



2009  
Scholarship  
Awards

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**Mary Rose** from Horse Cave, Kentucky was the recipient of a \$3,000 four year scholarship. She was sponsored by the Housing Authority of Horse Cave, Robert L Bybee, Executive Director. Mary has been a resident of public housing for over 7 years.

Mary is a graduate of the Caverna High School graduating with a cumulative GPA of 3.8. She has been admitted to Western Kentucky University this fall where she plans to study nursing hoping to be a registered nurse to be able to help others.

Mary's academic achievements have been: Caverna's Academic Society, A Honor Ross, A-B Honor Roll, and the American Private Enterprise Systems (A.P.E.S.). She has been involved as Senior Class President and the Barren County Community Education Council.

Required Essay

As I looked at the essay topic **how my public housing and high school experiences have influenced my life**, I wondered to myself what and who has really influenced me throughout my life. I know without a doubt the biggest influences in my life are my family, but what high school experiences have really influenced my decisions? I know your all wondering "why is it so hard to look back and see what or who has influenced you in high school?" well the answer to that is easy I'm not your typical high school senior. I'm not the girl that's out partying. You see I'm the girl that stays home on a Friday night and studies for her test, or I'm the girl that's working every weekend to help out her family. I know you all are thinking well she must not be outgoing or she's shy but the truth is I'm not at all shy. I have a ton of friends and I even was voted prom queen and senior class president by my peers. So how can someone be the brainy girl, senior class president, and prom queen? Well that question brings me to my point; I have never let someone negative influence my decisions. I have always thought for myself and did the right thing. Instead of picking on someone I was the person sticking up for the person being teased. I'm always the first person to stand up for what I believe in. I was and never will be the girl that's up for anything and everything. My family has influenced me in such a positive way that no one could ever make me or influence me into doing something negative. I'm proud to say I believe in myself and I would never allow myself to become disappointed in me or my actions. Now I know you're all wondering how public housing has influenced my life. I know this is where most people would say "public housing has motivated me to make something better for myself" but I'm not ashamed of where I live and where I came from. I know that my life is rich even though my family isn't. I don't want to go to college and become a registered nurse for the money. I'm doing it to help people, and I want my family and other families that live in public housing to know that just because you don't have a lot of money doesn't mean you don't have the opportunity to reach your dreams. I want others like me to know that they can make their dreams come true, just as I am. Without public housing my family wouldn't have had a place to live, and we wouldn't have the close family bonds that we have today. I also wouldn't have the opportunity to show others that live in public housing that it doesn't matter where you live or what you don't have. The only thing that matters is your family and your dreams. Without my family I wouldn't be where I am today. To all my influences I thank you for helping me become the strong person that I am.



**Cindy Deininger** from Morgantown, Kentucky was the recipient of a \$3,000 four year scholarship. She was sponsored by the Housing Authority of Morgantown, Anita Jenkins, Executive Director. Cindy has been a resident of public housing for over 4 years.

Cindy is a graduate of the Butler County School System graduating with a cumulative GPA of 3.91. She has been admitted to Murray State University this fall where she plans to major in the theatre arts.

Cindy's academic achievements have been: Honor roll and attendance award. She has been involved in PRIDE-Parental Resources in Drug Education, SUPA-Students United to Promote the Arts, Academic Team, National Beta Club, Educational Talent Search and FEA-Future Educators of America.

**Required Essay**

**New Home**



It's always scary moving someplace new, but it's absolutely terrifying when you're legally blind and albino. When I first moved to Kentucky, I felt so lost, I didn't know what to do. Growing up visually impaired I had to adapt to my surroundings and get used to everything around me where it all became a normal routine. Changing locations was hard on my entire family, but twice as much for me.

The hardest part was going to a new school at the age thirteen. School had always been tough for me, and now I had to adjust to a completely new school, triple the size of my old one, I was completely horrified. It wasn't just

that I was afraid of being lost, but I was also afraid I wouldn't fit in. I wanted to do well in school and I wanted to make friends, but I knew because of my impairment it would be difficult.

It's impossible to describe the joy I felt when I realized how wrong I was. Sure, I did stick out at first, as the new kid and the albino girl who wasn't allowed to go outside, but I made friends pretty quickly and realized that I didn't have to let my impairment slow me down. The transition was difficult, but it didn't take long to figure out that my new surroundings were much better than what I was used to. My grades skyrocketed to place me at the top of my 155 member class despite everything. And through all of high school I have been able to hold my place among the top.

There are many ways in which living in public housing and attending high school at the same time have influenced my life. I'm glad I've had the opportunity to live all of the experiences any teenager would want to have during high school years. Living where I do has made everything even more possible than it would have been if I had lived anywhere else. Living in Morgantown has especially had a great impact on my school life, allowing me to participate in more extracurricular activities and attend more events to support my school. I know if I lived anywhere else it would have been impossible for me to participate in one particular club that I feel very fortunate to have had the chance to take part in. SUPA, Students United to Promote the Arts, is the drama club of Butler County High School that meets three nights a week from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Not only is my home in a great location, but it is also a very safe and comfortable place where I can study in peace and have access to all the resources I may need to aid my visual impairment. I wouldn't change anything if I could, and I hope when I am in college, moving farther through life, I'll still be able to look back at this place and call it home.

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# 2009 KHA Scholarship Awards

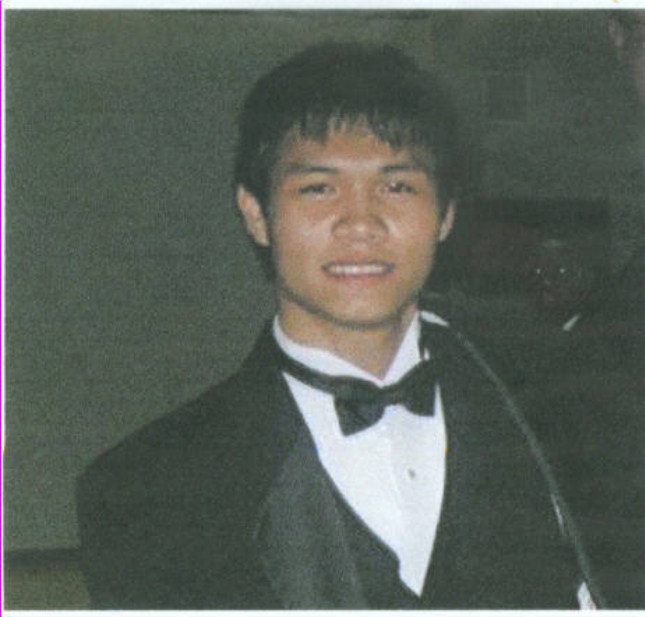
**Tu Nguyen** from Louisville, Kentucky was the recipient of a \$3,000 four year scholarship. He was sponsored by the Louisville Metro Housing Authority, Tim Barry, Executive Director. Tu has been a resident of public housing for over 8 years.

Tu is a graduate of the Pleasure Ridge Park High School of the Jefferson County Public Schools graduating with a cumulative GPA of 3.957. He has been admitted to the University of Louisville this fall where he plans to study computer engineering.

Tu's academic achievements have been: published poem and winning essay contest. He has been involved in NHS-National Honors Society, Beta Club, Chess Club, TSA-Technology Student Association.

## Required Essay

### **Public Housing, High School, and Me**



Success is not set in stone. Success is built from hard work and determination. Often the motivation to succeed is the reason people work hard and persevere. For me my motivation for success was developed from my public housing and high school experiences. My public housing and high school experiences have influenced the way I think, the things I do, and the things I will do in the future.

Public housing has allowed me to focus on my education instead of working every day after school just to pay the house bills. I can study and do the things I need to do because I don't have to work day in and day out. Living in Public housing has reduced the stress I might feel from worrying constantly about where I would come home to in a few days, weeks, or months.

Living in public housing while going to high school has been a great stress reliever. It

allowed me to go straight home after school. My high school experience made me who I am today -- someone who wants to succeed. High school has taught me about other cultures and beliefs. It has opened my mind and made me more tolerant of others. Through challenging classes and hours of homework, I've learned to work hard and persevere. High school has influenced the way I think substantially. It made me someone who is open minded to new ideas and someone who can empathize with others when it counts most.

I have a place to go back to when I am tired and the knowledge to take me where I want to go because of public housing and high school. By knowing that I can reach for the sky because of these two things working hand in hand to help me, my psychological view of the world is much brighter. It has caused me to have an optimistic view that tomorrow will be a better day. Thanks to the influence of public housing and high school I've been given a chance to make it in the real world.

My public housing and my high school experience will always be with me because it made me who I am. Their influence changed me ever since I start living in public housing and going to high school. It made me understand how fortunate I am, how I must strive for excellence, and how I should never give up.

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**Teresa Meyer** from Covington, Kentucky was the recipient of a \$2,500 one year scholarship sponsored by Arthur J Gallagher Risk Management Group . She was sponsored by the Housing Authority of Covington, Aaron Wolfe-Bertling, Executive Director. Teresa has been a resident of public housing for over 15 years.

Teresa is attending Gateway Community & Technical College maintaining a cumulative GPA of 4.0. She is working toward a degree in Human Services.

Teresa's academic achievements have been: Outstanding Student of 2007, Senator at Student Government, Outstanding Women of Northern Kentucky's Scholarship recipient, President of Gateway's Phi Theta Kapa National Honor Society, member of the student Choice Awards Committee.

**Required Essay**

I did not do too well in high school; because I was too busy socializing. However, I did graduate from Holmes High School in 1974. Shortly after high school, I had my daughter, Amy Joy. As a single parent, it was hard trying to support the two of us on minimum wage jobs. It was difficult to make ends meet. I found myself wishing that I had done better in high school, so that I could go to college and get a better paying job.



When my daughter was a teenager, I had to go on disability, because of uncontrolled seizures. No one wanted to hire me with a seizure disorder. At the same time, I applied for Section eight and was approved. I was able to raise my daughter in a good, clean, safe environment thanks to Section Eight. This meant more to me than anything.

When my daughter went away to college, I decided that it was time for me to start giving back to the community that had done so much for us. I worked helping people in my neighborhood, but that didn't seem like enough. In 2005, I started college. I was so scared, but I was more determined. During my first semester at school, I started having difficulty seeing the course work on the board, power point, and even reading the textbooks. I went to my eye doctor and found out that I was going blind. At that time, my best corrected vision was 20/400. 20/200 is considered legally blind. At the present, my vision is no longer measurable. In spite of this, I have maintained a 4.0 GPA and I am working hard to get my Associates of Arts degree. After that, I will go on to Northern Kentucky University to get my bachelor's degree in Human Services. Once I receive my degree, I will work as an advocate for people with disabilities. This will be my way of giving back to my community.

At the present time, I am working forty hours a week as an AmeriCorps VISTA, (Volunteer in Service to America.) I work at the Gateway Adult Education Program doing fundraising and literacy for adults trying to get their GED. I receive a small stipend as pay for doing this work.

In 2006, I completed all the requirements for the Section Eight "Yes You Can Buy Your Own Home Program." On my birthday, January 26, 2007, I was able to purchase my very first home under that program. It was the best present I have ever received!

If I were to receive one of these scholarships it would help me a great deal financially. I cannot take public transportation to the different college campuses that Gateway has. The bus leaves us out on busy highways that I cannot navigate by myself. Any extra finances would help to defray the cost of paying someone to get me to and from school, books, supplies and all the other college related expenses.

# KHA'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In order to encourage academic excellence and community responsibility among high school students, high school graduates, GED graduates or adults wishing to continue their education, the Kentucky Housing Association has implemented a scholarship program for those entering or continuing a college education. KHA will award five (4) scholarships in 2009 to deserving individuals currently residing in a KHA member agency.

**ARTHUR J GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES** (One scholarship available \$2,500.)

Arthur J Gallagher Risk Management Services, the insurance company providing coverage to the Kentucky Housing Authorities Self Insurance Program. Arthur J Gallagher Risk Management Services has elected to reward deserving individuals with a 1 year \$2,500 scholarship. KHA appreciates their commitment to serving the needs of public housing residents and the community.

*Note: This award is paid at each semester in the amount of \$1,250.*

**KHA and SERC/NAHRO SCHOLARSHIPS:** (Three scholarships available: \$3,000)

SERC/NAHRO an organization that has the vision to empower local housing and community development agencies to build and expand their capacity to provide safe, affordable housing and increased quality of life in the communities they serve by providing quality education and training, information, networking opportunities and advocacy for its members. SERC/NAHRO contributes \$2,500 annually to the KHA to help sponsor these scholarships. KHA appreciates SERC/NAHRO's commitment to serving the needs of public housing residents and the community.

*Note: These awards are paid at each semester in the amount of \$375.00.*