

Ellen Reitter Acts of Kindness Award

"Every small interaction with someone is an opportunity to have a positive impact on both of your lives"
- Brad Aronson

Context and Requirements of the Scholarship

Ellen Reitter started working for the Hilton Central School District in the 1990s; first by volunteering in the high school cafeteria, then part-time working the switch board during lunch breaks. Due to her work ethic and eagerness to help wherever needed, offers for other positions followed. She started working in the high school counseling office part-time, which then turned into a full-time job where she could interface with faculty and students and be even more helpful to others, above and beyond her job description and duties. She became secretary to the athletic director, and then ultimately secretary to the high school principal. Everyone that had the privilege of knowing and working with Ellen commented on her willingness to help everyone, and she would even do so with a smile!

This scholarship will provide \$1,500 to support a Hilton High School student who is graduating this year and continuing their post-secondary education. The recipient of this award is someone who exemplifies the essence of Ellen through their dedication, hard work and compassion; who shows acts of kindness, not randomly, but as part of their normal way of life.

Eligibility

The candidate must be:

- A student of the Hilton Central School District.
- Recommended by three individuals: two from HCSD faculty (one of which must be a teacher) and one may be a personal reference/community member.
- Pursuing their post-secondary education at a college, university, vocational school or other educational facility providing an academic degree or certificate.

Criteria

The candidate must have demonstrated:

- Evidence of academic progress and/or effort
- Extracurricular involvement
- Propensity to help others

Candidate Selection Process

- The candidate shall complete an application form available on Naviance
- The candidate shall submit a brief essay explaining:
 - Brief biographical information
 - Future goals
 - Their personal philosophy on life

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- The candidate will submit three letters of recommendation: at least two HSCD faculty (minimum of one teacher) and one personal reference/community member.
 - **Please note that the recommendation section will be given the greatest importance when reviewing applications, since it is most in-line with who Ellen was; never one to brag about herself, but always deserving of praise.**
- Please email application materials by **March 20th** to:
scholarship@hiltoneeducationfoundation.org
- The award winner(s) will be announced at Bravo Night.

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Scholarship Application

This scholarship will be presented on an annual basis to a Hilton High School student who always lends a helping hand, roots for the underdog and positively impacts the lives around them, just as Ellen did. The application and accompanying documents/materials must be completed by the applicant and returned to the following location by **March 20th**:

- Emailed to: scholarship@hiltoneducationfoundation.org

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____

School Counselor: _____

GPA: _____ (if continually improved throughout High School, please indicate below)

Extracurricular Activities (including but not limited to sports, clubs, community service, employment, etc.):

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What post-secondary educational opportunities are you pursuing, and why? When does the program start? How long is the program? _____

(Please feel free to elaborate on any of the above questions using extra pages, as needed)

Scholarship Essay or Video Submission

To be eligible for consideration, Hilton High School students must submit an essay or video including:

- Brief biographical information - we want to get to know you!
- Future goals and why you are interested in your post-secondary education choice.
- Your personal philosophy on life, or how it should be.

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Scholarship Recommendation Form

_____ has applied for the Ellen Reitter Acts of Kindness Award.

Name of HCSD Faculty/Personal Reference: _____

Please provide supplemental information that augments the student's application by expanding on the following bullets:

- How long have you known the candidate and in what capacity?
- Describe the student's scholastic and extracurricular achievements, work ethic and commitment to high standards.
- Highlight the student's compassion and propensity to help others and how his or her willingness to help has a positive impact.
- Please feel free to share any other information that will assist us in choosing a worthy recipient of the Ellen Reitter Acts of Kindness Award!