

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the NAHMA Educational Foundation?** We are an organization set up to support the educational needs of children and adult residents living in affordable housing by raising funds and awarding scholarships.

**How long has the NAHMA Educational Foundation been in existence?** The Foundation was created in 1994.

**What scholarships have been awarded?** Between 2007 and 2015, the NAHMA Educational Foundation awarded 424 scholarships worth \$731,750, many to students already enrolled in a community college, a four-year college or a trade or technical school. Students can reapply annually so that their educational needs can be supported long term. In June 2015, after receiving a record number of scholarship applications, the NAHMA Educational Foundation announced that eighty-five highly successful student residents were selected from a rigorous field of worthy applicants. This is the largest number of scholarship recipients ever selected in a single year. Each of the 85 scholars received a \$2,500 award for a total of \$212,500 awarded for the 2015/2016 school year. The monetary total is also a single year record for the NAHMA Educational Foundation.

**How do we help Property Managers/Owners?** By enhancing the lives of their residents, and supporting their personal educational goals. The scholarships magnify the great work that folks at the on-site property level are already doing, which may include Head Start programs, computer labs, and health-awareness programs. We add a new level of educational benefits that can be awarded in addition to any other scholarships residents may be awarded, and the opportunity is seen as a benefit of living in a particular community.

**How can AHMA's get involved?** The structure for the NAHMA Educational Foundation is already set up, with volunteers in place to assist in fundraising and to award scholarships. We encourage each regional AHMA to utilize the structure already in place, raise funds for education in their regions, and use the NAHMA mechanism and volunteers to have scholarships awarded in their region without the burden of setting up their own infrastructure for local scholarships.

#### **Recent recipient's comments:**

*I am a single mother of two residing in Camden, NJ. I obtained my Bachelor's in Social Work with a minor in Psychology in May of 2014. The financial assistance from the NAHMA Foundation assisted me in covering some of my graduate school expenses at Rutgers University. This assistance allowed me to finish my Master's of Social Work in a year, while working full time at the Center for Family Services in Camden, NJ.*

Margaret Brown, Rutgers University Graduate  
JAHMA

*I was a working single mother and a full time college student navigating the responsibilities of motherhood and requirements of The College of Education, all while carrying the burden of paying for it. Today, I am a professional educator. As I look back at my journey and how I got here, receiving the NAHMA Educational Foundation scholarship was certainly a huge blessing in my life.*

Amanda Czap, University of Wisconsin Graduate  
MAHMA

*I am a recent graduate of Western Carolina University. I graduated as valedictorian receiving two degrees in two and a half years; the first in Finance and the second in Business Administration and Law. I am currently transitioning to the Charlotte, NC area where I am prospecting career opportunities in my fields of study. My lifelong dream is to fund the education of 52 students each year.*

Julian Jones, Western Carolina University Graduate  
SAHMA

*I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back. Maya Angelou*