



2024



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Madison Neece is a 17-year-old High School Senior who recently completed her HiSet. She has been accepted at Wichita Technical Institute and will begin studying at their Joplin campus this fall. Madison plans to complete WTI's Pharmacy Tech program, while also completing beauty college. These programs will allow **Madison** to gain the skills she needs to work while achieving her ultimate goal – completing a police academy and pursuing a career as a criminal investigator.

During high school, **Madison** was a member of FCCLA and FFA, a Teacher's Assistant, a member of the Art Club, a Bully Buster, and served as a tutor for students in lower grades. While still attending high school, **Madison** also worked as a Crew Trainer at McDonald's and led orientation for new employees. She also owned and operated a cleaning business with her cousin for a year. **Madison's** interests include art, reading, writing, doing hair and makeup, swimming, listening to music, hanging out with her family, and learning new things.

In a letter of reference, **Madison's** DYS Supervisor Amber Escobar writes, "**Madison Neece** has been dealt a hand which would crumble most other people. Through her challenges, **Madison** has learned critical thinking, problem-solving, and rapid ideation and implementation; she is truly an exemplary case of recovery and triumph. There is no shortage of positive things I can say about **Madison Neece**. She is not only one of the most remarkable youth I have had the pleasure to work with but may be one of the most impressive human beings I have met."

Madison's juvenile justice sponsor is Bryston Branstetter, Vocational Educator, Division of Youth Services in Springfield.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL HAHN PHOTOGRAPHY

Anthony Rey is currently a senior at Liberty High School in Lake St. Louis and will graduate in May with a GPA of 3.5. **Anthony** has been accepted at the University of Central Missouri, where he will start classes in the fall. **Anthony** will be pursuing a Bachelor's Degree – followed by a Master's Degree – in Cybersecurity and Computer Science.

During high school, **Anthony's** activities included Track & Field, School Publications, Link Crew, Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, and Theatre, and he is currently the main photo editor for his school publications. **Anthony** also serves on the State Youth Advisory Board.

Anthony's scholarship application packet includes three letters of recommendation from teachers and an administrator at his High School. In a letter of reference, **Anthony's** Publications Advisor said this: "**Anthony** is always willing to do whatever it takes to make publications a success; he is well-respected among his peers and they go to him with questions and for help. In addition to photography, **Anthony** has written multiple stories for both the magazine and website, even earning an award for a story about his experience in the foster system."

Anthony's juvenile justice sponsor is Sonya Whyte, Deputy Juvenile Officer, St. Charles County Juvenile Office.



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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Amon Cole has already graduated from High School and has been accepted at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas, where he will start classes in the fall. **Amon** plans to pursue a degree in Business Administration and hopes to get his MBA someday, own his own business, and play a role in helping other businesses be successful. Amon chose Texas Southern University because he has always wanted to attend an HBCU.

During High School, **Amon** was captain of his football team, and a member of his school's Student-Athlete Organization and the Black Achievement Club. **Amon** was also an Honor Roll student, an AP Scholar, and a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. In his scholarship application packet, **Amon** lists his hobbies as reading and working out and says his skill set includes being a "very skilled planner."

In a letter of recommendation, one of **Amon's** Juvenile Justice Sponsors writes, "Through my work with **Amon**, I have seen his strength and resilience during difficult times. He has remained future-oriented and has demonstrated maturity and accountability. **Amon** is an insightful and empathetic young man and is an inspiration to other youth facing difficult situations. He has discussed his hope to someday speak to youth about his experience."

In a Letter of Recommendation, **Amon's** AP Language and Composition teacher writes, "In all honesty, I could fill volumes on the intellectual capacity, academic focus, impeccable behavior, and creative brilliance of **Mr. Cole**. He is truly one of the most stellar students I have had the pleasure of teaching."

Amon's Juvenile Justice Sponsors are Cindy Mohrhard and Carolyn Belgeri of the St. Louis County Juvenile Office.



RODNEY FISHER “FUTURE OF A CHILD” MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is awarded to one recipient each year, in memory of Rodney Fisher, a long-standing supporter of MJJA who worked at FCC Behavioral Health for 36 years holding a variety of positions to include Counselor, Program Director, Classroom Instructor, Care Coordinator and Public relations. Rodney's love of life and compassion for children and families was immeasurable. Because of generous funding from FCC Behavioral Health, this scholarship recipient is awarded FOUR YEARS of funding.

Our very first recipient of the Rodney Fisher “Future of a Child” Memorial Scholarship is awarded to Kaylee Chainey.





RODNEY FISHER
“FUTURE OF A CHILD” MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Kaylee Chainey currently attends Nixa High School and will graduate in May. **Kaylee** has been accepted at Missouri State University in Springfield, where she will begin classes in the fall, with a plan to pursue a degree in Physical Therapy and Sports Training. **Kaylee** wants to pursue this degree because she has always played sports and wants to stay connected to the sports community.

During high school, **Kaylee** participated in several sports, including cheer, track, cross-country, and basketball, while remaining active in the A+ program, Choir, FCA, and yearbook. **Kaylee** also volunteers at many community events through cheer, has helped conduct cheer clinics, and participates in A+ tutoring.

Ashley Newberry, Family and Consumer Sciences Department Head, writes this in her Letter of Recommendation: “**Kaylee** has many qualities that make her a worthy candidate for this scholarship. Not only by her excellent academic standing and work ethic but even more importantly by her strong moral character and ability to develop quality relationships with those around her. She is an independent thinker, takes initiative on projects, and is completely trustworthy in all situations.” **Kaylee’s** Juvenile Justice Sponsor writes this: “I became involved with **Kaylee** and her family during a time of much turmoil and confusion in the household. Throughout my involvement with Kaylee, I have experienced an individual who has shown leadership to her siblings and peers, she’s been a support for her siblings, and she has remained respectful towards the Family Support Team, even when she did not agree with all case decisions. **Kaylee** has big plans for her future and I’m confident she will reach all her goals with the perseverance and determination she has shown each day to not allow her trauma to define her.”

Kaylee’s Juvenile Justice Sponsor is Bethany Silliman, Deputy Juvenile Officer, Christian County Juvenile Office.