



NPMHU Arthur S. Vallone SCHOLARSHIP

VALLONE SCHOLARS: OVERACHIEVERS IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM



The NPMHU Scholarship Committee completed its task of evaluating many applications from well qualified NPMHU members and members of their immediate families. After careful review and consideration, a new group of Vallone Scholars have been awarded a scholarship for the next 4 years. Thirteen applications were selected out of a total of forty-one received by the March 15th, 2025 deadline.

The NPMHU National Scholarship was dedicated and renamed after Arthur S. Vallone after his untimely passing in 2005. Arthur S. Vallone served as the elected President of Local 309 headquartered in Buffalo, New York and represented approximately 1,500 Mail Handlers throughout upstate New York. Arthur S. Vallone also served 3 terms on the National Executive Board as the Northeast Region Vice President. Vallone's deep understanding of education and learning are just a handful of reasons why the National Postal Mail Handlers Union dedicated this legacy to Brother Arthur Vallone.

The Arthur S. Vallone Scholarship is now in its 25th year of existence. This award was designed to offer deserving Mail Handlers and members of their immediate families some relief from the financial burden of paying for higher education. With fewer resources becoming available, it can be quite the challenge for families to absorb the cost of higher education. While some individuals and

families develop savings plans for higher education, there are many that do not nor have the ability to do so, and that is why the NPMHU has dedicated such an award.

Each NPMHU Region has been granted up to three scholarship awards in the amount of \$1,000 each, renewable by the recipient for up to four years or until the completion of the students undergraduate or trade school degree, whichever occurs first for a maximum of \$4,000 per recipient over four years.

The Education Data Initiative website reported that College enrollment in 2024 totaled 19.2 million in undergraduate students nationwide, this is down 8.43% from peak enrollment in 2010 (21.0 million). While there has been a slight downturn in the number of undergraduate enrollees in the past 14 years, there seems to still be a drive to seek higher education for the younger generation.

Like the downward trend in college enrollment, the NPMHU Arthur S. Vallone Scholarship has also received fewer applications in the past few years, showing a slight downturn in both the Mail Handlers themselves and their children seeking assistance through the scholarship for higher education. However, this statistic doesn't mean that the quality of the applications we received has suffered. In fact, the quality of the applications continues to be a bright spot for the program.

This year, one of the applications chosen was from a Local 334 Mail Handler

out of the Eastern Region. Cassy Blasch works as a Mail Handler at the Greenville P&DC in South Carolina. Cassy is currently balancing the demands of working as a Mail Handler, raising 3-year-old twins and pursuing a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies. Cassy's essay discussed how she manages the rigors of daily life; "As a wife and mother to twins, my life is a constant juggling act navigating

work, college, and family responsibilities. Each role I play has shaped my resilience, forcing me to become more efficient, adaptable, and goal oriented." Cassy also spoke on joining the Postal Service; "I decided to switch career paths and join the Postal Service in 2020 because I knew it would provide me with a foundation for the life I was determined to build. My journey is defined by perseverance, discipline,

and an unwavering commitment to my family, and personal growth".

Throughout the years, our newly chosen Vallone Scholars never cease to amaze me. They come from all walks of life, and all have a different unique story. This story is just one of the 13 new Vallone Scholars that join an exclusive club. Please join me and the National Executive Board in welcoming our newly chosen Vallone Scholars.



**Local 297
LOGAN
BOLIN**



**Local 300
JAKE
BURKE**



**Local 300
KERISSA
HENRY**



**Local 301
AN
GIANG**



**Local 302
BRIAN
JENKINS**



**Local 303
CONNOR
KRIEGER**



**Local 305
SARA
KHAN**



**Local 308
MONICA
GIRI**



**Local 318
MICHA
LINDER**



**Local 320
KYLIE
PUCHTA**



**Local 323
VISWAS
VALLABHANENI**



**Local 333
SHAMIRA
TURKS**



**Local 334
CASSY
BLASCH**