

HomeStar Hispanic Partnership of Kankakee County Scholarship Program

Application 2011-2012 Academic Year

INTRODUCTION

HomeStar Bank and Financial Services, the HomeStar Education Foundation and the Hispanic Partnership of Kankakee County have partnered to help graduating high school seniors continue their education by establishing the HomeStar-Hispanic Partnership Scholarship Program.

The HomeStar -Hispanic Partnership Scholarship Program awards scholarships based on positive leadership and character exhibited in school and community activities and financial need. A scholarship selection committee of HomeStar employees and members of the Hispanic Partnership administers the application process and selects the scholarship recipients. The name of each scholarship applicant is concealed from the scholarship selection committee to ensure that the recipients are selected entirely on merit.

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT

The amount of the HomeStar -Hispanic Partnership scholarship is \$2000.00 (\$500.00 per year for up to 4 years) per student.

ELIGIBILITY

- Any high school senior who resides in Kankakee County or Iroquois County, Illinois and is of Hispanic or Latino heritage is eligible.
- Applicants must have maintained a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (based on 4.0) through the seventh semester of high school.
- Proof of enrollment in an educational program is required for release of scholarship payment after the award is announced.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of the following:

1. Positive leadership and character exhibited in both academic and extracurricular school activities.
2. Positive leadership and character exhibited in community and/or religious activities.
3. The positive impact the applicant has had on others.
4. Financial need.

To continue to receive the annual \$500.00 scholarship payments, scholarship recipients must maintain and provide HomeStar with proof of a "C" average or better at their school, have full time student status and provide proof of continuing enrollment.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Applicants must submit a typed or word-processed application form, consisting of the following:

1. Cover Sheet/Student Information;
2. Academic Information/Post-High School Education Plans;
3. School and Extracurricular Activities (including essay);
4. Community Service and/or Church Involvement (including essay)
5. Two letters of recommendation;
6. An official transcript for 7 semesters of high school.

Applicants may also provide a written response to the optional essay question.

Please note that the applicant's name should appear only on the Cover Sheet/Student Information page. Student identification numbers will be assigned to each applicant by the scholarship selection committee to ensure the scholarship recipients are selected entirely on their merits.

APPLICATION AVAILABILITY

Applications are available in the office of the Hispanic Partnership and at the HomeStar Bank and Financial Services office nearest you and on the HomeStar Bank and Financial Services web site, www.HomeStarBank.com. Applicants may complete the application online going to www.HomeStarBank.com and then clicking on the link entitled "HomeStar Bank-Hispanic Partnership Scholarship". The student may then print and complete the application and submit a signed copy. The format of the application may not be altered.

SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS TIMELINE

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|----------------|---|
| April 13 | Application deadline. Drop off or mail applications to: HomeStar Bank and Financial Services, Attention Marketing Department, 435 E. North Street, Bradley, IL 60915.
Mailed applications must be postmarked by the deadline and received by April 20, 2012. All reference letters and transcripts must also be received by April 20, 2012. |
| May | A committee of HomeStar employees and Hispanic Partnership members evaluates the applications and selects the scholarship recipients.

The selection committee announces the recipients. Recipients, non-recipients and the appropriate high school principals will be notified of the results.

Scholarship recipients will receive their funds upon presenting proof of enrollment. |
| July | First year award money presented to recipients upon proof of enrollment. |
| Following July | Recipients annually furnish the selection committee proof of grade point average to ensure receipt of scholarship payments. |

HomeStar -Hispanic Partnership Scholarship Program

COVER PAGE / STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

Date:

Student's name:

First, Middle, Last

Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail Address:

Parents' Names:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Applicant ID no. _____

SCHOOL AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Part 2: Please answer the following question in 250 words or less: **How have you provided leadership in these school and extracurricular activities?**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Applicant ID no. _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND/OR CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

Part 2: Please answer the following question in 250 words or less: **How have you provided leadership in these community service and/or church activities?**

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HOUSEHOLD INCOME

One factor considered in awarding the HomeStar Bank-Hispanic Partnership scholarships is financial need. Please check which of the following ranges represents your family's annual household income.

- Under \$15,000.00
- \$15,000.00 to \$35,000.00
- \$35,000.00 to \$55,000.00
- \$55,000.00 to \$75,000.00
- \$75,000.00 to \$95,000.00
- \$95,000.00 and above

OPTIONAL ESSAY REGARDING FINANCIAL NEED

You may answer this question if you wish, but it is not required. If you choose to answer, please answer the following question in 250 words or less: **What opportunities would this scholarship provide you that would otherwise not be available because of financial reasons?**

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please include two letters of recommendation (one from school and one from community service activities and/or religious activities). These letters of recommendation should address your leadership and character traits. These reference letters will be edited to conceal your identity before presentation to the scholarship committee.

Applicant's Signature

By signing, I agree to all of the following:

1. I certify that all of the statements made in this application for the HomeStar -Hispanic Partnership Scholarship are true and correct and that my responses are my own. I understand that if any of the statements made in this application are untrue that the scholarship may be revoked and I may be responsible for repayment of scholarship money.

2. I also acknowledge that all application materials submitted become the property of the HomeStar Education Foundation and/or Hispanic Partnership of Kankakee County and will not be returned.

3. Additionally, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby grant HomeStar Financial Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates, including but not limited to HomeStar Bank and Financial Services and HomeStar Education Foundation, Inc., and the Hispanic Partnership of Kankakee County, Inc. the right to use my name, likeness, picture, voice, or biographical information for the purposes of advertising and in any promotional materials, newsletters, lobby displays, television advertisements or other promotional, informational or communication materials.

4. I acknowledge that federal laws and regulations generally prohibit banks from publicly releasing any customer information, including acknowledging that someone is a customer. In the event I am or become a customer of HomeStar Bank and Financial Services or its affiliates or subsidiaries and am also selected as the recipient of a scholarship, I hereby authorize HomeStar Bank and Financial Services to release my name, likeness, picture or biographical information as a recipient of the scholarship and waive any potential objection I may have to the release of my name, likeness, picture or biographical information as a recipient of the scholarship, even though it may identify me as a customer of HomeStar Bank and Financial Services, its affiliates or subsidiaries.

Agreed to and accepted this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature: _____
Printed name: _____
Address: _____
