

**DR. THOMAS SPRAY SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES 2024-2025 Sponsored by The Victoria Ciara Foundation**

High school seniors who reside in New Jersey are eligible. Students must have been diagnosed with a congenital heart defect. There is no GPA or attendance requirement. The scholarship may be used for tuition or other education related expenses. Funds may be used for college credit, vocational/technical training, or the acquisition of certification in a certain trade, skill, or specialty. **The scholarship will be in the amount of $1,000.**

The scholarship is sponsored by the Victoria Ciara Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works to enhance the lives of those impacted by congenital heart disease. Victoria Hegeman was diagnosed with congenital heart disease at birth and has undergone four open heart surgeries. Three of them took place before she turned 10. Attendance at school was a challenge at times while she had to work harder to catch up to achieve good grades. The scholarship was created to assist other students like her, who face these challenges and are dedicated to achieving their goals after high school.

Students who are interested in applying will need to submit:

1. Verification of congenital heart disease diagnosis (letter from cardiologist or recent medical documentation that confirms diagnosis).
2. A 300-word essay on your vision for your life after high school. You may include details of your experience with congenital heart disease if you wish to do so. Please use single spacing and Times New Roman/12 font.
3. Letter of recommendation from a non-relative influence (teacher, youth leader, guidance counselor, scout master, mentor, etc).
4. Completed Applicant Information Form (downloaded at www.victoriaciarafound.org).

Recipient Information:

1. The scholarship must be used by June 1, 2026.
2. Recipient must complete an Institutional Information form that shares deadlines and mailing information for any payments that are related to institutional costs (housing, tuition, books, etc). This form will be provided to the student when the scholarship is awarded.
3. The recipient will be announced on a date and location selected by the Victoria Ciara Foundation.
4. Information about the scholarship and recipient will be included in VCF outreach materials (print and digital), including a media alert. The recipient will receive additional details about the announcement plan and expectations as well as a Media Release Form.

**Deadline for submission is May 1, 2025.** All mailed applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2025. Applications can be emailed to: [director@victoriaciarafound.org](mailto:director@victoriaciarafound.org) or mailed to the foundation at:

**Victoria Ciara Foundation**

**P O Box 137**

**Alloway, NJ 08001**

Questions about the scholarship may be directed to Arianne Hegeman, Executive Director of VCF at [director@victoriaciarafound.org](mailto:director@victoriaciarafound.org). To learn more about VCF, visit [www.victoriaciarafound.org](http://www.victoriaciarafound.org).