



FACT SHEET

Background Information:

The Cesiah Toro Mullane Scholarship Fund was established in 2004 to honor a great community leader – Cesiah Toro Mullane. The Fund will award two new first year \$500 scholarships to Cypress Hills' residents who exemplify Cesiah's values and life. The scholarship may be used for tuition, books, travel, and other college related expenses. The scholarship is intended to support financially needy students pursuing a 4 year Bachelor's degree. Students must provide copies of their transcripts on an annual basis demonstrating that they have accumulated enough academic credits to advance to the next college level in order to be considered for scholarship renewals. The scholarship is renewable up to 4 years if a student remains in good standing. In the second year the scholarship is \$750, in the third year, the scholarship is \$1,000 and the final year, it is \$1,500. The scholarship will not be renewed if college transcripts show a lack of credit accumulation or academic failures.

How to Apply for Scholarship:

You **must** be:

- A resident of Cypress Hills/East New York in Brooklyn (neighborhood boundaries are Jackie Robinson Parkway/Jamaica Avenue – North; Glenmore Avenue – South; Elderts Lane – East; and Pennsylvania Avenue – West)
- Accepted into college as a freshman for **September 2020** in a **4** year college
- Participant in Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation's College S.T.E.P.S. program
- Financially Needy
- History of community service, activism or volunteerism

Application Process:

- Complete Scholarship Application Form
- Prepare and submit, along with your application, an essay of 600 words or less on:
 - ▶ How your life, or future goals, reflects the values, vision and life of Cesiah Toro Mullane; and
 - ▶ What your goals in college and life are.
- If selected as a finalist, come for a personal interview with the Scholarship Committee

If selected as a Recipient, you must:

- Provide an accounting of how scholarship funds were spent
- Submit college transcripts annually to be considered for renewal of the scholarship
- Be willing to share your college experiences with staff from Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation and other young people
- Send a "Thank You" to CHLDC to confirm you are gracious and received your funds

Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Submit Application and Essay to:

Courtney Camacho, Director College Success Programs
College S.T.E.P.S.
2810 Fulton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11208-2608
courtneyc@cypresshills.org



2020 Scholarship Application

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED BY: Wednesday, April 15th, 2020

Applicant Details:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Address: _____ Apt #/ Floor: _____

City: _____ State : _____ Zip Code: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Parent(s)/ Guardian's Contact Information:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt #/ Floor: _____

City: _____ State : _____ Zip Code: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt #/ Floor: _____

City: _____ State : _____ Zip Code: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Education:

High School Currently Attending: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

Please Check One – Must be presented prior to the award of scholarship:

- High School Diploma GED/ High School Equivalency

College Planning to Attend: _____

College Summer Orientation Dates (If applicable): _____



Describe Financial Need:

Attach your essay of 600 words or less, reflecting the two statements listed below...

- **How does your life, or future and your current values, reflect the beautiful life of Cesiah Toro Mullane (CTM) (See Biography, attached).**
- **What are your goals and obligations for your College Career?**

Before submitting your application, please make sure all the required items are attached:

- **Completed Cesiah Toro Mullane (CTM) Scholarship Application**
- **Your essay for the CTM Scholarship**
- **A copy of your High School Transcript**
- **A copy of your Acceptance Letter from your College**
- **Copies of Financial Acceptance Information for College**



We would like to introduce you to a Special Lady...

Cesiah Toro Mullane

Before you begin your application for this scholarship we would like to share a brief biography of who Cesiah Toro Mullane was, the person she became, and why we believe there should be a scholarship to keep her dreams and values alive.

Cesiah Toro was born in Guayama, Puerto Rico where she attended High School. She completed high school in Rio Pieras and went to the University of Puerto Rico for two years. Joining her family in New York she worked at various jobs, including designing and sample making.

She met Michael Mullane when they both worked in New York City's Garment Center and they married in 1954. They resided in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn from 1957 until her passing in 2003. Returning to college when her last child was two years-old, she completed her B.A. (Spanish and Secondary Education) at York College of CUNY in 1976. Together, Cesiah and Mike had five children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Mike was Cesiah's biggest fan, supporter and partner in her pursuits.

Cesiah's last employment was as District Office Manager of former Assemblyman Thomas F. Catapano, where she worked for nearly ten years. She worked at the Legal Aid Society from 1977 to 1983, first as an interpreter and bilingual assistant to the Director of Personnel/Assistant Attorney-in-Charge, Civil Division, and later as a Paralegal Supervisor in the Family Law Unit. Previously, she worked at August Martin High School and mentored students from the Empire State University. While raising a family and attending college, she was a sewing instructor at the F.K. Lane High School Adult Education Program and worked at home designing and sewing for a Manhattan fashion house and for friends and neighbors.

In 1982, a group of people who were concerned about the decline of Cypress Hills came together and founded the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC). Cesiah was one of the founders and served on the Board of Directors for many years. She served continuously on the Board since 1993 and was our Board President for the past four years. Cesiah embraced the LDC's work in youth and family services, educational reform and affordable housing & economic development. An enthusiastic fundraiser and tireless volunteer - - whether it was serving as the Master of Ceremonies for "We Love Cypress Hills Day;" working to govern the Cypress Hills Community School; composing and editing by-laws; convincing private philanthropists to invest in the organization; or motivating others, by her own example, to give of their time and money to the LDC - - Cesiah showed us all the impact of one remarkable woman's vision and leadership.

For more than two decades, 1980 - 2003, she collaborated with the Cypress Hills Local Development Corp., the Neighborhood Stabilization Program of the Commission on Human



Rights, the Planning and Development Committee of Blessed Sacrament Church, and community efforts in advocating for a better quality of the life and the construction of new schools in Cypress Hills.

In 1987, Cesiah was invited by the Twelve Towns YMCA to be apart of a committee to assess cultural needs in the community. A Three Kings Day celebration at the “Y” came to be an annual event since January 6, 1988. In 1989, Cesiah was invited to join the Twelve Towns YMCA

Board of Managers and served as a member, and later as Chair of the Board of Managers of the North Brooklyn YMCA branch. Until her death she remained on the “Y” Board.

Cesiah devoted most of her time to working on issues and efforts in the community. In 1995, she worked with parents, forming the “Let’s Build I.S. 171” Committee. Cesiah was delighted that a new school was built as a result of the advocacy campaign, despite having endured tough opposition from many and, a personal multimillion dollar law suit that was defeated decisively in Cesiah’s and the community’s favor. Cesiah was on a mission: to be an active participant in activities that promoted the enhancement of our community, a quality education for our children (and the construction of another school), economic and community development, and RESPECT for the rights of our citizenry to pursue happiness and a measure of peace.

She chaired the Cypress Hills Community Coalition, was a member of the Governance Council of the Cypress Hills Community School P.S. 89 and member of the Board of the Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation. Mullane was a member of Cypress Hills Advocates for Education (CHAFE), wrote and translated for the community bilingual newspaper, *Neighbors and Merchants*, and translated Blessed Sacrament Church’s weekly bulletin. She also founded and joyously sang in the Spanish Choir of Blessed Sacrament Church. During the last year she also served on the Planning Committee of the Department of Probation’s Neighborhood Shield Community Advisory Board and as a member of Community Board #5.

The Board of Directors and staff of the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation greatly miss the presence of an irreplaceable community leader, Cesiah Toro Mullane. Cesiah, as she was known to most of us, died on December 2, 2003 after a short and valiant battle with cancer. Cesiah will long be remembered and cherished by all those whose lives she touched and enriched. She truly was the finest friend and fiercest advocate the Cypress Hills community will ever know. Her life embodied some of the most important values anyone can aspire to - - she put her family, church and community in the forefront and dedicated herself to the "hard" causes few are courageous enough to tackle and sustain. She was an exemplary wife, mother and community activist. She was a true Cypress Hills Hero and role model for all who care for the people in our community.

In the memory and honor of Cesiah Toro Mullane, the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation has established a college scholarship and awarded its first scholarships for the Fall 2004 term to two young, college-bound Cypress Hills activists. We know that this enabled them to work harder and more passionately in testament to the example set by this wonderful woman!