

AWESOME AWGO TIPS



Association of Wish Granting Organizations (AWGO)
Kathleen B. Breaux, AWGO Vice President
Board Member of A Child's Wish of Greater New Orleans

February 2009

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

With college costs skyrocketing, wouldn't it be an amazing gift to be able to alert our wish families about scholarships for cancer survivors and their siblings? As you know, unlike student loans, scholarships do not have to be repaid! I've listed a few to get your families started on their journey to finding free money for school.

After researching for the scholarships listed below, I was getting very frustrated with the lack of financial resources available for cancer survivors when I stumbled upon a web site that is too good to be true!! It's called "CCCPedia" and it contains information on more than 3,000 college scholarships totaling more than \$5.8 MILLION in financial aid for young adult cancer survivors!!!! I wish I had discovered this site at the beginning of my journey, but better late than never ☺ Go to www.cccscholarships.org/scholarship_cccpedia.html and fill in the required information. Fasten your seatbelts and aim for the stars...

Kathleen B. Breaux
A.W.G.O. Vice President

Don't forget to register for the
AWGO conference June 18-19!!!
Check out pages 5-7 for details...



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[Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the U.S.](http://www.pbtfus.org) will provide up to \$5,000 over a two-year period, with an opportunity to reapply after two years for students who have been diagnosed with a childhood brain and/or spinal cord tumor. For more information, check out their website at www.pbtfus.org and click on "Survivors" and then click on "Scholarship Programs" or call them at 1-800-253-6530, or send an email to familysupport@pbtfus.org. **Application deadline is March 2, 2009.**

It's not enough to have lived. We should be determined to live FOR something. May I suggest that it be creating joy for others, sharing what we have for the betterment of person kind, bringing hope to the lost and love to the lonely.

Leo Buscaglia

[Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation](http://www.andreriveroflife.org) offers an essay contest offering a \$5,000 prize. **Even though their deadline has passed, check back with them in May, 2009 for their next deadline in August 2009.** Their web site is www.andreriveroflife.org.

(Scholarships for Cancer Survivors--continued from p. 1)

SuperSibs! Scholarships help children redefine the “cancer sibling” experience by providing needed support. Applicant must be a sibling of a child with cancer, live in the U.S., be a graduating high school senior and be attending an accredited educational institution in the upcoming semester. Two \$5,000 scholarships are available for graduating high school seniors. For more info, please visit their website at www.supersibs.org and click on the “Programs & Services” link at the top of the page, then click “SuperSibs! Scholarship Program” on the right side of the page. **The 2009 Scholarship Application deadline is closed, however, check back in November 2009 for next year’s scholarship program.**

Ronald McDonald House Charities Scholarship Program awards four separate scholarships to students from disadvantaged communities. The awards are given to the following students: 1) all students 2) Asian-Pacific students 3) African-American students and 4) Hispanic students. You may check out their website at www.rmhc.org/mission/scholarships/index.html or call their global office at 1-630-623-7048 for more information.

National Children’s Cancer Society offers college and vocational scholarships to childhood cancer survivors. Through the Beyond the Cure program, N.C.C.S. will award stipends of up to \$5,000 per academic year to survivors who have illustrated the ability to overcome difficult challenges of childhood cancer with determination and motivation. For more info and a copy of the scholarship application, visit <http://www.nationalchildrenscancersociety.org> or you may call Pam Gavris at 314-446-5215.

SAMFund (Surviving & Moving Forward) foundation assists cancer survivors between the ages of 17 and 35 living in the U.S. with their transition into a successful post-treatment life. The foundation distributes grants and scholarships in an effort to enable survivors to pursue their educational or professional goals. Their financial awards are not specified. Please visit their website at www.thesamfund.org and click on the link “The Grants and Scholarships” on the left side of the top of the page. This link will allow you to register in the SAMFund database and receive updates about the program. **They are not accepting applications at this time, but their next application cycle will begin in early June 2009.**



When you come to the edge of all the light you know, and are about to step off into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing one of two things will happen: There will be something solid to stand on or you will be taught how to fly.
Barbara J. Winter

Beyond the Cure Scholarship Program provided 10 college and vocational scholarships, up to \$5,000 each, for the 2008-2009 school year. The 2009-2010 scholarship program is currently under review and the **application will be available** on their web site **at the end of February, 2009.** Check it out on their web site at www.beyondthecure.org.

National Collegiate Cancer Foundation (NCCF) \$1,000 Scholarships are awarded to cancer survivors between the ages of 18-35 who are seeking or receiving higher education and who submit the winning essays and display a “will win” attitude and overall story of cancer survivorship. Check their web site in mid summer to find out details about their proposed August 30, 2009 deadline for the 2009-2010 school year. Their web site is www.collegiatecancer.org.

Cancer for College awards scholarships to current and former cancer patients who are currently attending either a four year accredited university, junior college and/or grad school. The scholarships range from one time \$250 and \$1,500 awards to \$4,000 for four years. For more info, either call them at 760-599-5096 or visit their website at www.cancerforcollege.org .

Carolyn’s Compassionate Children is a nationwide support organization that will be giving out 25 college scholarships from \$1,000-\$2,000 for children with life changing illnesses and other challenges. **The deadline for applying is June 1, 2009.** For more info, you may call 866-540-1392 and ask for Carolyn Rubenstein or you can send an email to Carolyn@cccscholarships.com.

**Are you biting off more than you can chew?
Attend the AWGO conference and discover
helpful hints that will enhance the
effectiveness of your organization!**



A new feature that we will include in our newsletters is highlighting one organization in each issue. It’s important that we become familiar with all of our member organizations and this is a wonderful way in which to accomplish that goal. Our first organization that will be highlighted is **The Rainbow Society of Alberta**. Roxanne Rosenberg, one of our Board Members, has prepared the following information about her organization. Thanks Roxanne!

The Rainbow Society of Alberta

The Rainbow Society was originally founded in Winnipeg in 1983, and was the first wish granting organization of its kind in Canada. In December of 1985, our founders approached the Winnipeg foundation with the intention of establishing an Alberta Chapter. In early 1986, the Winnipeg foundation was contacted by members of the Edmonton Activettes, the ladies affiliate of the Active 20-30 Club, a service organization working with those less fortunate, specifically mentally and physically handicapped children. The Activettes had an excess of funds they had raised through various fund raising activities and were looking for a new project to fund. Their call to the Winnipeg office was to offer financial support should an Alberta chapter of the Society be formed. Little did they know at the time that steps were already underway to form an organization in Alberta. Fate brought everyone together and, in June of 1986, the dream became a reality and the “**Rainbow Society For the Welfare of Sick Children of Alberta**” was formed. Initially, we operated under the Winnipeg umbrella, sharing their tax number and a joint audit.

In January of 1988, we received our own charity status and began operating separate and apart from the Winnipeg organization.

In June of 1992, our name was legally changed to *The Rainbow Society of Alberta* and we haven't looked back since. We are completely autonomous, serving the children of the province of Alberta, with a mandate “To provide wishes to Alberta children, between the ages of three (3) and 18 years, who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening or chronic illness.” For our purposes, we have further defined chronic to mean a medical condition which severely impacts and restricts the child's activities of daily living. The impact and restrictions may result from a variety of factors including, but not limited to, recurrent hospital stays, use of oxygen and/or ventilator machines, the need to use a wheelchair for mobility, high doses of medications or the need for a considerable degree of medical intervention. Any child who has been in remission or off treatment for a period exceeding two years will not qualify for our program.

Our original staff consisted of an Executive Director who worked part-time. Over the years, we've seen growth throughout the province and our staff now sits at 7 full time people, with our Head Office located in Edmonton and regional offices in the southern and northern regions. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who provide us with invaluable support and guidance, and of course, our network of volunteers throughout the province enable us to keep moving forward successfully.

Since our inception, we have approved more than 800 wishes for some very special children. We believe that the dreams are as unique as the children who have dreamt them, and the wishes have ranged from such things as meeting a favoured athlete or entertainment celebrity, back yard play centres, cruises, computers, puppies, hot tubs,

shopping sprees, family reunions, musical instruments, a full-sized, custom-made suit of armour and a fully fenced basketball court. Of course, the most requested wish is, and always has been, for a family trip to Disneyland or Disney World.

One of our most exciting wishes was realized in June of 2008 when we were able to send a young boy to Ottawa to meet with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Niklas had a full day on Capital Hill, with a private tour of the House of Commons, and a chance to watch the House in session, culminating with a private meeting with the Prime Minister. Niklas was also treated to a specially prepared luncheon, with all his favourite foods, in the Parliamentary Restaurant. The next day, Niklas was picked up from his hotel by an RCMP squad car and treated to a full day at the RCMP headquarters. He was able to tour the DNA lab, watch the bomb squad in action, ride in the RCMP helicopter and tank and had a private showing of the world famous RCMP Musical Ride. It was a two-day adventure that Niklas won't ever forget.

We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who provide us with invaluable support and guidance, and of course, our network of volunteers throughout the province enable us to keep moving forward successfully.



***The 18th Annual Conference of
The Association of Wish Granting Organizations, Inc.***

**June 18th and June 19th, 2009
Nashville, TN**

[Hotel Accommodations](#)

at the

**[GuestHouse International Inn & Suites](#)
[2420 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, TN](#)
[Call \(615\) 885-4030 for reservations](#)**

- Located just minutes from Downtown – be sure to see the sights, get that country feeling! Plenty to do for everyone.
- Special rates for **Standard Rooms \$104.25 including tax** > 2 queen beds or 1 king bed (1-4 guests) **or King Suite \$151.17 including tax** > 2 separate rooms – 1 room king bed with TV plus sitting room with sleeper couch, refrigerator and microwave.
- Other special complimentary included amenities offered from the hotel: Airport Shuttle; Gaylord Opryland Hotel Shuttle; Parking; Expanded Continental Breakfast served daily; high speed internet access; All guestrooms include: coffeemaker, hairdryer, iron & ironing board; Several great restaurants within walking distance; Indoor Pool with outside Jacuzzi; Fitness Center
- 25 Standard Rooms and a limited number of King Suites reserved at this special rate - Call and reserve your rooms today!

JOIN US *either Thursday or Friday (to be determined) night as we get together, go out to dinner and do some excellent networking! More info to follow!*

DON'T MISS OUT!! Complete the enclosed conference registration form and mail with your check today!



Providing the Highest of Standards in Wish Granting Throughout the World

The Association of Wish Granting Organizations, Inc.

18th Annual Conference – June 18th & 19th, 2009 – Nashville, TN

Registration Form

The 2009 AWGO Conference will be held at the beautiful **GuestHouse International Inn & Suites, Nashville, TN**. To make your reservation call: **1-615-885-4030**. Be sure to mention that you are registering for the **“AWGO – The Association of Wish Granting Organizations Conference”**.

Our **special room rates** are **Standard Room \$104.25 (tax included)** **or King Suite \$151.17 (tax included)** **don't forget breakfast is included**. There are only 25 Standard Rooms and only a few King Suites are held at the **“AWGO”** conference special rate so book early! This special rate is only available until **May 25th, 2009**. **We look forward to seeing you! The hotel is extending the**

AWGO rate 3 days before the conference and 3 days after so bring your family and enjoy Nashville.

Please return this form to Rosemary Bowers at ***A Wish Come True, Inc.*** along with your check made out to AWGO. For more information you may email: Rosemary@awishcometrue.org. We need to get a general consensus of attendees to insure adequate meeting space.

Registration fee for AWGO members is \$125.00 for first person with a fee of \$49 per additional attendees and non-members \$150.00 for first person with a fee of \$49.00 per additional attendees. This price includes lunch Thursday and Friday.

Checks made payable to "AWGO" and mail with this form by May 20th, 2009 to:
Rosemary Bowers, A Wish Come True, Inc., 161 Furey Ave., Tiverton, RI 02878
(A portion of the registration fee may be used to support the operational costs of AWGO)

NAME: _____
ORGANIZATION: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
FAX: _____
EMAIL: _____

Names and Titles of Attendees:

Name: _____ Title: _____
Name: _____ Title: _____
Name: _____ Title: _____
Name: _____ Title: _____

* *There is a special "**Scholarship Fund**" set up for organizations wishing to attend the conference that need some financial assistance. For information contact: [Susan Ponton, Special Wishes, Inc., P.O. Box 391, Oakville, CT 06779](mailto:s.ponton@snet.net) (phone: 866-999-5224 or email: s.ponton@snet.net.)