P.O. Box 410

Mt. Freedom, NJ 07970

www.njjda.org

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May 15, 2019

Dear Administrator/Education Director:

The Joseph DeJames Memorial Scholarship Fund honors the memory of a man who dedicated his life to ensuring kids who had become ensnared in the Juvenile Justice System would not be mistreated, simply because they were accused of breaking the law. Often times battling those who turned a blind eye to these kids, or worse yet, advocated harsh treatment for them. Joe worked tirelessly to ensure Juvenile Detention Centers provided safe, clean and decent living conditions. Joe also worked to see that the kids housed in detention centers would receive a comprehensive educational and social service program.

To honor Joe’s memory and to continue his lifelong efforts to help youth, a scholarship fund has been established in Joe’s name. This year’s scholarship fund will be $500.00. Eligible recipients are youngsters who have been involved in New Jersey’s Juvenile Justice System and are now putting their lives back together moving towards becoming productive members of society or the children of the dedicated staff members at any of New Jersey’s eight county Juvenile Detention Centers

The scholarship may be used to support the post-secondary educational expenses of recipients. Scholarship funds can be used to defray the costs of tuition and books for a program of study at any accredited post-secondary educational program (i.e. college, university, or trade school). The scholarship check will be made payable directly to the educational program of the recipient.

We are writing to you requesting your assistance in sending nominations and applications for this scholarship. Below guidelines must be addressed:

1. Candidate must submit essay (500-1000 words) describing why they should receive the scholarship.
2. Candidate must submit a letter of nomination from a person associated with the Juvenile Justice system.
3. Candidate must identify facility by name. If parent or guardian is an employee of facility, please note.
4. Additional information is encouraged (i.e. Awards, Citations, etc,)
5. Application, nomination letter and essay must be post marked no later than, July 15, 2019.

Please mail all information to:

 The Joseph DeJames Memorial Scholarship

 C/O Ocean County Dept. of Juvenile Services

 PO Box 2191

 Toms River, NJ 08753

 Or Email: dknight@co.ocean.nj.us

A panel of NJJDA officers and former colleagues will review all submitted applications. A selection will be made on or about August 30, 2019.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knight

NJJDA Scholarship Chairperson