



The Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund

It is a sad reality that many young people who go through the juvenile justice system do not emerge with the skills to become productive citizens. But some do, succeeding brilliantly and becoming models for what is possible when motivation, determination and supportive services all come together. ***It is to recognize and encourage these unusual young people that the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund was established.***

The Spirit of Youth Award was initiated by the Washington State Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC) in 2007. GJJAC's intention is to recognize a young adult who was a juvenile offender who exemplifies the importance of the rehabilitative focus of the juvenile justice system and the power of personal resiliency. In 2008, the award included a \$1,000 scholarship.

The first scholarship recipient (Jessica) was formerly involved in drug abuse and robbery. Today she is a student at Yakima Valley Community College, studying criminal justice, and working at the Camp Outlook Boot Camp where she was once an inmate. Governor Gregoire recently appointed Jessica as a member of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. Jessica exemplifies the "spirit of youth" we wish to celebrate and encourage.

An anonymous donor is committed to fund the first three years of the \$1,000 scholarship while the endowment fund grows. An endowment of \$25,000 will support one \$1,000 scholarship. The intention is to offer continuing (annual) scholarships to award recipients, for up to four years of college costs.

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound is the administrator of this scholarship fund. The Community Foundation recently obtained national accreditation for meeting the most rigorous standards in philanthropy from The National Council of Foundations. The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound is one of only 400 foundations in the nation with this compliance. The Community Foundation currently stewards close to \$4 million in assets within 80 separate charitable funds.

The Spirit of Youth Scholarship exemplifies The Community Foundation's website homepage statement: "Generosity is a catalyst. It creates hope and possibility."