

Ken and Atha Crist/Rotary Memorial Community Service Scholarship 2026

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 **4 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2026**. 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: 4 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2026.

**Ken and Atha Crist/Rotary Memorial Community Service Scholarship
2026**

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.