

Brian Thiele Memorial Scholarship 2011

Scholarship Information

When his life was cut short by an in-line skating accident at the age of 22, Brian Thiele was learning more about the business world at a company in Ulm, Germany; finishing his degree at Western Michigan University; and preparing to assist as soccer coach at Kalamazoo Central High School. Thiele, a 1990 graduate of Portage Northern High School, spent four years on the high school soccer team. Although he loved to play the game, he found just as much, if not more, excitement in helping young athletes learn the skills essential to being successful in soccer. Thiele was head junior varsity coach at Northern for a year, served as assistant varsity coach at Northern, and coached a boys under-16 TKO team. This scholarship, established by family and friends in memory of Brian Thiele, provides financial assistance to students who exhibit characteristics similar to those for which Brian is so fondly remembered. This includes playing high school soccer, the achievement of personal and academic goals, overcoming obstacles to meet his goals, competitive spirit, leadership, and a special caring for his fellow man.

Eligibility Criteria

Graduating high school senior who is a Kalamazoo County resident or who attends a high school within Kalamazoo County. Must have participated on a soccer team during the four years of high school; can demonstrate his/her efforts to give back to the community by helping others; and can describe adversity and/or obstacles he/she has overcome in his or her lifetime. Planning to pursue a certificate or two- or four-year degree full time. Financial need may be a consideration, but is not a requirement for application.

How to Apply

Access the online scholarship application, eGrant, via the Community Foundation's Web site at www.kalfound.org. Click on **Scholarship Information**, then **eGrant**.

Application Requirements

The following must be submitted to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation:

- eGRANT scholarship application and cover page (automatically generated by eGRANT upon completion of the application).
- Activities and Employment History form must be filled out and attached to the eGRANT application.
- Essay, not to exceed 500 typewritten words, must be written and attached to the eGRANT application. Address why you merit consideration for this scholarship. Include how extracurricular activities, volunteer experiences and leadership roles have helped to prepare you for your choice of study. Include information about any challenges you have overcome in your life and how you overcame them, and/or information about how your motivation and achievement during high school increased. In addition, please include: 1) What person or situation has had the greatest impact on your life? 2) How you have contributed to society and helped others 3) What one word that best defines you.

The following must be mailed or delivered to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation by March 31:

- Two copies of the Scholarship Recommendation form and Letters of Recommendation completed by adults other than family members.
- An official cumulative transcript through the seventh semester, including ACT/SAT scores.

The following must be sent to the college(s) of your choice by March 31 only if you have applied for financial aid:

- The Financial Information Summary Form

Award: Minimum \$500 (*Non-renewable*)

Deadline: March 31

If you have any questions, please call or write at: