

Westport and Beyond
The Erika Hall Memorial Fund

recognizing and rewarding the dreamer in us all

The *Erika Hall Memorial Fund*, separated into its component funds noted below, was established by family and friends in 2014 as a 501c(3) fund of Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA) in order to honor the memory of their late daughter, granddaughter, sister, and friend, Erika Hall. Erika was a unique beacon of light and life to all who knew her, and her powerful influence remains active among us all to this day. All of these funds seek to provide assistance in the living out of life both in and beyond high school, in the many various ways that suit our own personalities, as Erika would have encouraged us to. The criteria for election of recipients will be broad (see below). As such, these are neither GPA nor need based scholarships, so feel free to submit an application!

Note: Separate from the more traditional *scholarships*, which are awarded yearly, *Erika Hall Life Enrichment Grants and/or Awards* will be made available to recent graduates of WHS, in particular, though not exclusively, to those whose high school years would have overlapped with Erika's. (Westport kids from Diman, Connolly, Aggie and Stang may also apply. See specific scholarship/grant/award instructions for full list of qualified applicants.) These grants and awards are for the pursuing of whatever *other* things life brings your way (research projects, studio work, humanitarian projects, knowledge via travel and cultural immersion, artistic endeavors, musical forays...any idea is fair game if it can be considered to have "growth and educational potential".) Submit a request for these life enrichment grants and awards (application deadlines twice yearly, see website) and we will let you know if and when funds become available.

About Erika Hall

Erika Hall was a sophomore at WHS who died in a car accident while out with friends late April 2014. Erika was involved and interested in many things (dance, music, art, field hockey, track, international exchange, beach life, a top student at school, employed at several area locations, etc.) yet it was not so much her activities that made her a standout but her relationships. Friends. Family. Employers. Teachers. Parents. Coaches. The 2-year-olds in her Saturday morning dance class. The young ladies she babysat. International teens here for a glimpse of life in the USA.

Erika had a way of putting a smile on your face and making you feel welcome. Whole. Loved. Her zest for life was contagious and insatiable, and she definitely wanted us all to be a part of it! It is for these reasons, and many more, that the family and friends of Erika Hall strove to create these scholarships, grants, and awards, to further that sense of adventure in fellow students and to give back to a community and student body that has both endured, and given, so much. :)

All scholarship, grant, and award applications will be made available through The Erika Hall Memorial Fund's facebook page as well as the website www.westportandbeyond.org. Scholarship applications are also available at WJSHS (and other local guidance offices) and online at both www.cfsema.org and www.westporteducationfoundation.com. Plenty of ways to find what you need!

Finally, as part of our pay it forward philosophy, we would love for you to consider the possibility of contributing to the fund in the future should you find yourself in a position to do so, so that you might be able to help others in the same way that we, through this fund, have been able to help you.

(Live On, Beautiful One!)

The Erika Hall Memorial Scholarship(s)

awarding 1 or more annual scholarships of \$1000+ per class

serving (for now) the graduating classes of 2013-2020

- Applicants must be seniors of WHS or GED recipients who would have graduated with the above mentioned classes and are applying within the above mentioned time period. Town residents who attend sister “non-boarding” schools (ie Diman, Aggie, Connolly, Stang) are eligible as well and encouraged to apply, as are those “already graduated” members of the classes above. Similarly, students within the above time frame who have spent at least 2 years at WHS but no longer reside within school district limits are encouraged to apply.
- All scholarship applicants must be planning on attending an institute of higher learning (4 year, 2 year, tech school). Eligible institutions are, by definition, schools of higher learning recognized by the US Department of Education. They can be public, private, independent, for profit, or nonprofit, and issuing associate, bachelor, or certificate programs. Accredited charitable or philanthropic organizations may also qualify. Exceptions to the rule will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Though the application may ask questions pertaining to grades, class standing, or GPA, they do not tell the whole picture of who you are, and we are serious when we say there is no GPA requirement to be awarded a scholarship. So relax!
- Judging applications and picking one (or several) from a group is hard work, and often somewhat subjective. Please know that if we (the selection committee) could give awards to you all, we would! Admittedly this choosing is a non-science, however some things we *may* be looking for, not in quantity, but in quality, are :

Active in sports, competitive yet team focused
Gives him/herself to dance as a vehicle of the soul
Immerses him/herself in art/music as means of fulfillment and expression
Independent, self motivated
Love of family, friends
Courageous, willing to try new things, step out of the box, a do-er
Life giving, radiant, compassionate
Angsty, not satisfied with this life/world as is
Goofy, silly, nutty
Into math/science
Motorcycle rider
Tattoo receiver
Fully human :)
Holds down multiple jobs
Ability to lose oneself for hours in a book, particularly a good one
Excels in the art of debate
A dreamer, despite the reality
A gatherer, not an excluder
Love for other cultures, peoples
Beach goer for life!

If you have **one** of these, **none** of these, or **all** of these qualities, don't worry, still apply, and let our committee

get to know you! There may be an “unmeasurable” or “here unmentioned” quality that just shines through and makes us take a second look. The list is just an idea generator anyway, a way of seeing what you may have in common with Erika, but we also want to see how you are different! What are you looking for in life and what makes you you? Really, there is no right answer. :)

Read on for the boring but necessary details.

All scholarships will be awarded as one time gifts applied to to the student's first enrolled semester post-award (generally Fall) provided all necessary information has been collected. Deposits will be made through your institution's office of financial aid once our office has been provided with a tuition bill or transcript (copies are fine) from the student's school of choice. Scholarship amounts will then be automatically renewed and reapplied (as available) for up to four years of undergrad education provided the student still qualifies under the terms of the scholarship, has submitted a shortened application (to be provided) wherein contact info is renewed with our office in the spring of each year, and proof of enrollment is again submitted in the fall via the student's Sept/Oct tuition bill, or later on via school transcript. (Note: Please make sure your student ID is included on all correspondence so monies can be directed in a timely manner to the appropriate student account!) For any scholarship, CFSEMA will contact you directly if an award contract with joint signature is required. Please be alert to their emails.

If unable to connect with the guidance office, all scholarship forms and info can be obtained via The Erika Hall Memorial Fund's facebook page, it's aforementioned website www.westportandbeyond.org, the Westport Education Foundation's website, or through our umbrella organization, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Mass (CFSEMA) in New Bedford, through whom we gain our 501c(3) status.

Applications will be accepted February through April of each year. Hard copies (We only need pages 4-7! Keep the rest for your records.) can be mailed to:

Westport and Beyond/The Erika Hall Memorial Fund
ATTN: Scholarship Fund
po box N164
Westport, MA 02790

with a postmark of **April 30 latest**, or emailed to info@westportandbeyond.org, subject and deadline same. Results announced beginning the end of May. Our goal is to have a full list of winners posted to the fund's website and facebook page during the months of May and June.

Note: Since this scholarship was not yet up and running for the graduating class of 2014, they and the previous class (2013) may apply during the same time periods set up for other graduating classes without taking away from any of those graduating seniors, as funds have been set aside specifically for that purpose. Simply put, any graduate from 2013 on may apply during any of their undergraduate years.

**Application for Scholarships
via the
Erika Hall Memorial Fund**

Please enclose a short letter of recommendation from someone who knows you well (friend, teacher, guidance counselor, parent, sister, coach, minister, etc.) and fill in as much of this application as you feel comfortable sharing with us, keeping in mind that this is the information our committee uses to get to know you and how applicants are thereby chosen. Please send all completed applications to Westport and Beyond/The Erika Hall Memorial Fund, ATTN: Scholarship Fund, at po box N164, Westport, MA 02790 (or email info@westportandbeyond.org, subject same).

Name:	current GPA:
Mailing address:	current class rank: out of:
	Year of HS Graduation:
High School Attended:	Favorite subject (if any):
Colleges/Schools Applied to:	Colleges/Schools Accepted at:
Still Waiting on:	College/School Attending:
Enrollment Start Date:	
Phone (yours):	email (yours):
Date Submitted:	2 nd email (yours/parents/etc.):
Jobs held:	Employer we may contact:

I sing or play these instruments:

I took lessons here:

I am in a band. (yes/no)

If so, name of band:

Type of music played/enjoyed:

I like to do/create this kind of art:

Favorite piece I made and why:

My connection to international culture/exchange:

My projected college/tech school major:

Desired career path:

I am not going to college right now due to a delayed entrance agreement. Instead I am:

Volunteered at:

When:

I did:

This affected me yes/no. How?

Favorite thing to do in my free time:

Why?

I knew Erika personally. (yes/no) (Just curious! Not necessary for consideration)

If so, how?

**Short answer/essay topics:
(pick one)**

(No word maximum/minimum, just tell us about the real you, and no BS please, there is not a “right answer”!)

-Describe your favorite piece of art (could be book, song, or any other artistic piece). Why is this important to you? How does it move you?

-It has been suggested by Frederick Buechner, American author and theologian, that a person's sense of purpose comes from that place where one's own deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet. Explain your reaction to this statement.

-What do you wish had been part of your high school education/experience and why?

-What is one way you have felt restricted or encouraged by societal expectations.

-What are your thoughts on life? Have they changed?

Additional comments: (optional)

All scholarship applications are private and therefore seen and reviewed by a small committee only. Reasons for selection/non-selection not always given, and non-awarded applicants are encouraged to reapply the following year for reconsideration, as funds allow. Applications are due April 30. Winners will be notified prior to June 30, and posted with permission during the same month. Best of luck!

Media Release Permission Form

For Westport and Beyond:

I _____ (*please print full name*) agree that my name, high school attended, year of hs graduation, intended college major, and/or the educational institution I will be attending as appears on my application or through further correspondence can be used in press, online, and other social media announcements made by **Westport and Beyond** regarding the particular scholarship (s) I have been awarded.

YES _____ No _____

Signed and dated by applicant and, if under 18, his or her parent.

X _____
Applicant's signature Date

X _____
Parent's signature if under 18 Date

For Community Foundation of Southeastern Mass (CFSEMA):

I _____ (*please print full name*) agree that my name, intended major, and the educational institution I will be attending (*please print your intended major _____ and educational institution _____*) can be used in press and other announcements made by the **Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts** regarding the particular scholarship (s) I have been awarded.

YES _____ No _____

Signed and dated by applicant and, if under 18, his or her parent.

X _____
Applicant's signature Date

X _____
Parent's signature if under 18 Date