



Celebrating Service to our Community:

Lena Padovano dearly loved her community, and worked passionately to help support a variety of programs in Midland Park. “Miss Lena” was behind many school programs, including the PTA, Mental Health Day, and Cultural Awareness. She was a Girl Scout leader for more than 15 years and worked tirelessly at building strong relationships with the young people in her life. She loved to foster learning, and was an avid reader and member of the Friends of the Library and the Midland Park Library Board. Mostly, “Miss Lena” made each and every person she interacted with feel very special as well as empowered. As a result of her thoughtfulness and attention, many in Midland Park have felt more supported and loved. Community is all about the connections between people and the enjoyment of working toward a common goal. Community issues never just solve themselves, but they require inspiring leaders who can work with others and create positive change. This scholarship is for a young person who has a deep awareness of how to work with others and help our community in a significant way.

About the Scholarship:

The Lena Padovano Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by family and friends in 2021. This scholarship program will award one or more scholarships, up to \$5,000 collectively, to 2023 high school graduates from Midland Park High School who display exemplary leadership and service within the community. Scholarship candidates will be encouraged to share personal experiences that demonstrate support of peers, and an ability to inspire others to be their best selves.

The scholarship is to be used for post-secondary education or in pursuit of a “life dream” and/or professional goal. The applicant needs to demonstrate that he/she is capable of succeeding in that pursuit and that this scholarship will help them in this endeavor.

Scholarship Eligibility:

The recipient will be a graduating high school senior from Midland Park who demonstrates several of the following attributes:

- **Active participation in community service to others:** *Applicants will be asked to describe service experiences such as extracurricular projects in school, informal service to neighbors, or perhaps activities through scouts or other organizations.*
- **Evidence of making a difference in the lives of others:** *Applicants will be asked to describe the specific impacts made on members of the community. Examples might include boosting morale in school, helping others to learn during the pandemic, or cleaning up litter in parts of the town.*
- **Leadership skills:** *Applicants will be asked to describe specific instances in which they served as a leader to others, and focused on expanding their role in an activity. Specific examples might include leadership in a sport or extracurricular activity, leadership in a service project or on a job, and leadership in a classroom setting.*
- **Passion for learning:** *Applicants will be asked to showcase the interests they have, and share their dreams to improve our community. Students should include how learning has inspired them to make changes, and how they use education to help meet their goals.*
- **Building inclusion:** *Applicants should share specific examples of how they addressed greater inclusion within their activities and every day lives. Examples might include working to ensure many students are part of an activity, not leaving others to be “left out,” and reaching out to others in the community.*

Applicants must complete the following requirements to be eligible for the scholarship.

1. Completed scholarship application.
2. Two letters of reference
3. Personal essay

NOTE: Applicants may be asked to sit for a personal interview

Completed scholarship application

Official Letters of Reference – the letters of reference should explain how the applicant meets the criteria and intent of this program – to award a student who has worked to enhance his/her community either within the confines of the high school population or within the town/community at large. The letter **MUST** explain how the applicant has served our community during their high school years.

- One letter of reference must be from a member of his/her high school staff or faculty – a teacher, administrator or activity sponsor
- The second letter of reference may be from someone whose life has been positively affected by the applicant such as a community or activity sponsor, employer, clergy, etc.

A personal essay- In 500 words or less why you should be considered for this scholarship and how it will help you pursue your dreams and goals.

We would like to hear about:

- Relevant leadership and service positions - samples of community engagement
- Brief overview of relevant achievements
- Challenges/obstacles faced and how you overcame it/them
- Impact on your community and how you were the catalyst for positive change
- How have you supported your peers and/or classmates throughout your high school career

NOTE: Only complete applications with personal essay and 2 letters of recommendation will be considered.

After the Foundation committee has met to review applications and selected a candidate(s), Midland Park High School will be notified of the selection for inclusion in the Senior Awards Ceremony. The scholarship recipient will also be listed on this web page.

Scholarship Deadline:

MONDAY APRIL 24th, 2023