

2018 RALPH & PHYLLIS BENCE SCHOLARSHIP

HISTORY

This scholarship was established by Ralph to assist students with their future goals and create a life that he would be proud of. Ralph Bence was born in Kokomo, Indiana where he met and married Phyllis Bacon. The year after they married they had their first son who was born pre-mature. With no insurance and many medical bills, Ralph dropped out of college to work hard to support his family. After their second son was born they moved to Three Rivers where they raised their boys. Ralph ran the local Firestone store for many years while Phyllis worked at Michigan Power. Ralph enjoyed fishing and building model trains while Phyllis enjoyed cooking and entertaining.

PURPOSE

To provide financial assistance for higher education learning.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants for this scholarship must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Graduate from a St. Joseph County High School with preference given to graduates of Three Rivers High School.
2. Have attained a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in high school.
3. Pursuing higher education.
4. Be available for a personal interview with the scholarship selection committee.

AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship shall be in the amount of \$1,000.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee shall include 3-5 representatives from the following:

- 1) Three Rivers Community Schools, 2) St. Joseph County Intermediate School District.

INSTRUCTIONS

Please fill out the TRACF Common Scholarship Application **AND** the Ralph & Phyllis Bence Scholarship Attachment, found at www.threeriversfoundation.com. All information submitted will be kept in the strictest confidence. Scholarship applications should be typed or legibly printed in ink.

- Scholarship Application must be RECEIVED by **March 1st, 2018**, for consideration.
- Provide one (1) letter of recommendation from a business or professional person.
- Include a copy of your school transcripts.
- Email one (1) application packet in PDF or Word form to melissa@threeriversfoundation.com. Applications can also be mailed to the following address: Three Rivers Area Community Foundation, P.O. Box 453, Three Rivers, MI 49093.
- Each packet must include the following, in this particular order:
 1. 2018 TRACF Common Scholarship Application
 2. Scholarship Essay attachment
 3. Letter(s) of recommendation
 4. School transcript

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****INCLUDE WITH TRACF COMMON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION****

If you are applying for the Ralph & Phyllis Bence Scholarship you must complete the following:

1. Name: _____
2. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
3. What specific attribute, quality, or skill distinguishes you from everyone else? How did you develop this attribute?

4. What effect will this scholarship have on your continuing education?

5. Have you or your family had to overcome personal or financial hardship? If so, please explain.