

The Shawn J McDuff Memorial Scholarship

2026 Scholarship Application

(Sponsored by the Shawn J McDuff Scholarship Fund)

The scholarship honoree- Shawn J McDuff passed away at the age of 49 on December 31, 2017. He was afflicted with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and outlived all the expectations that were given to him by his medical team. He was the consummate and most loyal New England sports fan that lived. He served as the Muscular Dystrophy State Poster Child for two years, which enabled him to teach people about his disease and that he was a typical child that wanted to play and learn as others do.

Shawn was the one of the first disabled students to attend public school versus homeschooling. He received his Bachelor's degree of Social Work from Salem State University and worked his entire career at the Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann. He was the Deputy Director of the Center. He was an advocate for all his clients and helped them with services, support, and compassion so that they too could live independently. He had the use of only one finger and had a breathing machine on his chair to assist him, yet he went to work every day to help others. He gave of himself for others at the job he loved for 27 years.

A. General Information/Eligibility:

1. The ***Shawn J McDuff Scholarship*** is designed to aid students accepted to an accredited institution of higher education. **Applicants with a demonstrated disability can apply for this award.**
2. Eligible applicants must possess the qualities and traits that Shawn personified. Preference will be given to a student with a demonstrated disability who achieves their academic goals, strives to live independently despite their disability with the intention to pursue a bachelor's degree.
3. (1) scholarship of \$1,000 and (1) scholarship of (\$500), will be awarded by the Scholarship Selection Committee, upon review of each completed application.
4. The recommendation of the Scholarship Selection Committee shall be made no later than **APRIL 1, 2026**.
Scholarship recipients are disqualified from further application after having once received an Award.
5. The Scholarship Selection Committee reserves the right not to award a scholarship(s), if in their opinion, there is no qualified candidate.
6. Members of the Scholarship Selection Committee shall not be the parent, brother, sister, Aunt, or Uncle, of an eligible applicant.

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B. Application Process:

1. All applications must be filled out completely and returned to the Scholarship Selection Committee **no later than April 1, 2026.**

Please address all applications to:

The SJM Scholarship Committee
c/o Shelli Mahan
39 Adams Avenue
North Andover, MA 01845

2. **ONE** (1) letter of recommendation is **required** to be submitted. The letter is to be from an educator, one that has either had the applicant in the classroom, or one that can accurately speak to the applicant's academic or personal record.
3. The ***Shawn J McDuff Scholarship*** Selection Committee's majority vote will be final.