

William H.L. (Bill) desBarres
Commitment to Volunteerism Scholarship
2026

Eligibility Criteria:

1. High School Senior Status:
 - Applicants must be graduating high school seniors from Medicine Hat and area schools. This includes Crescent Heights High School, McCoy High School, Medicine Hat High School and Eagle Butte High School.
2. Post-Secondary Education:
 - Applicants must be accepted or have intentions to apply to a recognized post-secondary institution (college, university, vocational school) for the upcoming academic year.
3. Community Service and Volunteerism:
 - Demonstrated commitment to community service and volunteerism, contributing **approximately 150 to 200 hours** of service within the last **two years**.
 - Volunteer work should benefit non-profit organizations, schools, community centers, or initiatives that contribute to the welfare of others

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Quality of Volunteer Work:
 - **Impact:** Applicants should demonstrate the positive impact their service has had on the community.
 - **Initiative:** Preference will be given to applicants who have shown leadership, such as organizing events or initiatives, or who went above and beyond in their roles.
 - **Diversity of Experience:** A variety of volunteer activities will be recognized, especially if they demonstrate a commitment to multiple causes or long-term engagement with a specific issue.
2. Essay Submission (600-1000 words):
 - Essay Topic: "**How My Community Service Shaped Me and My Community**"
 - The essay should reflect on the personal significance of the volunteer work, specific examples of contributions, and lessons learned about leadership, empathy, and civic responsibility.

- Judging Criteria for Essay:
 - Clarity of expression.
 - Connection between service experiences and personal growth.
 - Relevance of the volunteer work to the community's needs.
- 3. Letters of Recommendation:
 - **Two** letters of recommendation are required:
 - One from a teacher or school official attesting to the applicant's character and academic dedication.
 - One from a community leader or supervisor (e.g., at a non-profit or community organization) attesting to the applicant's volunteer work, commitment, and the impact of their service.

Selection Process:

1. Initial Review: A selection committee will review all applications to verify that the eligibility criteria are met.
2. Essay and Recommendation Review.
3. Winner will be notified.

Scholarship Amount:

- Award Amount: **\$2000.00** to be paid directly to the recipient.

Application Deadline:

- Applications must be received by **15 April 2026**.

Submission Method:

- Applications can be submitted via email to:

Ron Pennington
gascitykiwanisclub@gmail.com
Ph: 587 253-2020

- or can be mailed to:

Kiwanis Club of Medicine Hat – Gas City
Scholarship Committee
#4 – 826 11th Street S.E., Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 1T7

Note: Please ensure that applications are clearly identified with the contact name and contact information.