

## **Ken and Atha Crist/Rotary Memorial Community Service Scholarship 2025**

The Ken and Atha Crist/Rotary Memorial Community Service Scholarship was established to honor the late Ken and Atha Crist, dedicated community volunteers. This scholarship offers financial assistance to Chariton High School graduates who have demonstrated genuine dedication to the community through their leadership and involvement in community activities.

Two scholarships will be offered, each in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). Emphasis will be placed on significant heart-felt service given by the individual to his or her community, as expressed in the applicant's essay and letters of reference.

### **Scholarship Background:**

Ken Crist passed away in 1991. He had been active in community organizations including the First United Methodist Church, Rotary (District Governor in 1986-87), and the Chamber, among others. He felt strongly that he had been very blessed in many ways and had a duty to give back to the community.

Along with Ken and Atha's children, Ron and Marlys, Atha designated memorials to the church in Ken's name and established a scholarship fund for students from Lucas County who were actively supporting the community. The support could be in a variety of means, whether through clean-up day, tutoring grade school students, coaching little league, volunteering at the nursing home, church work with youth, Scouts, 4-H, etc.

In 1992, Rotary joined the scholarship, funding up to \$500 per year. Ken and Atha believed strongly in service above self and the memorial scholarship is intended to reward students who share that belief.

Atha passed away in 1998 and her memorials were also directed to the church and the scholarship. The family has added additional funds over the years when the funds were invested in low-rate CDs to be sure the scholarships could be awarded.

To qualify for the scholarship, the student must show significant community involvement (not limited to school activities and sports, but true volunteerism). Grades matter only to the extent that they show the recipient will likely succeed at college, community college, or a valid trade school. The essay that is submitted with the application is critical. It is important that the student conveys the importance of community service and how it has impacted his/her life in a positive way, and how that volunteerism will continue.

### **Application Process and Eligibility:**

Eligible applicants will be graduating seniors from Chariton High School. Candidates should submit a completed application packet to the Scholarship Selection Committee by **5 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2025**. Completed applications should include all of the following:

- \_\_\_ Application form
- \_\_\_ Three completed letters of reference describing the applicant's community service
- \_\_\_ Essay—typed, double-spaced, and 500 words or fewer. (see application)
- \_\_\_ Copy of current high school and college transcripts, if college classes were taken while in high school
- \_\_\_ Current photograph of the applicant

This scholarship is a one-time, non-renewable disbursement. Scholarship funds will be sent to the recipient's educational institution following receipt of written verification of enrollment.

Completed application packets should be mailed or brought to:

Chariton Area Chamber/Main Street  
Crist/Rotary Memorial Community Service Scholarship  
104 North Grand Street  
P.O. Box 735  
Chariton, IA 50049

**DEADLINE: 5 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2025.**

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2025**

**Application Form**

(Please type or print legibly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

(If applicant is currently a dependent)

Planned field of study \_\_\_\_\_

Planned school/college/university \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholastic:**

High school attended \_\_\_\_\_

Rank in class \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_

Grade point average \_\_\_\_\_ ACT score \_\_\_\_\_

**Leadership/Community Involvement:** (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Community involvement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Leadership positions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other school/church activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Essay:**

On a separate sheet of paper, your essay should be typed, double-spaced, and 500 words or fewer. Discuss the value and benefits you have derived from being involved in community activities.