Members’ children win scholarships

Again this year, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded financial aid to NALC members’ children for their college education.

“During these challenging economic times, with college tuition rising and many working families struggling just to get by, we’re pleased to be helping some of the labor movement’s most promising students achieve their college dreams,” said Leslie Tolf, president of Union Privilege, the organization that administers the scholarship program, in addition to the credit card, mortgage assistance, and a plethora of other financial aid and discount programs offered under the Union Plus brand.

Scholarships are given to students who demonstrate not only stellar academic ability and keen social awareness, but also active support for the labor movement.

This year’s recipients:

- Holly LaCount, daughter of Diana LaCount of Eureka, California Branch 348, won a $4,000 scholarship. Holly is a three-time Union Plus Scholarship winner and is pursuing a double major in political science and business, with a concentration in international relations. “My mom has shown me that when workers get involved with their union, change happens,” Holly said. “For me, it is not a matter of if I can make change, but when I will make change.”

- A $1,500 award was given to Luke Seppi, stepson of Mark Goggin from Lanham, Maryland Branch 4819. Seppi’s father, grandfather and uncle are union members, and he aspires to be one, too. “Most importantly,” he says, “my stepfather is a member of NALC, which has provided many benefits for my family.” He plans to follow in two of his older brothers’ footsteps and pursue engineering.

More than 5,000 applied for scholarships this year. A committee of professional educators and families selected 121 award winners representing 42 unions. Since it began in 1991, the program has doled out more than $3 million in educational funding to more than 1,900 union members, spouses and dependent children.

Thanks to Union Privilege and Union Plus, NALC members and families have access to multiple opportunities besides the scholarship, many of which are featured in this magazine each month.

To find out more about Union Plus offers, go to nalc.org. Click on “About NALC,” then select “For Members.” There, you can also access links to the Union Plus Scholarship application for 2011, and to information about the Doherty, Donelan and Lemonopoulos scholarships, offered solely to the children of NALC members.