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2010 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

FOUR - \$500
SCHOLARSHIPS

February, 2010 Deadline

Scholarship Program Application Packet

Thank you for your interest in the **Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union Scholarship Program**. This year we are offering **four \$500.00 scholarships**. Applicants must be a Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union member or the children, grandchildren or dependent of a Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union member.

Applicants must be planning to attend a university, college, community or technical college, or other educational institution in the fall of 2010.

Enclosed you will find an application packet for the Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union scholarship. To apply, you need to read the information about the program, complete the one-page application form, write a 500-word essay on the topic, **“Credit unions were established in the U.S. 100 years ago, yet many Americans know nothing about them. As the manager of a credit union, what strategies would you employ to give credit unions a higher profile and help them grow?”**, sign your name where indicated, and return the form and essay. Your application must be received by February 1, 2010.

We will notify the scholarship recipient and invite him/her and his/her family to receive the award at the 2010 Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union Annual Meeting in April 2010.

Please take the time to read over the enclosed guidelines before starting the application form and essay. Because the Selection Committee will have many applications to review, applications not following the guidelines will not be considered.

The essay portion of the application packet is crucial, as it will make up 75% of the selection process. You are encouraged to interview staff members and volunteers at Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union to gather whatever information you feel is necessary to write your essay. Please note we do not want long essays but a concise, one-page essay summing up your interpretation of the topic.

The Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union Scholarship Program was created to recognize and assist members of our credit union. We are pleased to be able to help students in this way. Good luck on your scholarship entry and in achieving your goals in the future.

If you need another copy of this application packet for any reason, please contact Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union at 387-3055.

Application Checklist

Complete and return the following items by February 1, 2010 in order to be considered:

1. *Essay* – a 500-word essay on the topic: **“Credit unions were established in the U.S. 100 years ago, yet many Americans know nothing about them. As the manager of a credit union, what strategies would you employ to give credit unions a higher profile and help them grow?”** The 500-word length is a guideline, not an exact count. However, the essay should not exceed one side of one 8 1/2” x 11” piece of paper. Essays considerably longer than 500 words will not be considered. Essays should be typed or computer word-processed to allow

for clarity and readership. Handwritten essays will not be considered. Essays will count for 75% of the evaluation.

2. Application form – Complete the one page application form. You can reproduce this form by computer if you wish. Complete all areas of the form and return it along with your essay. Be sure to sign where indicated. The application form will count for 25% of the evaluation.

Eligibility

To be eligible you must be a student pursuing post-high school education in the fall of 2010, and be a member of Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union or the child, grandchild or dependent of a Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union member. The school you are planning to attend can be public or private. Scholarship recipients who do not return to school for the 2011 spring semester will not be eligible for the scholarship money. Financial need is not considered in the selection of the scholarship money.

Selection

A Selection Committee made up of staff members and volunteers from the Credit Union will select the scholarship recipients. The decision of the Selection Committee is final and not subject to review. The recipient will receive the scholarship after he/she has completed the first semester of the 2010/2011 school year. Scholarship money will be provided directly to the recipient in the form of a check made out to both him/her and the school.

Application Forms

Essays and application forms must be typed or computer word-processed. Handwritten forms and essays are not permissible because of concerns over legibility and misinterpretation. Application materials will not be returned and become the property of Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union.

Deadline

Your completed and signed application form and essay need to be received no later than **February 1, 2010** and mailed to:

Scholarship Program
Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union
PO Box 4399
Mankato MN 56002-4399

Applications received after February 1, 2010 will not be considered.

Scholarship Recipient Agreement

By signing the application form all applicants agree that, if selected, permission is granted for recipient's name and words to be used in various publications. Other applicants not selected may be contacted in the future for legal permission to use quotes from their essays in various publications.

Questions

Contact your Credit Union with questions at (507) 387-3055.

