Friends-In-Deed Scholarship

The Caring Friends Inc. Scholarship supports hands-on compassionate service from one neighbor to another regardless of race, gender, and religion or humanitarian tradition. A successful applicant will write a two-page essay that explains how his/her philosophical understandings, faith tradition, or spiritual tradition provides the framework for their humanitarian service.

The Center for Civic Leadership will select the eight strongest applicants and send their essays to the Caring Friends Board for their selection of the winning application. Caring Friends will make the final selection without regard to race, religion, philosophical tradition, or gender.

Essay

Objective:

- The objective of this essay is to explain how your personal philosophy, faith, or spiritual tradition influences your engagement in humanitarian service.

Instructions:

- For context, read the short parable titled “The Good Samaritan”
- Write an essay of no more than two pages (double spaced) that explains how your philosophical understandings, faith, or spiritual tradition provides the framework for your humanitarian service.

Essay Context:

As a faith based non-profit that derives its ethos from the life and teachings of Jesus, why/how would that translate into a competitive essay award where the winner is determined regardless of race, gender, religion, or philosophy beliefs?

One answer is given in the parable that Jesus told in answering the question, "who is my neighbor?"

In the parable a man is beaten, left for half dead on the side of the road, and three travelers walk by. Two men passed by without stopping, though they were from the same country and the same sacred traditions. A man from the unfriendly territory of Samaria came by who did not live or worship in the same places and whose profile was therefore suspicious if not hostile. The Samaritan stopped, bandaged the wounded man, took him to an inn and committed to pay for future expenses.

"Who was the real neighbor?" Jesus asked. "The one who was kind to him" they answered. (Luke 10:25-26)
Application Requirements:

- Students must have at least one year of education remaining and must be continuing their studies throughout the 2017-2018 academic year at Rice University.
- This award is open to continuing graduates and undergraduate students.
- The recipient must have maintained a 3.0 GPA

The Caring Friends Indeed scholarship is about affirming hands on compassionate service to neighbors regardless of race, gender, religion or humanitarian tradition.