



September, 2019

Hello!

My name is Alex Rice, and I work in Portland, Oregon at Volunteers of America Men's Residential Center (MRC). The MRC specifically houses men struggling with alcohol or drug abuse who are on parole or probation. In 2006, we wanted to focus more on education and prevention, with trying to break the cycle of addiction in families. Thus began the **Al Forthan Memorial Scholarship** which awards scholarships to Oregon high school seniors who come from families impacted by addiction. We began in 2006 with only \$500 and have since grown in community and funding, to the point that in **2019** we awarded **\$82,000** to **56** high school students throughout Oregon!

I am writing to make this scholarship available to as many students as possible. We would love to be placed on school websites in the scholarship section, or to have counselors, teachers and principals share with students the opportunity of this scholarship. The great thing about this scholarship is that it is not based on GPA, or any achievements. It is simply money given to students from homes impacted by substance abuse who are willing to write an essay about how drugs or alcohol have affected their lives and how they have chosen to attend college in hopes of breaking the cycle of addiction within their lives.

The purpose of the scholarship is to honor Al Forthan, the first alumni from our treatment program who went on to become a counselor at the Men's Residential Center, encourage students to explore how addiction has impacted our community, and to think of solutions to this complex problem. I have attached the flyer that gives all of the necessary requirements to apply for the scholarship and when it is due. I would appreciate any and all help in making this scholarship available to all of your students!

Scholarship Name: Al Forthan Memorial Scholarship for Students from Homes Impacted by Addiction

Amount: One scholarship totaling \$10,000 and many others in various amounts

Eligibility: Oregon high school seniors that have been raised by a parent or guardian who has experienced addiction, or the student has abused alcohol and drugs and is now pursuing recovery

Due Date: February 3rd, 2020

Submit Scholarship To: Online at www.alforthanscholarship.com or directly to arice@voaor.org

Thank you so much and I hope you are having a wonderful school year!

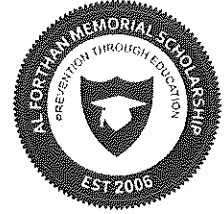
Greg Stone
Program Director
Men's Residential Center
gstone@voaor.org
503-802-0306

Alex Rice
Education and Prevention Coordinator
Men's Residential Center
arice@voaor.org
503-802-0299



2020

Al Forthan Memorial \$10,000 Scholarship



Who: The **Al Forthan Memorial Scholarship** is awarded to an Oregon high school senior from a family affected by alcohol or drug addiction. Affected by addiction means you have been raised by a parent or guardian who has experienced addiction or you have abused alcohol or drugs and are now pursuing recovery.

What: One \$10,000 scholarship will be awarded in 2020. It will be allocated in \$2,500 installments over four years.

- To be eligible for the \$10,000 scholarship you will need to include in your application a one page (maximum) letter of support from a teacher, coach, school counselor, adult mentor, pastor, etc. describing your character and why they would recommend you for this scholarship.
- Several other scholarships of various amounts will be awarded in 2020. To be eligible for the scholarships less than \$10,000 you do not need a letter of support.

How to apply: Scholarship awards will be based on the students' response to **each** of the following six essay questions or statements below. Please submit your application as a **Microsoft Word** or **Google Document**. Please type out each question, followed by your response. All essays should be typed in **12pt font size** and **Times New Roman** and **double spaced**. Applications should be e-mailed as a **single attachment** to arice@voaor.org or submitted online at www.alforthanscholarship.com (please attach your reference letter as a separate document if you are applying for the \$10,000 scholarship).

The scholarship application must be submitted no later than **Monday, February 3rd, 2020 at midnight**. Please include the following information in your application.

Name: _____ **Preferred Name:** _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

High School: _____

Are you a first generation college student? YES or NO

Do you identify as a person of Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin? YES or NO

Which of the following do you identify with? Circle all that apply.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other _____
- Prefer not to answer

What is your parent or guardians annual income? _____

ESSAY QUESTIONS ON THE BACK

- (1) It is a fact that alcohol and drugs are widely used and abused by teenagers in the United States. Research this topic and describe some of the solutions to this problem. (1page)
- (2) Research how race and class correlate with incarceration rates in terms of alcohol and drug addiction. (1 page)
- (3a) Use the table below to list all volunteer/community service work and high school activities (sports, drama, music, student government, etc.) and the number of hours and or years you have participated in those activities.

Volunteer/Community Service Work or High School Activity	Years of Participation	Total number of hours of participation

Example:

Volunteer/Community Service Work or High School Activity	Years of Participation	Total number of hours of participation
Student Government	Sept. 2017-Jan. 2019	160 hours
Potluck in the Park	July 2016 – Oct. 2018	90 hours
Drama Club	Oct. 2018- Present	74 hours
National Honor Society	Aug. 2017 – Present	122 hours
Volunteering at Sisters of the Road	Dec. 2018 – Dec. 2019	62 hours
Volleyball	Sept. 2017 – Nov. 2019	170 hours

- (3b) Describe how the volunteer/service work you performed has impacted you, what has been most meaningful to you, and how the work has shaped your future. (1 page)
- (4) Please describe any income barriers you face to your higher education and also, describe how the scholarship will benefit you in reaching your goals. (1 page)
- (5) Describe how alcohol and drug addiction in your family has affected you personally. How did you cope? (1.5 pages)
- (6) To be eligible for the \$10,000 scholarship you will need to include in your application a one page (maximum) letter of support from a teacher, coach, school counselor, adult mentor, pastor, etc. describing your character and why they would recommend you for this scholarship. Please include the following information about the person providing the recommendation: Name, Title, Relationship to You, Email, Phone Number.

Have questions about the scholarship? Contact Alex Rice arice@voaor.org or 503-802-0299 www.alforthanscholarship.com

Purpose: The purpose of this scholarship is to honor Al, and encourage students to explore how addiction has impacted our community and think about solutions to this complex problem. Al was the first alumnus to work at the Men’s Residential Center (MRC), and he brought with him a deep passion and commitment to helping others travel down the road to recovery. Al worked from his heart and brought wisdom, integrity, compassion and understanding to the men at the MRC. During his time there, Al impacted the lives of hundreds of men and was the ultimate role model of recovery. Since 2006, the Al Forthan Memorial Scholarship has awarded \$575,000 in scholarships to seniors from Oregon high schools.

