

AJO FOREVER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP of The Erie Community Foundation

This scholarship was established in 2013 by **Alyssa Josephine O'Neill's** family and friends in loving memory of a truly wonderful young woman. O'Neill, an 18-year old Penn State Behrend nursing student, asked her parents to take her to Starbucks for a pumpkin spice latte. They didn't get a chance as Alyssa, who had epilepsy, died Sept. 4 after suffering a grand mal seizure. Her family wanted to honor her memory so they decided to pay it forward and let some other people enjoy what Alyssa didn't get a chance to have; hoping they'll spread the kindness and do a nice thing in honor of our daughter." The family paid for the next 40 pumpkin spice lattes for the next 40 customers at Starbucks and asked that a purple sharpie be used to write #AJO on each cup. Starbucks employees were so touched by the gesture that they donated the free drinks they earn each shift - 93 pumpkin spice lattes in all. Supporters started similar pay-it-forward gestures where pumpkin-flavored drinks and treats are sold.

A Facebook page was created and within five days had more than 8,000 likes, an unusually high amount for a local tribute page. Acts of goodwill with the #AJO hashtag were pouring in for the family on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram from all over the world. Ultimately this wealth of generosity has resulted in a heartwarming number of monetary donations that Alyssa's family has used to establish this scholarship in her honor.

Alyssa was a McDowell High School cheerleader and an ambassador for Epilepsy awareness.

Amount: to be determined annually

Eligibility:

- Must be a graduating senior from an Erie County, PA high school
- A 3.0 GPA or higher is required
- Must be pursuing a nursing degree

Criteria:

- Preference will be given to those who are employed and have participated in high school, community, and church activities
- This is an academic scholarship based on merit as evidenced by high school transcripts and standard aptitude test scores

To Apply:

- <https://www.eriecommunityfoundation.org/scholarships/the-erie-community-foundation>
- Select Erie Community Foundation Scholarships
- Scroll down to the AJO Forever Scholarship and click on:
How to Apply: Click here

Please mail or fax your completed applications to:
The Erie Community Foundation
459 West Sixth Street, Erie, PA 16507
Fax: 456-4965

Deadline: April 15th



AJO FOREVER SCHOLARSHIP

The Erie Community Foundation

1. Name _____ Birth date _____

2. Street address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-Mail address _____ Home Phone _____ Cell _____

3. Annual household income \$ _____ No. dependents in household (include parents) _____

4. Guardian(s) Name(s) _____
Occupations(s) _____

5. High School _____

6. Please list your employment history: _____

7. a. List your participation in community activities/service (include hours): _____

Total community service hours: _____

b. List your participation in church activities: _____

c. List high school activities you have participated in (include years): _____

8. College/University you be attending _____
Major field of study _____ Projected graduation date _____

9. Estimated college expenses for the upcoming academic year:

Tuition	\$ _____
Room /Board	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
Total Expenses	\$ _____

10. Anticipated amount of **available fund for college** for the upcoming academic year:

Family	\$ _____
Personal	\$ _____
Scholarships/grants	\$ _____
Loans	\$ _____

11. Please enclose a 350-500 word essay on "Why You Want to be a Nurse." A video essay is also acceptable.

12. Include the following **required** documents with your application:

- Transcript *that* includes senior year grades, cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale, SAT Scores and absences/tardies.
- Financial Aid Award letter
- Essay
- One recommendation letter from a faculty member

Applicant Signature

Date

Please complete and submit your application to:

**The Erie Community Foundation
Scholarship Office
459 West 6th St.
Erie, PA 16507**



The Erie
Community
Foundation

Helping today... Shaping tomorrow.

Deadline: April 15th