

# Doherty & Donelon Scholarships awarded

## Six children of NALC members to receive funding for college

**S**ix children of NALC members will receive NALC memorial scholarships in recognition of their academic achievements and community involvement.

One student from each of five geographical regions was awarded \$4,000 apiece from the William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund, and a sixth student will receive \$1,000 from the John T. Donelon Scholarship. All six scholarships are renewable for three additional years.

The Doherty Scholarship was founded in 1962 to honor William Doherty, NALC's president from 1941 to 1962. The winners for 2026 are:

**Central Region:** Jasmine Bink

**Parent:** Jennifer Cherney of Brillion, WI Branch 4630

**Quote:** "My mom [is the most influential person in my life because] she's always pushed me to be the best version of myself and work hard for my dreams. She's supported me through everything and helped me pursue opportunities that come my way."

**Plans:** Bink will attend the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point in the fall in the hope of becoming a therapist.

**Eastern Region:** Hana Rashed

**Parent:** Maiada Asar of Pittsburgh, PA Branch 84

**Quote:** "There was one moment when I truly saw how much pressure my parents carried. My dad was placed on a reduction in force after the government dissolved the branch he worked in. For the first time, I saw uncertainty in my parents. My dad applied to job after job, and because his email was connected to my phone, I saw the rejection messages come in one after another. It was heartbreaking to watch someone as intelligent and hardworking as him

struggle to find a position. I could see the confidence he once had slowly fading. Thankfully, his job eventually brought their branch back and he returned to work, but that experience showed me that even the strongest people face moments of doubt."

**Plans:** Rashed will attend Washington & Jefferson College in Pennsylvania in the fall in the hope of becoming an anesthesiologist.

**Northeast Region:** Blake Naing

**Parent:** Soe Moe Naing of New Jersey Merged Branch 38

**Quote:** "My grandfather was the world's biggest believer, someone who carried wisdom, faith, and kindness into every conversation he had. Before his passing, he reminded to 'be kind,' a phrase I had heard my entire life but found to be simple and repetitive. But I only truly understood it when I grew older. Watching the way he supported others and gave advice so freely taught me that kindness is not just something you say, but instead something you show through your actions and the way you serve others throughout their life."

**Plans:** Naing will enter Cornell University in New York in the fall in the pursuit of becoming a physician or surgeon.

**Southern Region:** Evan X. Aponte

**Parent:** Alberto Aponte of Austin, TX Branch 181

**Quote:** "My eighth grade history teacher, Mr. Sanders, taught me to teach others who struggled in class by having me go to others and ask if they need help. He taught me about leadership and how being a leader isn't about giving orders, but about guiding them to be better."

**Plans:** Aponte plans to attend The University of Texas at Dallas in the fall,

pursuing business administration and musical performance (saxophone).

**Western Region:** Rian Joss Beltran

**Parent:** Randy Beltran of Wahiawa, HI Branch 4837

**Quote:** "Working at the same pre-school I once attended taught me one of the most significant lessons I carry today: all work in the service of others is meaningful, no matter the scale. ... I've always strived to put my talents in the service of others so the one thing I know for sure is that I want a life and career that contributes meaningfully to society."

**Plans:** Beltran will enter Rice University in Texas this fall with the hopes of becoming an engineer and advancing electric vehicle development.

A scholarship honoring the late John T. Donelon, longtime assistant to three NALC national presidents, was announced in 2003. Donelon's wife, Louise, established the Donelon Scholarship as a bequest in her will.

**The winner is:** Lydia Nestan

**Parent:** Evenson Nestan of Brooklyn, NY Branch 41

**Quote:** "The activity that has contributed the most to my development in theater, especially working as a lighting technician and performer. ... Lighting, in particular, changed the way I see the world; I started thinking about how small adjustments can completely change how someone or something is perceived. That idea connects to my interest in neuroscience and psychology, because I'm fascinated by how perspective shapes identity."

**Plans:** Nestan plans to attend Macaulay Honors College at The City University of New York Queens College in the fall, with a focus on medicine and theater.

The NALC Scholarship Committee met in mid-May at NALC Headquarters in Washington, DC. The committee is composed of **Lawrence Kania** of Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 (chairperson), **Kimetra Lewis** of Dallas, TX Branch 132 and **Carly Hook** of Santa Clara, CA Branch 1427. The committee reviewed and evaluated each application.

The committee released the following report:

“This year marks the 64th anniversary of the William C. Doherty Scholarship Program and the 23rd anniversary of the John T. Donelon Scholarship. From the original grant of six scholarships in the amount of \$500 per year in 1964, the Doherty program grew to 15 scholarships at \$800 per year, each for a total of \$3,200 per scholarship. The Doherty Scholarship has changed to provide for five scholarships, with an increase in the amount to \$4,000 per year for a total of \$16,000 per scholarship. The Donelon Scholarship provides for one scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 per year for a total of \$4,000 per scholarship.

The Doherty Scholarship Program of the National Association of Letter Carriers was authorized by the 43rd Biennial Convention meeting in 1962 in Denver, CO. The program was named after President William C. Doherty, who retired at the 1962 convention after serving 21 years as the national president. Past President Doherty died on Aug. 9, 1987.

The John T. Donelon Scholarship program was established in 2003. Brother Donelon was assistant to three NALC presidents and died in 1985. His widow ensured that his wishes to donate to the NALC scholarship program

were carried out upon her passing.

While state associations, branches, auxiliaries, and individual members contributed to the Doherty fund in its early days, its first important financing resulted from a dinner the union sponsored on Oct. 23, 1963, commemorating the centennial of free delivery service in the United States. Over the years since its establishment, every segment of our membership has been generous in supporting the program.

Our committee commends President Renfroe and the NALC Executive Council, as well as preceding presidents and councils, for their progressive thinking that has resulted in educational opportunities for the children of our membership.

With this report, we are pleased to announce that since its inception, hundreds of children of letter carriers have been scholarship recipients. To be in a position as NALC is, to make it possible to assist these bright young students in their academic career, is in itself a source of satisfaction. Every letter carrier should know that many past winners have graduated early with high honors, that most of our winners have completed their undergraduate work and, in many cases, have gone on to pursue postgraduate work.

No person connected with NALC—neither among the Executive Council nor the committee—has a voice in a final determination of the ultimate winners. These are done by college administrators from the Washington, DC, area.



From l: Lawrence Kania, Dr. Georgia Booker, Dale E. Bittinger and James B. Massey Jr.

We are grateful for the continued service of Dr. Georgia Booker, retired director for Guidance Counseling Services, District of Columbia Public Schools; James B. Massey Jr., director of Undergraduate Admissions, University of Maryland; and Mr. Dale E. Bittinger, assistant vice provost for Strategic Undergraduate Engagement, Partnerships, and Pathways at University of Maryland, Baltimore County. These distinguished members of the academic profession have contributed in a great measure to the success of the program.

The financial condition of the program is better than it was in 1964, when the initial awards were made. Its continuation depends on the financial support of our members and friends of NALC. All contributions should be made payable to the William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund, or the John T. Donelon Scholarship Fund, and addressed to NALC Headquarters, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Details of the fund's financial position are included in the audit report of the national secretary-treasurer for the biennial term ending at the Los Angeles convention.

Your Scholarship Committee concludes by thanking President Renfroe, resident officers and, most expressly, the staff that assists for their unselfish cooperation and interest in our work.” **PR**