



THE CALVIN DAWSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Application Deadline: April 30, 2027

The Calvin Dawson Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to honor the memory of Calvin Dawson, founder and first Executive Director of the Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida, now known as the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida (BDFF).

Calvin was a passionate advocate who dedicated his life to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by bleeding disorders. This scholarship continues its legacy by supporting students who share their spirit of determination, compassion, advocacy, and community service.

The scholarship provides financial assistance to eligible students pursuing higher education while recognizing their academic achievements, financial needs, personal goals, and commitment to serving the bleeding disorders community.

Applicants must meet all the following requirements:

1. **Florida Residency**
2. **Bleeding Disorder Diagnosis:** Have a diagnosis of hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, or another hereditary bleeding disorder.
3. **Education:** Be a high school graduate pursuing postsecondary education at a university, college, technical or trade school, or eligible certification program.
4. **Required Volunteer Service:** Complete a minimum of **10 documented volunteer hours between January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027**, with the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida (BDFF) or another organization serving the bleeding disorders community.
5. **Volunteer Verification:** Submit a signed confirmation letter from the organization verifying the volunteer service. The letter must identify the organization, confirm the dates and total hours of service, and briefly describe the volunteer activities performed.
6. **Complete Application:** Submit all required application materials by the deadline.

Volunteer activities may include fundraising events, educational programs, advocacy initiatives, community outreach, patient and family support, and other activities benefiting individuals and families affected by bleeding disorders.

Volunteer service with BDFF and other bleeding disorders organizations will be accepted equally, provided the service meets the requirements above.

The minimum 10 volunteer hours and the confirmation letter are mandatory eligibility requirements. Applicants who do not meet these requirements will be considered ineligible for the scholarship.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on academic achievement, financial need, community involvement, personal character, and the educational and career aspirations expressed in the required personal essay.

Application Submission Instructions

A complete application must include:

- This completed and signed application form.
- Most recent school transcripts.
- Three completed character reference forms.
- A typed personal essay of 500–750 words describing your personal goals, reasons for continuing your education, and the impact of your bleeding disorder and this scholarship on your ability to achieve your goals.
- A confirmation letter documenting at least 10 volunteer hours with BDFF or another bleeding disorders organization during the 2026/2027 calendar year.

Deadline: April 30, 2027.

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Applicants who do not meet the mandatory volunteer service requirement will not be eligible.

Submit your application by email to:

info@bleedingdisordersfl.org

Or mail to:

Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida
1350 Orange Ave, Suite 227
Winter Park, FL 32789

CALVIN DAWSON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SECTION 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Bleeding Disorder Diagnosis: _____

Hemophilia Treatment Center (if applicable): _____

HTC/Hematologist Contact and Phone: _____

SECTION 2: EDUCATION

Do you feel your school grades accurately reflect your ability?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, please explain:

First-Choice Post-Secondary School:

Second-Choice Post-Secondary School:

School Currently Attending (if applicable): _____

School Location: _____

Anticipated Post-Secondary Enrollment Year:

Expected Post-Secondary Graduation Date:

Major/Program of Study: _____

Living Arrangements:

☐ Home ☐ Dormitory ☐ Apartment ☐ Other: _____

Anticipated Funding Sources (check all that apply):

☐ Parents/Family ☐ Self ☐ Student Loans ☐ Scholarships/Grants

☐ Other: _____

SECTION 3: ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Academic Honors, Awards, or Scholarships:

Civic or Community Honors:

School Activities and Organizations:

Community Organizations and Service During the Past Three Years:

Recreational Activities or Hobbies:

SECTION 4: REQUIRED VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Applicants must complete at least **10 volunteer hours during the 2026 calendar year (January 1, 2026–March 31, 2027)** with BDFF or another organization serving the bleeding disorders community.

☐ Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida (BDFF)

☐ Other bleeding disorders organization

Organization Name: _____

Volunteer Service Dates: _____

Total Volunteer Hours Completed in 2026/2027: _____

Description of Volunteer Activities:

How has your volunteer service benefited the bleeding disorders community?

Required Volunteer Confirmation Letter

Applicants must attach a signed confirmation letter from an authorized representative of the organization where they volunteered. The letter must include:

- Applicant's full name.
- Organization's name.
- Dates of volunteer service.
- Total volunteer hours completed during 2026/2027.
- Brief description of the activities performed.
- Representative's name, title, contact information, signature, and date.

The letter should be on the organization's official letterhead whenever possible.

SECTION 5: PERSONAL ESSAY

Please attach a typed personal essay of **500–750 words** addressing the following topics:

1. **Educational and Career Goals:** Describe your educational plans, career aspirations, and what you hope to accomplish in the future.
2. **Living with a Bleeding Disorder:** Explain how your bleeding disorder has influenced your life, experiences, perspective, and goals.
3. **Community and Service:** Discuss the importance of community involvement and service in your life. Describe your volunteer experience with BDFF or another bleeding disorders organization and what you learned from that experience.
4. **Impact of the Scholarship:** Explain how this scholarship would help you pursue your education and achieve your personal and professional goals.

Your essay should reflect your personal experiences, character, resilience, and commitment to making a positive difference.

SECTION 6: THREE-CHARACTER REFERENCES ARE REQUIRED

Each reference must be completed by a non-relative who can speak to the applicant's character, abilities, responsibility, and potential. Appropriate references may include teachers, employers, coaches, mentors, or community leaders.

Please submit three completed copies of the following reference form.

Character Reference Form

Applicant Name: _____

Reference Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Organization/Employer: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

How Long Have You Known the Applicant? _____

Please describe the applicant's strengths, character, and qualifications:

Please identify areas in which the applicant could continue to grow or improve:

Additional Comments:

Reference Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reference Phone/Email: _____

SECTION 7: APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

I certify that all information provided in this application and accompanying documents is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that completing a minimum of 10 volunteer hours with the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida or another organization serving the bleeding disorders community during the 2026 calendar year is a mandatory eligibility requirement for the 2027 Calvin Dawson Memorial Scholarship.

I further understand that I must submit a signed confirmation letter from the organization verifying my volunteer service and that failure to meet these requirements will result in ineligibility for scholarship consideration.

Applicant Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

SECTION 8: APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Before submitting your application, confirm that all required materials are included.

- ☐ Completed application form.
- ☐ Most recent school transcripts.
- ☐ Personal essay of 500–750 words.
- ☐ Three completed character reference forms.
- ☐ Signed volunteer confirmation letter(s) from BDFF or another bleeding disorders organization documenting at least 10 volunteer hours with during 2026/2027.
- ☐ Applicant signature and date.

Applications missing required materials or failing to meet the mandatory volunteer service requirement will not be considered eligible for the scholarship.

Thank you for applying for the Calvin Dawson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Through education, advocacy, and community service, we honor Calvin Dawson's legacy and support the next generation of leaders in the bleeding disorders community.

Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida (BDFF)
info@bleedingdisordersfl.org
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Winter Park, FL 32789