

THE ALLEN BENN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION AND SCHOLARSHIP

The San Romanoway Revitalization Association (SRA), located on the North-East quadrant of Jane and Finch, is a not-for-profit social services organization founded on the premise of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Crime Prevention through Social Development (CPTSD).

Our mission is *to create a sense of belonging in the San Romanoway community by assisting families, individuals and groups to support each other by building a safer and healthier environment.*

Our mandate:

- Community development and safety
- Finding proactive solutions to solve the problems of youth violence in the neighbourhood
- To provide cultural/social, recreational, educational and enrichment programs for children, youth and families
- To provide employment training, life skills coaching and other opportunities for marginalized "at risk" youth

Our motto: "Making it Happen Together"

Background of the Association: In 1999, building ownership and management met with law enforcers, residents, local businesses, community organizations, and community leaders to discuss the escalation of crime and vandalism to property in the neighbourhood. Residents had become cynical about the prospects for change; the task of nurturing the positive qualities of the community began with residents identifying social/cultural, educational, employment, recreational and enrichment programs for children, youth and families as a priority. Recognizing the urgent need for leadership and assistance, the San Romanoway Revitalization Association was created.

The Association is committed to help enrich the lives of its community members, and provide a safe and nurturing environment for its youth and children.

History of the Scholarship: On Monday, April, 2, 2007, Allen Benn a bright, young 20-year old member of our Association and our community, was violently slain in a neighbouring community within the Jane/Finch area.

Allen Benn was born September 21, 1986 in Kumasi, Ghana, to parents George Jojo Benn and Grace Benn. In 1994, Allen immigrated to Toronto with his mother and older brother, Oscar, with the hope of acquiring a proper education, and a brighter future. He graduated from St. Charles Garnier School in 2001. Allen followed in his brother's footsteps and attended Westview Secondary School, a school with strong academic and athletic programs.

Unfortunately, when Allen's brother graduated from high school, Allen encountered many challenges and difficulties, which led him to withdraw from school. After a few years, he soon realized the necessity for a better path in life, and was committed to starting school again on April 10, 2007. Unfortunately, Allen was murdered one week prior to starting school, and was never able to realize his dream of a solid education.

Allen was an avid soccer and basketball fan. He was also an active member of SRA's "Youth 'N Charge" youth group, where he assisted with program planning, and in the supervision of a recording studio by youth in the community. He was well liked by his peers, and known as a joker amongst his friends, as he liked to make people laugh.

On behalf of the SRA Board of Directors and the San Romanoway Community, we have created **THE ALLEN BENN SCHOLARSHIP**, in honour of Allen's memory, and his commitment to hard work, persistence, and determination to achieve his goals.

SRA acknowledges the importance of creating opportunities to support young people in the Jane and Finch area. The scholarship is offered to students who are committed to hard work, striving for personal and professional success, and to those who give back to their community. The scholarship aims to assist two (2) community members from the Jane and Finch area who are enrolled or considering enrolment in a college or university. **Each scholarship is valued at \$1,000.**

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CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP

All applicants must:

- Live in the catchment area of San Romanoway Revitalization Association (the area bordered by Steeles Avenue, Sheppard Avenue, Highway #400, and Dufferin Street).

- Applicants must either:
 - Be a full-time student at a publicly funded secondary school in the year of the application, with a minimum of 70% average in first term
or
 - Have successfully completed grade 12 at a publicly funded secondary school in the past 24 months, with a minimum of 70% average in final year
or
 - Currently be a student in an undergraduate university program, or college program, achieving a minimum of 70% average on most recent report card

- Volunteer or work in community service programs, and/or demonstrate caring and concern for their community

- Be in need of financial assistance

- Provide a minimum of two (2) and maximum of four (4) personal references. These references should include principals, teachers, guidance counselors, employers, religious leaders, etc.

- Provide a copy of their most recent school transcript **upon submission of application.**

- Have applied or intend to apply to a university/college program for the upcoming 2009/2010 school year. Please note that monetary awards will not be given until written proof of acceptance has been received.

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APPLICATION FORM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant: _____
Last Name First Name

Address: _____
Street Number Street Name Apt

City Province Postal Code

Telephone: _____
Home Cell

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian (please indicate relationship):

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EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Name of present or most recently attended school:

Grade or program currently in (as of January 2009): _____

Grade Average as of last report card: _____

(Please note that a copy of your most recent transcript must be included with your application)

If not currently attending school, please provide details of current job, etc.

Have you already submitted an application to at least one College or University? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please list the schools that you have applied to:

Please indicate if you have received acceptance to any of the schools listed above: _____

If no, please list the schools that you are planning on applying to, as well as when you will be submitting applications:

What are your educational goals (ie what diploma or degree are you hoping to complete)

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WHY DO YOU THINK YOU ARE A GOOD CANDIDATE

Please provide a detailed explanation of why you think you are a good candidate for this scholarship. Include details of your personality, character traits, strengths and weaknesses, accomplishments, goals and aspirations, past personal history (optional), etc. Please continue writing on separate paper, if needed.

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Please provide a detailed account of your previous and current involvement in your community. Potential information to provide might include volunteering, awards or recognition for community involvement, ways in which you have demonstrated leadership, caring and concern for your community, etc. What are your goals for community involvement in the future? Why is community involvement important to you, etc?

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EDUCATIONAL, CAREER, AND PERSONAL GOALS

Please provide details of any educational, career, and personal goals that you may have.

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

If accepted at the school of your choice, how are you planning on paying your tuition and additional costs, ie books, residence (if applicable), etc? Will you be applying for OSAP? Have you applied for other scholarships? If so, please provide details. *Please note that application for OSAP and/or other scholarships will not negatively affect your chances of being awarded this scholarship.*

AGREEMENT OF APPLICANT

I, _____, certify that the information provided in this application is true, and that I can verify its contents upon request.

Signature of Applicant

Date

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VERIFICATION FORM

Every application for the **Allen Benn Memorial Scholarship** must include verification of the information provided by the applicant. This verification is to be done by the Principal, Vice-Principal, Guidance Counsellor, or Program Coordinator of the applicant's current school, or the human resources department of the current employer.

This form verifies that the applicant:

- Lives in the catchment area of San Romanoway Revitalization Association (the area bordered by Steeles Avenue, Sheppard Avenue, Highway #400, and Dufferin Street)
- Applicants must either:
 - Be a full-time student at a publicly funded secondary school in the year of the application, with a minimum of 70% average in first term
or
 - Have successfully completed grade 12 at a publicly funded secondary school in the past 24 months, with a minimum of 70% average in final year
or
 - Currently be a student in an undergraduate university program, or college program, achieving a minimum of 70% average on most recent report card
- Has applied or intends to apply to a university or college program for the following year
- Has provided accurate information on pages 4 and 5 of this application

Name of Applicant

Date of Birth

Name of School

Name of School Official

Title of School Official

Signature of School Official

Telephone number of School

Date

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INFORMATION FOR REFERENCE PERSONS

Successful applicants for the **Allen Benn Memorial Scholarship** must:

- Live in the San Romanoway Revitalization Association catchment area (Steeles Avenue, Sheppard Avenue, Highway #400, Dufferin Street)
- Volunteer(ed) or work(ed) in community service programs, and/or demonstrate caring and concern for their community
- Applicant must either:
 - Be a full-time student at a publicly funded secondary school in the year of the application, with a minimum of 70% average in first term
or
 - Have successfully completed grade 12 at a publicly funded secondary school in the past 24 months, with a minimum of 70% average in final year
or
 - Currently be a student in an undergraduate university program, or college program, achieving a minimum of 70% average on most recent report card

There will be two (2) \$1,000 scholarships awarded for the 2009/2010 school year.

The **Allen Benn Memorial Scholarship** selection committee will be appointed by the member of the Board of Directors of the San Romanoway Revitalization Association, and will review all completed applications to determine eligibility for awards on the basis of the criteria outlined above and the applicant's references.

Each reference should complete the attached *Reference Form*, and provide it to the applicant in a SEALED envelope to be submitted with their application. The applicant must provide a minimum of two and maximum of four references.

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REFERENCE FORM

Name of Applicant

Date

Name of Reference Person

Relationship to Applicant

Telephone number of Reference Person

Email Address – Reference

I have known the applicant for _____ years.

Please provide detailed information with regards to the applicant's character, accomplishments, community service, etc. Please ensure that the information supports and substantiates the criteria given for application for this scholarship. Please feel free to provide reference on a separate sheet of paper, if preferred. Alternatively, if you require more space, please complete reference on back of page.

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Applicants must send:

- Completed Application Form
- Minimum 2/Maximum 4 References
- Most recent school transcript

To:

**THE ALLEN BENN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
C/O SAN ROMANOWAY REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION
10 SAN ROMANOWAY
GROUND FLOOR, NORTH WING
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M3N 2Y2**

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF
APPLICATIONS IS:**

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2009