

Donna Ifill “No Excuses” Scholarship – Application Package

Post-secondary education can be life-changing, bringing new opportunities and well-being to individuals and their families. Donna Ifill was a firm believer that individuals should equip themselves to better serve their community and use their gifts, talents and abilities for the glory of God. Donna was a key figure in youth ministry in Church of God of Prophecy and her theme was “No Excuses”. Donna believed there should be no excuses for youth in living a life for Christ. In light of those who are pursuing higher education to better serve their community and best use their gifts, talents and abilities for the glory of God, North Park Worship Centre (NPWC) has established an award in Donna Ifill’s memory.

The Donna Ifill No Excuses Scholarship/Award (otherwise referred to as the No Excuses Scholarship) may be separated into two categories. (See Selection Process for details).

- The first category will be for students who have completed high school and will be starting post-secondary education. This will be considered an entry-level scholarship.
- The second scholarship category will be for students who are currently engaged in post-secondary studies (college, university, trade programs, upper-year students, those pursuing graduate studies etc.), or the equivalent of a continuing education scholarship.

Should there not be applicants in both criteria, both scholarships may be awarded to students beginning/continuing their post-secondary education.



North Park Worship Centre is awarding two scholarships valued at \$1000.

Application Deadline: June 28, 2026.

Eligibility

In order to have an application considered, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant is enrolled full-time or part-time in a public or recognized private college, university, or trade program as evidenced by a Verification of Enrollment Form (or copy), timetable, or equivalent document demonstrating enrollment for their current or upcoming academic year.
 - Those entering their first year of post-secondary or in similar entry-level situations may need additional time after the deadline to obtain a document verifying their enrollment. These applicants may provide proof of acceptance until enrollment can be verified.
- The applicant falls into one of the following categories:
 - Is a member of NPWC.
 - Is an attendee of NPWC and has been part of or served with a ministry (Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Outreach Ministry, Family Ministry, Discipleship Ministry etc.), in either the current, or previous academic year.
- The applicant must be willing to provide a signed waiver and headshot photograph with their application permitting North Park Worship Centre to release their full name, program of study, and photo should they be awarded the scholarship. No additional information about the successful applicant(s) will be shared publicly without consent. **Applicants will also agree to pay back the scholarship if they withdraw** from the program in time to receive a tuition refund, prorated to the amount of tuition returned to the applicant.

The applicant will complete the application form, provide one letter of reference, a document that verifies their enrollment (Verification of Enrollment Form, timetable, or equivalent document), submit a signed waiver and headshot, provide an association form (detailing connection to North Park Worship Centre), and submit an essay response.

Applicants may also submit with their application, proof of their volunteer service to the church or community. **Letters, documents or records highlighting the number of hours served in the current or previous year may be accepted.** See application requirements for an overview of the importance of each section of the application.

A selection committee comprised of four church members, will confidentially review the submissions and propose who shall receive the scholarship based upon criteria outlined in this document. Each application will be given pseudonyms and adjusted to be gender neutral in an attempt to increase fairness by the selection team.



The applicant(s) will be awarded the money as a direct payment to their university/college/post-secondary institution towards the cost of tuition. This will be facilitated by the church Treasurer. In the event that the applicant(s) has already fully paid their tuition, the award will be made directly to the applicant(s) once confirmation has been provided and confirmed.

Selection Process

If an applicant is understood to be a high-school graduate, and entering their first year of post-secondary education, their application may be considered separately from applicants who have already completed a year of post-secondary education, thereby treating one scholarship as an entrance scholarship, and the second scholarship as a general continuing education scholarship. Should no applicants fit this criterion, both scholarships will be awarded to students continuing their post-secondary education.



Application Requirements

Each application should include the following:

Completed Application Form

Signed Waiver and Headshot Photo

Please submit a clear, high-quality upper body photo against a simple background

Letter of Reference

One letter of reference should be submitted. **The letter should not be provided by an immediate family member** (parent/guardian, aunt/uncle, spouse, grandparent, child or similar). The purpose of the letter is to provide evidence that the applicant is of good character. In particular, traits needed for completion of post-secondary education: strong work ethic, persistence, self-discipline, independence, curiosity, and maturity. The letter should be 1-2 pages single-spaced and should be addressed to the Selection Committee.

Association Form

An association form should be submitted. The purpose of this form is to help verify the applicants' connection to North Park Worship Centre. You do not need to be a member of North Park Worship Centre to apply for the scholarship.

Proof of Enrollment

Proof of enrollment should be provided with the application. Proof of enrollment may include an official Enrollment Verification Form (or copy), a yearly timetable or an equivalent document demonstrating the applicant is enrolled in a post-secondary program for the semester/year.

Essay

An essay of approximately 500-750 words should be submitted on one of these themes:

1. North Park Worship Centre is committed to serving and meeting the needs of our community (at home, and abroad). How would you use your education to serve your community?
2. Describe your time serving at North Park Worship Centre or in the community, and the impact it has had on your life.



Essays must be typewritten, in a standard font (Times New Roman, Calibri, Arial etc.), size 12, double spaced. The essay will be scored based on grammar, formatting and content. Among the things we are looking for is evidence of self-reflection, growth, and future aspiration. Each paper should have some form of introduction, body and conclusion.

OPTIONAL

Proof of Community Service Hours

A letter or document that states the number of community service hours may be provided. Additional consideration will be given depending on the number of hours completed in the current or previous year.

- 1-24 Hours
- 25-49 Hours
- 50-74 Hours
- 75 – 100 Hours
- 100+ Hours

Community service hours can be obtained through the church, or in the community. Please provide contact information in the event additional information is required.



Application

Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Current Mailing Address: _____

Name of Institution Attending: _____

Location of Institution (City, Province): _____

Name of Program and Program ID (if applicable): _____

Please Choose: This will be my first year of post-secondary

I have already completed a year of post-secondary

Full-time / Part-time: _____ Length of Program in Semesters or Years: _____

Start Date: _____ Expected End Date: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian (if applicant is 17 or younger): _____

Parent/Guardian's Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Are You a Member of North Park Worship Centre Yes No

(If you are not a member, you can still apply)

Submission Checklist:

- Application Form
- Essay
- Letter of Reference
- Association Form
- Headshot Photo
- Signed Waiver
- Proof of Community Service (Optional)
- Proof of Enrollment*

Failure to provide any of the required documents may render your application incomplete.

Application Deadline: June 28, 2026

*Applicants may provide proof of acceptance until enrollment can be verified.

Completed applications, or questions regarding the application process can be submitted to Kyrel Thompson either in person or via email at Kyrel.Thompson@northparkwc.org. A confirmation email will be provided acknowledging the submission of the application.



Association Form

The purpose of this form is to help verify the applicants’ connection and involvement with North Park Worship Centre.

Members of North Park Worship Centre do not need to complete this form. If you are a member of North Park Worship Centre, please check here and move to the next page.

If you are not a member of North Park, please have this form completed. The form should be completed by the Ministry Team Leader; however, any Ministry Team Member may complete the form.

Applicant Name: _____

Ministry Member Name: _____

Ministry Member Phone Number: _____

Ministry Member Email: _____

I verify that this applicant has a connection to North Park Worship Centre and has participated with the ministry or been part of a North Park Worship Centre initiative in the past two academic years. I am willing to be contacted in the event that more information is needed.

Signature of Ministry Member

Date



Waiver

Applicant signature for individuals over 18:

I _____ agree to the release of my name and headshot photo as submitted with the application upon receipt of any AWARD funding from North Park Worship Centre. They may be used in any and all publications (both in print and online) which are publicly disseminated by North Park Worship Centre. In addition, I verify that the letter of reference was prepared by an individual who is not an immediate family member (e.g., spouse/partner, parent, child, grandparent, aunt, uncle or similar).

I also agree to pay back the AWARD should I withdraw from or otherwise leave my program in time to receive reimbursement from the institution.

Applicant Signature

Date

Parent/guardian for applicants who are younger than 18:

I _____, the parent/guardian of _____ agree to the release of my child’s name and headshot photo as a person in receipt of any AWARD funding from North Park Worship Centre. They may be used in any and all publications (both in print and online) which are publicly disseminated by North Park Worship Centre. In addition, I verify that the letter of reference was prepared by an individual who is not an immediate family member (e.g., spouse/partner, parent, child, grandparent, aunt, uncle or similar).

I also agree to pay back the AWARD should my child/person under my guardianship withdraw from or otherwise leave their program in time to receive reimbursement from the institution.

Signature of parent/guardian

Date