



Buffalo Metropolitan
Federal Credit Union

2026 Inspiring Unity Scholarship



The Inspiring Unity Scholarship was created in 2023 in remembrance of three (3) members of Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union, **Katherine Massey, Aaron Salter, and Ruth Whitfield**, who were tragically killed in the Buffalo New York mass shooting on May 14th, 2022. All three were outstanding citizens who advocated for unity in Buffalo and the ongoing education of Buffalo's youth.

Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union is dedicated to helping our youth in the Buffalo Community to attend and succeed in the educational arena. Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union facilitates partnerships with key stakeholders like Gems & Jewels Multi-Cultural Empowerment Center (GJMEC) to increase academic achievement of Youth in our Buffalo Communities.

The Award

Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union awards three (3) \$1,000.00 scholarships to be paid jointly to the student and the educational institution. There will be no exceptions. The funds may be used towards tuition, room and board, books, school supplies, etc.

Eligibility

The applicant must be a member, in good standing, with Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union who meets all of the following criteria:

- High School Senior who resides in Erie County, NY.
- Member of Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union.
- Applicant must be a graduating high school senior in the year of the award.
- Applicant must have at least a 2.0 grade point average or a (C average minimum).
- Applicant must demonstrate Community Involvement, Improvement in academics, and desire to attend college.
- Applicants must show 10-20 hours of community activity/volunteer work in underserved areas.
- May not be related to any board of director or staff.
- Applicant must be willing to attend a scholarship check presentation/award ceremony with the Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union & Gems & Jewels Multi-Cultural Empowerment Center if selected as a winner.



Buffalo Metropolitan
Federal Credit Union

2026 Inspiring Unity Scholarship



Application Process

To apply, eligible members must complete the scholarship application form and essay. As well as submitting all other forms required.

✓ Check box after completing each step.

- ☐ Complete Scholarship Application.
- ☐ High School Transcript documenting students GPA for grades 9-11.
- ☐ Completed essay response.
- ☐ Two (2) Letters of Recommendation (At least 1 letter should be from the school, teacher etc.).
- ☐ The applicant and his/her parent or guardian must complete the Certification and Release Authorization on the last page of the application form.
- ☐ The application, transcripts and essay must be submitted to **Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union by January 31, 2026. If any portion is incomplete or missing, the application will not be considered.**

Selection Process

Judging will be based on both subjective criteria and weighted, objective criteria. These include academic achievements, extracurricular activities, essay, etc.

Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted to Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union by **January 31, 2026.**

- 1) Bring your completed application to Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union
 - **62 South Elmwood Ave., Buffalo NY, 14202**
- 2) Fax your completed application to Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union
 - **716-847-6996**
- 3) Email your completed application to Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union
 - **d.roy@bflometrocu.org**



Buffalo Metropolitan
Federal Credit Union

2026 Inspiring Unity Scholarship



Scholarship Applicant Information

This application will not be considered unless all information is completed in full, on this form only, and all requested documentation is provided.

Name: _____
(Last) (First) MI

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

High School: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Are you a BMFCU Member? Yes _____ No _____

High School Honors and Awards

Please list honors and awards and grade(s) of participation. *Examples: honor roll, national honor society, student/athlete award, principal's award, science fair awards, etc.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. _____ ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 | 6. _____ ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 |
| 2. _____ ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 | 7. _____ ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 |
| 3. _____ ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 | 8. _____ ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 |
| 4. _____ ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 | 9. _____ ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 |
| 5. _____ ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 | 10. _____ ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 |

High School Activities

Please list high school activities and grade(s) of participation. *Example: sports teams, clubs, band, drama, yearbook, school newspaper, etc.*

1. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
2. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
3. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
4. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
5. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
6. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
7. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
8. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
9. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
10. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

Community Activities and Volunteer Work

Please list community activities and volunteer work, with hours, and grade(s) of participation. *Example: community service projects, specific community volunteerism, youth counseling, etc.*

1. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
2. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
3. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
4. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
5. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
6. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
7. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
8. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
9. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
10. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

Leadership Positions Held (elected or appointed)

Please list leadership positions held and grade(s) of participation. *Example: class officer, sports team leader, student government officer, scouting leader, etc.*

1. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
2. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
3. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
4. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
5. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
6. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
7. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
8. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
9. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
10. _____

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

Applicant must register at a college or university.

School Choice: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Major Field of Study? _____

Expected College graduation date? _____

Essay

Please respond to the following question in a comprehensive essay. Your response should be between 400-600 words. Please be sure to cite all sources. **If any of the essay is plagiarized, the entire application will be disqualified.** Also, please ensure that you have answered each of the components of the essay. Personal narratives or other unrelated essays will not be eligible for credit.

- Please be sure to include your name at the top of the essay.
- Please use 12-point font and double space your essay response.

Question: We are in a society that is made up of many different religions, cultures, and ethnicities. Diversity is important because it helps create a more just and inclusive society. **What does Unity in Diversity mean to you and how can you be or how have you been an advocate for change?**

In addition:

- Include how the tops shooting of 2022 has impacted you and/or our community.
- What are your career aspirations and how can you use that to impact change.

Certification and Release Authorization

The following information must be completed for the applicant to be considered for a scholarship award.

- *I certify this information is true, complete and accurate.*
- *I authorize the release of this information to confirm and/or verify this application.*
- *I agree to use any scholarship funds awarded at an accredited educational institute by January 31, 2027.*
- *I authorize Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union to publish my child's name and/or photo for the use of promotional materials, news releases and/or social media.*

Member Signature (student) _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



Buffalo Metropolitan
Federal Credit Union

2026 Inspiring Unity Scholarship



What You Should know Check List

- 1) When you apply for a scholarship, you should have the academic credentials to back it up. The proof should start with the application you need to create an impressive and superior application. This should reflect your own credentials and personality.
- 2) An effective scholarship application should contain important details as well as its physical presentation. Remember, first impressions matter and this starts as soon as the reader opens your cover letter.
- 3) The application is normally sent to a committee who should do the evaluation if you should qualify for a scholarship. How you word your application at this stage is very important.
- 4) Any flaws will cause the sponsor to just throw away your request. Don't resort to long narrative and irrelevant details. The most effective applications are simple, easy to read, short, and lucid. Every item should be well-researched and thorough.
- 5) Universities and social organizations offer a huge range of scholarship opportunities. The majority of scholarships usually cover tuition fees; this leads the student to the responsibility for their own living expenses.

Submitting Your Scholarship Application

- 1) Bring your completed application to Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union
 - **62 South Elmwood Ave., Buffalo NY, 14202**
- 2) Fax your completed application to Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union
 - **716-847-6996**
- 3) Email your completed application to Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union
 - **d.roy@bflometrocu.org**

Applications will be reviewed, and three (3) recipients will be selected by the Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union Scholarship Committee. Applicants will be notified April 1, 2026, and a formal invitation will be sent for a check presentation/award ceremony.



Buffalo Metropolitan
Federal Credit Union

2026 Inspiring Unity Scholarship



Cover Letter Sample

First, Last Name

Address:

Phone number:

Email:

Date:

Dear scholarship selection committee

My name is (Your Name) and I am applying for the 2026 Inspiring Unity Scholarship. I am....

(Use this paragraph to tell your reader basic information about yourself and why you are applying for this particular scholarship; use simple, direct statements. Tell them about you, your family, your background, and anything that may be of interest to your recipient).

During my high school years I.....

(Use this paragraph to tell the reader about some of the classes you have taken and your extra-curricular clubs, sports, and activities. Mention your hobbies, outside interest in any job or volunteer experience that you may have. You want to mention any valuable experience you have gained from a particular volunteer effort).

After I graduate from high school I plan to.....

(Use this paragraph to tell your reader about your plans for the future, as they apply to the scholarship. Mention the school that you have your eyes on and what you intend to study. Are you going to seek a job and go to school at the same time? What are your plans for after college? Importantly, describe why you need the scholarship money. How will this scholarship help you? Have you received other scholarship funds already?

Thank you for considering my application..

(Be sure to thank the scholarship sponsor for considering your application letter).

Attach your required documents, like letters of recommendation, transcripts, and any other required information to this letter or your completed application.

Sincerely,

Your name

Print name