

The Michael Schwartz Scholarship Fund at Making Headway Foundation

The Making Headway college scholarship program is named in honor of pediatric brain tumor survivor Michael Schwartz. At the age of 2 ½, and again at age 4, Michael received chemotherapy, radiation and a bone marrow transplant to successfully fight the tumor, but he faced a number of challenges as a result of the treatments. Michael would attend Steven Gaynor, a school for special educational needs, from 4th grade to 8th grade. He also received important educational support from the programs offered by Making Headway. With these supports, and with a lot of hard work and dedication, Michael flourished and achieved academic success. He is now a Media Supervisor at Heartbeat, an advertising agency servicing the healthcare sector. The Schwartz family decided that all funds raised by the family would be dedicated to college scholarships for brain tumor survivors.

Eligibility for Application:

1. Be a brain or spinal cord tumor survivor living in NY, NJ, or CT metropolitan area.
2. Attending or admitted to a 4- or 2-year college or vocational program.
3. Be a US citizen and/or a legal and permanent resident of the US.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Financial hardship will be taken into consideration as a part of the selection process, but will not be the sole criteria. Demonstration of need can be accomplished by providing a copy of your Financial Aid Application (FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid), other Financial Aid Application or tax return. (See <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> for more information.)
2. Academic Merit based on test scores, awards and other demonstrations of academic performance.
3. The candidate's ability and desire to overcome the challenges presented with a brain or spinal cord tumor diagnosis.
4. The personal statement by the student applicant will be evaluated as part of the application.
5. Letters of recommendation complete the application and are considered in the context of the entire application.
6. Copy of your most recent, full-year report card or transcript.
7. Documentation from the school confirming the total cost of the school year.
8. Priority will be given to those students who have not received scholarships in the past.