

FSS

JOURNAL

Winter 2019

JEAN MCKEE RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 20

APPLY TO WIN A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OF UP TO \$2,000!

Established in 2000 in memory of longtime Housing Commissioner Jean McKee, the Resident Scholarship Program offers college scholarships to GRHC residents. Scholarship winners receive \$500 per year for up to four years, for a total scholarship award of up to \$2,000. **FSS Program participants have a preference for this scholarship!**

Eligibility requirements:

- **Must have been a resident of a GRHC housing program for the past year.**
- **Applicant must be sponsored by a GRHC employee who will confirm that the applicant's household is in good standing with the GRHC.**
- **Open to graduating high school seniors, current college or vocational school students, and adult residents seeking to begin or return to school.**
- **Applicants who are graduating high school seniors and those currently attending college must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 (C+ letter grade).**

For an application form and complete information:
<http://www.grhousing.org>



GRAND RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION
Family Self-Sufficiency Program
1420 Fuller Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616/235-2600



Free Medical Career Training & Job Resources!

FREE WMCAT Training Program

The West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology (WMCAT) is offering a free training program that can help you launch a new career in Medical Billing, Medical Coding or Pharmacy Tech. Enrollment for the training program runs through May 24, and an informational session that explains the program is offered each Monday at 9 a.m. at WMCAT, 614 First Street NW, Suite 300.

Eligibility requirements: Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, must receive public assistance, must live in Kent County and must have no felony record. For additional details: (616) 454-7400. To reserve your seat at a one-hour informational program: <https://work.wmcat.org/enrollment>.

HIRING NOW: Gill Staffing

- To explore career opportunities:
- Search available jobs or fill out an application at <http://www.gillstaffing.com/available-jobs/manufacturing-industrial/#grand-rapids>.
 - Meet with a Gill Staffing representative to discuss your skills and needs.

HIRING NOW: Speedway Stores

Speedway is currently hiring full-time Assistant Managers, and full- and part-time Customer Service Representatives. Apply online at <https://www.speedway.com/careers> or text APPLY to 80565.

West Michigan Works Resources

West Michigan Works is a helpful resource if you are looking for employment, apprenticeships, training courses, or job fairs that will be available in our area during the coming months. To view a calendar of upcoming events: <http://jobs.westmiworks.org/kent-county-events>.

LINC Up JOBSHOP March 21

LINC Community Revitalization will offer a "Jobshop" employment interviewing and hiring day on Thursday, March 21, 4 - 6 p.m. at LINC Gallery, 341 Hall Street SE. Ten employers representing a variety of fields and industries will interview applicants for full- and part-time jobs.

For more information: (616) 406-8038 or email: Shaquille@lincrev.org.

Kent Co. Tax Credit Coalition

United Way's Kent County Tax Credit Coalition (KCTCC) offers eligible households free assistance with tax preparation and electronic filing. Through an online partnership with H&R Block and 15 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites throughout our community, the Coalition helps working households claim all of the available tax credits.

Since 2002, the KCTCC has helped more than 65,000 taxpayers claim more than \$83.5 million in tax credits.

You may qualify for these free tax services if your household income is \$55,000 or less. KCTCC volunteers can help you complete your income tax return and apply for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, a refundable federal credit. U.S. citizenship is not required, but you must file a tax return to claim your credit.

For more information and to set up your tax preparation appointment, call 2-1-1 or visit the United Way website at <https://www.hwmuw.org/211>.

If you made less than \$66,000 last year, you can file your taxes online for free at MyFreeTaxes.com. For help with MyFreeTaxes, email taxhelp@hwmuw.org.

Next Section 8 Homeownership Program Orientation Is March 19!

The GRHC offers eligible Section 8 program participants the option to use their rental subsidy toward home mortgage payments.

To learn more about the Section 8 Homeownership program, attend a free orientation meeting:

**Tuesday, March 19
2:00 p.m.**

**Wyoming Public Library
3350 Michael Ave. SW, Wyoming**

For more information: (616) 450-4825

Congratulations, FSS Program Graduates!



December 2018 Family Self-Sufficiency Program graduates were honored during a special event in the Sheldon Apartments Community Room.

Congratulations to our December Family Self-Sufficiency Program graduates:

Shanika Clark

Tamina Gartley

Carolyn Perry

Tysheka Coleman

Toneia Kirkland

Monique Vinson

Debra Collier

Tyronica McBride

Thinking Ahead to Spring Cycling

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. (DGRI) reports that biking is one of the city's fastest growing commuting options. DGRI is working with the City of Grand Rapids and other community partners to plan for the development of protected bike lanes, study the feasibility of a bike-share system and undertake other initiatives to advance an evolving transportation strategy that serves people who bike. To learn more about these plans and initiatives: <http://downtowngr.org/get/biking>.

The Rapid Is Bike Friendly!

Did you know that bikes travel free on public transit? Every bus in The Rapid's fleet has a double-loading bike rack. For information: <https://www.ridetherapid.org/howtoride/bicycles-on-the-rapid>.

Local Bike Organizations

The Greater Grand Rapids Bicycle Coalition and several other organizations provide information about bike lanes and trails, bike repair resources, cycling education and many other resources. For links to these organizations: <http://downtowngr.org/get/biking>.

Educational Resources

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES AT ROOSEVELT PARK MINISTRIES

Beginning and intermediate ESL classes are offered. To enroll in a class, please come to Roosevelt Park Ministries and take the placement test; the address is 1530 Grandville Avenue SW in Grand Rapids, and office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. You can also sign up for classes by calling (616) 475-5881.

GRCC TRIO PROGRAM

The Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) TRIO program works with students who are first-generation college students and who meet federal income guidelines. The program supports student success at GRCC and beyond by providing academic advice, tutoring and mentoring, as well as financial guidance and other assistance that promotes educational access and retention.

For more information about the TRIO program: (616) 234-4150; email: trioss@grcc.edu.