

Roberta K. Eichler Heart of Gold Scholarship

2026 Scholarship Application Information



The Roberta K. Eichler Heart of Gold Scholarship is named for the longstanding Executive Director of the Stamford Volunteer Center. This \$5,000 scholarship is awarded annually to support and promote the continuing education of an outstanding student volunteer from the Stamford community.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must be high school seniors who are Stamford residents and/or attend a high school in Stamford.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Students must demonstrate:

- *Volunteer Experience:* Active participation in one or more volunteer events/projects over the past two years.
- *Dedication:* Outstanding participation, commitment, and dedication to volunteerism.
- *Leadership:* Exhibits leadership qualities through volunteer activities
- *Financial Need:* Based on household income and family size.

For a copy of the scoring rubric used by the Scholarship Committee, please see **page 2** of this packet.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- **Completed Application Form**
- **Student's High School Transcript**
- **Letter(s) of Recommendation:**
 - At least one letter of recommendation by a supervising staff member of the nonprofit agency where the student volunteers, religious institution they attend, other supervising person related to the volunteer service, or their high school guidance counselor or teacher.
 - Letters should highlight the student's volunteer commitment, leadership qualities, and other relevant attributes.
 - Letters may be submitted directly by the recommender to Victoria Scofield via email at heartofgoldcommittee@unitedwaycwc.org or mailed to the address below (**postmarked by April 2, 2026**).
- **(Optional) Supplemental Materials:**
 - Awards, certificates, photos, or other items showcasing your volunteer work.

KEY DEADLINES AND TIMELINE

Date	Activity
February 25, 2026	Applications open
April 2, 2026	Application due date; Mailed applications must be postmarked by this date
Week of May 11, 2026	Selected candidates invited for half-hour interviews.
May 22, 2026	All candidates will be notified of application decision
June 18, 2026, 6-9 PM	Scholarships presented to students at the United in Impact Soiree.

HOW TO SUBMIT MATERIALS

- **Online Submission:** Submit via the UWCWC website: <https://www.unitedwaycwc.org/heart-gold-scholarship>
- **Paper Submission:**
 - Deliver your application to a school counselor at Stamford High School, Westhill High School, Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE), or J.M. Wright Technical School.
 - Or by mailing all application materials to:

United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut
c/o Victoria Scofield
1150 Summer Street, 2nd Floor
Stamford, CT 06905

Note: Be sure all materials, including recommendation letters, are received or postmarked by **April 2, 2026**.

2026 Scholarship Scoring Rubric

Category	Points Awarded
REVIEW TEAM	
Volunteerism	___ / 60 <i>(sum of three subcategories below)</i>
Commitment & Dedication <i>Consider: the depth and breadth of the student's volunteer activities, the time and energy dedicated to volunteering, and the recommenders' notes on the student's dedication, attitude, etc.</i>	___ / 20
Leadership & Initiative <i>Consider: leadership roles taken on by the student, initiative taken to come up with ideas and start new projects, collaboration with other volunteers, etc.</i>	___ / 20
Motivation & Personal Connection <i>Consider: the strength of the student's responses & overall story, how well the student articulates the benefits of volunteering, the student's personal connection to the cause, the student's motivation and passion, etc.</i>	___ / 20
Letter(s) of Recommendation	___ / 5
Academics	___ / 5
Extracurricular & Work Experience	___ / 5
UNITED WAY TEAM	
Financial Need	___ / 25
Application Total	____/100

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2026 Scholarship Application



STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: _____ **Birth Date:** _____
First and Last

Student's Phone #: _____ **Student's Email:** _____

Student's Address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Street Address

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s): _____

How many people are in your household?

(Include all adults & children that live with the student)

<i>Number of Adults (Ages 19-61)</i>	<i>Number of Children (Ages 0-2)</i>	<i>Number of Children (Ages 3-5)</i>	<i>Number of Children (Ages 6-18)</i>	<i>Number of Older Adults (Ages 62+)</i>
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Annual Household Income Range (Circle One):

Under \$29,999	\$30,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000 - \$99,999
\$100,000 - \$124,999	\$125,000 - \$149,999	\$150,000 - \$199,999	Over \$200,000

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name of High School the Student Attends: _____

High School Address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Street Address

High School Graduation Date: _____ **High School Phone #:** _____

Guidance Counselor's Name: _____ **Principal's Name:** _____

Recommendation Contact* Name: _____ **Recommendation Contact Phone #:** _____

Recommendation Contact Email Address: _____

* Your recommendation contact will only be contacted if we do not receive the letter for your application.

APPLICATION NARRATIVES

- What are your post-high school graduation plans?
- Please detail your volunteer experience thus far. (where, how long, your responsibilities, volunteer hours completed, etc.)
- How have you shown leadership and initiative through your volunteer efforts?
- Please share a story that illustrates why volunteering is important to you.
- Please share a little bit about any extracurricular activities and/or work experience that you have.