

# The Ben Alden Memorial Scholarship for Social Justice

## *Information and Application Instructions*

**SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION:** The Ben Alden Memorial Scholarship for Social Justice was created to honor the legacy of Ben Alden whose life reflected his enduring commitment to social justice. The annual award of \$2,000 is given to a young person between the ages of 18 and 25. Please see our website for information on the CTK Junior Awards.

**GOALS OR PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP:** To encourage young adults to explore ways they can live their faith while using Catholic social teachings to work for social justice. The scholarship is intended to partially allay the expenses of the recipient in this pursuit, but is not need based.

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:** Belief in the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all Catholic social teaching. Among other things, this means that everyone in our society has the right to:

- adequate food and shelter (affordable housing)
- access to quality health care
- equal opportunity in education
- work that provides a sustaining wage
- participation in the political system

### **SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS:**

Application Deadline: March 1, 2012

Award Amount: \$2,000

Eligibility: Consideration for this scholarship shall be given to any youth, age 18 to 25, who has any affiliation with the Church of Christ the King (CTK) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This affiliation includes having been a member of CTK, **or** being a relative of a member of CTK, **or** having attended Carondelet Catholic (CTK/STA) Grade School, **or** having been a member of a CTK sponsored organization.

Selection Criteria: Preference will be given to students who demonstrate an interest in, and commitment to, exploring Catholic social teachings and how they can empower us to work for permanent social change. Recipients will participate in a qualifying internship, project, or curriculum reflecting this commitment. See “Examples of Qualifying Activities” on the next page and our website [www.ctksowers.org](http://www.ctksowers.org) for more details.

Notification Date: All applicants will be notified of the final selection by April 1, 2011.

Administered by: The Sowers of Justice of the Church of Christ the King, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Alden family.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

1. Before completing the application form, applicants should first review the examples of qualifying activities, provided below, and form a general idea of what activity they would be interested in pursuing.
2. The applicants should then contact the Scholarship Committee via email or telephone to discuss their proposed activity and get feedback. Email Mary Jane Mitchell at [MARYJANEMITCHELL@MSN.COM](mailto:MARYJANEMITCHELL@MSN.COM) or call her at 612-824-8296 or visit our website to contact additional Committee members. If requested, members can help with ideas and suggestions.
3. Following this discussion, and if applicable, the applicants should contact the organization or institution with whom they wish to work or study and confirm availability of an internship/major/project for the time period chosen.
4. Applicants should complete and submit the application form and a short essay describing their proposed activity and how it will enable them to work for permanent social change. Application forms can be downloaded at [www.ctksowers.org](http://www.ctksowers.org) or [www.facebook.com/ctksowers](http://www.facebook.com/ctksowers) or obtained by calling 612-920-5030.

### **EXAMPLES OF QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES:**

Please note that the following examples of qualifying activities are only guidelines. *All proposals will be considered.* It is anticipated that the work or study project will typically occur during a single semester or summer break. Projects/activities will vary, but all should share a focus on promoting human rights through social change and provide the recipient an opportunity to learn and develop skills that will enable her/him to continue to work for change, either through activism or research. While we recognize the importance of charitable works or direct service, we are encouraging youths to go beyond charity and to work for permanent change.

- ❖ Volunteering with a non-partisan organization that furthers social justice. If desired, applicants can choose from a list of sample organizations on our website, or can work with one of their own choosing.
- ❖ Completing a research project addressing one or more of the themes of Catholic social teaching either for such an organization or school.
- ❖ Majoring or minoring in peace and justice studies at a college or university.
- ❖ Developing an independent social justice project, possibly related to career work in this area.

### **CONCLUDING REQUIREMENT:**

So that the recipient's work can be recognized and honored by the CTK parish, a concluding summary will be requested upon completion of his or her work/project/activity. This final summary can be one or more of the following: a one page report submitted to the Scholarship Committee, a presentation to a CTK group, or an article for the parish newsletter.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

Please visit us at [www.facebook.com/ctksowers](http://www.facebook.com/ctksowers) or our website at [www.ctksowers.org](http://www.ctksowers.org).