

**INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT:
APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE TALEN CHARLES BIRT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

January 25, 2023 - The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has opened applications for the inaugural Talen Charles Birt Memorial Scholarship. The application can be found at <https://jaxcf.formstack.com/forms/talenbirtscholarship>.

This will be the inaugural year of this scholarship, which is designed to support a graduating senior from one of four local high schools to offset the expense of continuing their education. Eligible students will demonstrate a commitment to academics and leadership, plan to pursue either a 2- or 4-year degree and demonstrate financial need. Graduates from Andrew Jackson, First Coast, Jean Ribault, and William M. Raines High Schools in Duval County Florida are encouraged to apply. The scholarship will provide one student with up to \$2,000 to support their college career.

All scholarship applications are due by the close of business on **March 15, 2023**.

About Talen Charles Birt

Talen Charles Birt passed away on August 30, 2021 at the age of 16 after a valiant battle with osteosarcoma.

A National Honor Society scholar and talented athlete at Kirby-Smith Middle School (now Springfield Middle), Talen was an inspiration to many as he endured the surgeries and chemotherapy necessary to try to combat his terminal bone cancer. His response to his diagnosis was, "God is positive. So, therefore, I am positive."

Education was an important part of Talen's life—so much so that his Dreams Come True wish was to be at Andrew Jackson High School for the first day of 11th grade in mid-August. His visit to campus was cheered by his classmates, the principal and the superintendent. Talen's ambition had been to attend FAMU/FSU and obtain a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He hoped to get married and have children.



In honor of Talen's life, his family and friends have established the Talen Charles Birt Memorial Fund. The fund will provide scholarships to defray the cost of college attendance for graduates of William M. Raines, Jean Ribault, First Coast, and Andrew Jackson High Schools.

Application Tips

Before beginning the application, students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) to determine their expected family income. However, if you are not able to complete the FAFSA, you will still be able to apply. You can find answers to frequently asked questions about the FAFSA at www.studentaid.gov. You can also talk to your high school guidance department and/or your college/university admissions office.

Additionally, we are also encouraging students to review College Scorecard, which can be found at <http://collegescorecard.ed.gov>. College Scorecard allows students to evaluate the cost of attendance at their preferred institution. It also provides key information about student outcomes post-graduation.

Both the FAFSA and College Scorecard are nationally used tools that can aid students in getting a detailed picture of how much their education will cost.

Questions on how to establish a memorial fund can be directed to Tom Caron, Vice President, Donor Services at tcaron@jaxcf.org, or John Zell, Vice President, Development at jzell@jaxcf.org.

Questions on the application can be directed to Carol Nieves, Donor Services Officer, cnieves@jaxcf.org, or Tom Caron, Vice President, Donor Services, at tcaron@jaxcf.org.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org), Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Created in 1964, the Foundation has \$630 million in assets as of 12/31/2021 and has made approximately \$640 million in grants since inception.