state that the information submitted in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I grant permission to use all or part of any essays thus submitted with this application as well as any photographs that I provide or may have taken for the purpose of any publicity and/or advertising purposes.

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Submit completed application and all supporting documentation as follows:

Via email (preferred): [info@chesapeakecharities.org](mailto:info@chesapeakecharities.org)

USPS mail:  
Chesapeake Charities  
Elaine's Gift Scholarship Committee  
101 Log Canoe Circle, Suite O  
Stevensville, MD 21666

Please direct any questions to:

Erin Harrigan, Chairman  
Elaine's Gift Scholarship Committee  
443-684-3131  
[erin@erinharrigan.com](mailto:erin@erinharrigan.com)

The Elaine's Gift Scholarship Fund is a component fund of Chesapeake Charities, a public foundation designated as a 501 C 3 charity. Gifts to the fund are fully tax-deductible as allowable by law. A copy of Chesapeake Charities' financial statement is available upon request by emailing Linda Kohler, Executive Director at [linda@chesapeakecharities.org](mailto:linda@chesapeakecharities.org), or by calling 410-643-4020. Information about Chesapeake Charities can be requested under the Maryland Charitable Solicitation Act and can be obtained from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401.