

Staggering Statistics

1 in 14 American children have a parent in prison.

In Missouri alone, there are more than **44,000** children with an incarcerated parent.

Children with incarcerated parents are **7 times more likely** than other children to enter the criminal justice system one day.

It is estimated that the cost to society of allowing just one youth to leave high school and enter a life of crime or drug abuse is **\$1.7 to \$2.3 mill.**

Today **68%** of the prison population has less than a high school degree or GED.

20% of children entering the welfare system have at least one incarcerated parent.

To answer this systemic problem Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation is focused on education. These children do not have to become a statistic – education is the key to breaking the cycle.



Beginning in 2015! We will offer two additional \$5,000 scholarships through a new opportunity – Summit's Peak, the Ava's Grace Scholarship for African American males. All other requirements and benefits apply!

Our Mission

Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation (AGSF) is an innovative, one of a kind non-profit entity whose mission is to one day break the cycle of incarceration through the gift of education.

Our Scholarships

AGSF will award scholarships for higher education on an annual basis to children of incarcerated parents who reside in Missouri, Kansas, or Illinois. Beginning in 2012, AGSF has awarded \$3,000 to \$5,000 scholarships each year and is currently supporting sixteen scholars from across the state of Missouri attending schools across the country. This year we are expanding to Kansas and Illinois.

Currently, there are no combined scholarship and mentor programs or other incentives for higher education specifically for children impacted by incarceration. AGSF scholarships can be used at four-year colleges and universities as well as two-year degree programs, trade, and technical schools. The scholarships are **renewable** every year the student stays in school and performs satisfactorily in their program as defined by their institution (up to four total years of support).

Solicitations for the 2016-2017 school year begin on January 15th, 2016. Please visit www.avasgrace.org and click on the "Scholarship" section for details, including the application. Sign up for our newsletter on our website to be the first to receive our new application! Applications MUST be postmarked by April 15th, 2016.



Our Scholars

Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation and the resources it provides can be life changing for the scholarship recipients as well as their families and the communities in which they live. If children in similar situations can see a child from their neighborhood achieve an education, something that is possibly viewed as the impossible, they can see it for themselves.

The vision of AGSF is a 100% graduation rate of our scholars. While this may not always be attainable, it is our hope that with our partners we can provide the best chance at success for our scholars.

Our Partners

Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation has worked diligently to identify and solidify key partnerships. These partners help us identify applicants as well as provide assistance to our scholars in the form of mentoring, financial planning, and other wrap-around services we believe are critical to ensuring the success of our students.

Our key partners and affiliations:

- ▶ The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis
- ▶ Missouri School Counselors Association
- ▶ Connections to Success
- ▶ Second Chance Coalition of Kansas City
- ▶ Center for Women in Transition
- ▶ U.S. Probation and Parole
- ▶ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri
- ▶ College Bound
- ▶ St. Louis Public Schools
- ▶ Let's Start

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

AGSF will provide our students with a mentor to help guide them in their journey. AGSF mentors will be chosen in coordination with the scholars and are expected to stay with the student throughout their experience in higher education.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

We expect our students to give back to AGSF by becoming an ambassador of higher education in their communities and careers when opportunities exist.

AVA'S GRACE GIVES BACK

The founder of AGSF learned how rewarding and satisfying giving back can be by watching her parents and by participating in campus activities in college. Some children may never have these experiences growing up or may have been raised to assume you can only give back with monetary support.



It is our intention to instill in our scholars the idea of giving back and helping those less fortunate. We plan to do this by participating in an annual "Ava's Grace Gives Back" volunteer service project *with them*, not just requiring them to do it.

We also expect their mentors and our Board of Directors to participate alongside the scholars. It is our hope and intention to find charities and causes we can foster long-term relationships with.



2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

ELIGIBILITY

- **Applicant must have a parent who is or has been incarcerated in a U.S. state or federal penitentiary.**
- **Applicant must be a permanent resident of Missouri, Kansas, or Illinois for at least two years prior to the date of the application.**
- **Continuing in 2016!** We will offer two additional \$5,000 scholarships through a new opportunity – Summit's Peak, the Ava's Grace Scholarship for African American males. All other requirements and benefits apply!
- Applicant must be a citizen of the United States or in possession of an Alien Registration Card.
- Must demonstrate financial need.
- Must have achieved a minimum cumulative 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
- Must plan to enroll in or be currently enrolled in a degree program at a nonprofit higher education institution accredited by a regional accrediting body (North Central or its equivalent in the region).
- Must be a responsible borrower, without history of educational loan default or bankruptcy. In some instances, a statement of exceptional circumstances will be considered.
- Must be seeking a first Technical, first Associate's or first Bachelor's degree.
- All fields of study are eligible for funding.

HOW TO APPLY

Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation has built upon the newly created "Common Scholarship Application" for their application. The St. Louis Regional College Access Pipeline has committed to the creation of a common application for students in the metro St. Louis area and Ava's Grace has used their application as a starting point for the AGSF statewide application.

Please submit a copy of this completed application and all supporting documents **including two letters of recommendation** to:

Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation
c/o Connections to Success
3000 Little Hills Expy., #102
St. Charles, MO 63301

Applications MUST be postmarked no later than April 15, 2016.

Beat the deadline! Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION

Please complete this application in its entirety (7 pages total) – General Information (2 pages) and Scholarship Questions (5 pages). Areas that require supporting documents are called out with an arrow: ➡. Please attach supporting documents to this application. If you require more space to answer a question, please answer on a separate sheet and attach to this application.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation with any questions:
314.485.2937 or info@avasgrace.org

2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Other last name(s) by which you have been known: _____

Permanent Street: _____

Permanent City: _____

Permanent State: _____ Permanent Zip Code: _____

Are you a resident of the State of Missouri, Kansas, or Illinois **(required)**? Yes No

Email address: _____

Telephone number (primary number to reach you, **required**): _____

Mobile number (optional): _____ Date of birth (MM/DD/YY): _____

Last four digits of your social security number: _____

High school name: _____

High school or GED equivalent graduation or expected graduation date (month/year): _____

Please list any preparatory programs or AP classes you have participated in (if applicable): _____

What is your current high school cumulative GPA (4.0 scale)? _____

If you are a non-traditional student and do not have a high school GPA to report, please provide a brief explanation of your situation: _____

If applicable, what is your current college/postsecondary GPA (4.0 scale)? _____

▶ Attach your most current transcript (high school, college, or postsecondary).

List the college/postsecondary school you plan to attend for the term for which you are requesting funding:

If different from the school listed above, list the college/postsecondary school you are currently attending:

2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Expected college, technical school, or trade school graduation date (month/year): _____

What term are you requesting funding? (Fall 2016 is the current cycle we are funding):

What is your desired academic major (you can say "undecided"): _____

Are you currently enrolled in the institution/program for which you are requesting funding?

Yes No

Please indicate in which of the following categories you would place yourself. Select one:

(Required if you qualify for Summit's Peak, the Ava's Grace Scholarship for African American males. Otherwise optional.)

American Indian or Alaska Native

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Asian

White or Caucasian

Black or African American

Other _____

Hispanic or Latino

Prefer not to answer

APPLICANT SIGNATURE:

By entering my full name and signature below, I certify that all answers are accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge. I hereby authorize representatives of Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation to examine and verify my academic records, and to share pertinent data with representatives of the programs to which I apply.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS

Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes No

If you are NOT a U.S. Citizen and hold an Alien Registration Card, please enter the number:

ACT Score (cumulative): _____ SAT Score (cumulative): _____

Applicant's Current Employer (if applicable): _____

Applicant's Current Occupation or Title: _____

Applicant's Current Employer Telephone Number: _____

List all positions held within the last five years. If you have not been employed in the previous five years, list the last position held:

1) Position: _____ Dates Held: _____

2) Position: _____ Dates Held: _____

3) Position: _____ Dates Held: _____

4) Position: _____ Dates Held: _____

5) Position: _____ Dates Held: _____

Spouse/Partner Full Name (use N/A if you are not married): _____

Spouse/Partner Full Address (if different from applicant):

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Spouse/Partner Home Telephone Number (if different than applicant): _____

Spouse/Partner Mobile Number: _____

Spouse/Partner Employer: _____

Spouse/Partner Occupation: _____

If applicable, please list the names and ages of your children:

1) Name: _____ Age: _____

2) Name: _____ Age: _____

3) Name: _____ Age: _____

4) Name: _____ Age: _____

5) Name: _____ Age: _____

SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

Does your family have special circumstances that should be considered as part of your application for financial assistance with educational expenses? Please describe: _____

Do you have an incarcerated parent or have you been previously impacted by parental incarceration **(required)**? Yes No

If you answered "Yes" to the above question, please explain during what time in your life and include any details you would like to share: _____

What is the current marital status of your parents? Married Divorced Single

- ▶ If applicant's parents are divorced, attach a copy of the portion of the divorce decree relating to child support and payment for college.

Parent (or legal guardian) 1

Full Name: _____

Parent 1 Full Address – Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Parent 1 Home Telephone Number: _____

Parent 1 Mobile Number: _____

Parent 1 Current Employer: _____

Parent 1 Occupation or Title: _____

Parent (or legal guardian) 2

Full Name: _____

Parent 1 Full Address – Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Parent 2 Home Telephone Number: _____

Parent 2 Mobile Number: _____

Parent 2 Current Employer: _____

Parent 2 Occupation or Title: _____

2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

List the names of any siblings, their age, and what school they are attending (if any):

1) Name: _____ Age: _____

School: _____

2) Name: _____ Age: _____

School: _____

3) Name: _____ Age: _____

School: _____

4) Name: _____ Age: _____

School: _____

Are you the first person in your family to attend college or a postsecondary institution? Yes No

Who has supported your ambition to work toward completion of your college/postsecondary education program? Please describe how this individual supported you. _____

List any other postsecondary institutions attended: _____

▶ **TRANSCRIPT:** If you are currently attending a postsecondary institution, please provide either a statement of account from the university billing office or an OFFICIAL transcript to indicate that you are financially in good standing with the college or university you are currently attending.

▶ **TRANSCRIPT:** If you are in college and have completed less than 24 credits, attach your high school transcript in addition to the transcript you provided in the general application.

List academic honors or awards you have received: _____

List volunteer activities in which you have participated: _____

List any financial awards you have been notified about. These may include veteran's benefits, tuition waivers, employee reimbursement, as well as other institutional/grant aid. _____

SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

List debt owed by applicant and/or spouse/partner: _____

Have you (applicant) ever declared bankruptcy? Yes No

Have you (applicant) ever defaulted on a loan made to you for educational purposes? Yes No

If you answered "yes" to either of the previous two questions, please write a statement explaining the circumstances: _____

List two local persons who are not members of your own household who will always have direct knowledge of your whereabouts:

1) Name: _____ Phone: _____

2) Name: _____ Phone: _____

How did you learn about Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation? _____

➤ **ESSAY #1:** Please explain your interest in higher education and where you think it may take you. What have you done to prepare yourself to pursue higher education? (Please attach additional sheet with answer.)

➤ **ESSAY #2:** Describe a challenge you have faced and how you dealt with it. Explain how having dealt with that challenge has shaped you and if it has influenced your education and career path. (Please attach additional sheet with answer.)

➤ Attach your Student Aid Report (SAR).

➤ Attach applicant's 2015 (if not filed yet, please attach 2014) federal income tax return or applicant's parents' tax return(s) if the applicant is a dependent. Include all forms and schedules. If you are unable to provide either, please make note and provide explanation.

➤ **Attach your financial aid award letter.** If you have not received it yet, please make a statement that you expect to receive it soon or some other status of the award package. Please do not leave this blank. If you do not have your letter, please send it in as soon as you receive it. _____

Are you pursuing your first technical, first Associate's, or first Bachelor's degree? Yes No

Is there anything else you would like us to know? Feel free to attach an additional piece of paper.

SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS OPTIONAL AND FOR DEMOGRAPHIC PURPOSES ONLY:

Marital status: Single Married

Gender: Male Female Other gender identity _____ Prefer not to answer

Please indicate in which of the following categories you would place yourself. Select one:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="radio"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian | <input type="radio"/> White or Caucasian |
| <input type="radio"/> Black or African American | <input type="radio"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Hispanic or Latino | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to answer |

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Please provide two letters of recommendations from non-family members. Letters can come from a teacher, counselor, advisor, supervisor, faith leader, coach, mentor or other similarly qualified individual.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE:

By entering my full name and signature below, I authorize Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation and its agents to examine, verify and discuss my academic and/or financial records and other information which applies to the consideration of this application. I certify that all answers are accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge, and that all information in the application and essays are my own work. I understand that the decisions made regarding my participation in this program are made by Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation in reliance upon the truth and correctness of my statements.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____