

NICK'S WAVES OF CHANGE, INC.

A SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF NICHOLAS R. BOILEAU

\$1,000 WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



Requirements to apply:

- Graduating High School Senior; and
- GPA of 3.0 or better; and
- Resident of Western Massachusetts and attending a high school in Western Massachusetts (Western Massachusetts includes the counties of Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin & Berkshire counties)

Please note that Belchertown High School students have a separate application and scholarship and are not eligible for this scholarship. Please see your guidance office for an application or contact us at info@nickswavesofchange.org for the appropriate application for the Belchertown High School Scholarship.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of High School _____

Expected graduation date (MM/YYYY): _____

High School GPA _____ (Please include a transcript as part of your application)

Plans for Fall 2026? _____

(Name of: College, University, Academy, Trade School, etc)

Major/Field of Study: _____

APPLICANT ACTIVITIES

List any high school activities you are/were involved in (Use a separate sheet, if necessary): _____

List your hobbies, outside interests, and/or extracurricular activities (Use a separate sheet, if necessary): _____

List any volunteer activities: _____

WRITING PROMPT

This scholarship is being made in memory of Nicholas Boileau, a former graduate of Belchertown High School Class of 2011, who passed away in 2021 from acute myeloid leukemia. Nick shared his thoughts on his diagnosis in a blog post he wrote called "The Battle" (see attached). On a separate sheet of paper, please provide a typed essay answering the following question:

After reading the blog post entitled "The Battle", how do you see yourself making waves that will create change?

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Please obtain and attach a brief recommendation letter from a teacher/faculty member attesting to your character.

CONSENT

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me to Nick's Waves of Change, Inc. is true, correct and without forgery. I also consent that my picture may be taken and used for any purpose deemed necessary to promote Nick's Waves of Change, Inc.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, I must provide evidence of enrollment/registration at the post-secondary institution of my choice before scholarship funds can be awarded.

Signature of scholarship applicant: _____

Date: _____

Your submission must include:

- Completed and signed Scholarship Application
- Essay answering writing prompt
- Teacher/Faculty Recommendation Letter re: Character of Applicant
- Transcript

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: APRIL 17, 2026

Return your completed application via email to info@nickswavesofchange.org by the above deadline.

Sorry, no late entries will be accepted.

The Battle

[May 18, 2021](#)

We often hear the phrase, “battle with cancer.” A person has either begun their battle, has won their battle, or has sadly lost their battle.

But what is this battle? Whether our campaign is long or short aren't we fighting the same war against death? Whether it's with cancer or chronic illness, done at age 30 or 90, we understandably strive to delay our passing for as long as possible. To spend more time with our loved ones. To accomplish our goals in life while we are physically on this earth. This struggle to survive can only last so long, however. So, are we really expected to win a “battle” that cannot be won?

I believe that there is a different fight that we can choose to ensue, one that goes beyond our physical presence on Earth long after we've moved on. This fight is to create change within the world, and this is a battle that can be won. If you've changed somebody's life – helped them, gave them a happy memory, or done a good deed, does that change end just because you've passed? No – it lives on through others. And if the changes that we make during our time on Earth live on, then we can win the war.

These changes do not need to be grand or earth-shattering. We tend to think about the famous people who have shaped our history within the past thousand years, while forgetting about the billions of years that came prior. Each of these years consisted of small changes that would build and build into the world we know today. A curious child would explore our world and ignite the curiosity of other children, who would learn from one another until our knowledge of the Earth became so advanced that we put a man on the moon. A helping hand would influence other helping hands, which would develop into life changing feats during humanity's darkest times.

At the time of our passing, we may not fully see the extent of how the changes we make will impact the course of the universe, but we can look at the embers and envision how our choices will impact those around us. As for me, I worked in a career that helped people with severe neurological conditions. While publishing multiple papers that could eventually lead to better quality care, I also talked to and brought joy to patients during dark times in their lives. I've published research on recycling, which may impact policies that help produce a healthier planet. I have tutored children with special needs and gave them encouragement when needed, which gave them hope that they could achieve what others told them was impossible. I've given to charities, helped out with fundraisers, and volunteered my time all in order to help others. I have made incredible friendships full of laughter and memories. All of these actions may amount to small waves in the grand scheme of things, but these small waves may be overtaken by bigger ones that over time cause a tsunami. I look at my life and see that I made many changes to the world that, despite their seemingly small size, may ripple into something amazing.

So, when I pass, please do not say that I “lost my battle.” I may not have lived a long life, but my life was a good one where I impacted the world around me to the best of my ability. And for that, I claim victory.

~Nicholas R. Boileau~