

# Call for Applicants

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bright Futures Award: 2009 National ECE Scholarship Program



*Bright Horizons Family Solutions is the world's leading provider of employer-sponsored early care, education and work/life solutions. With centers in the United States, Europe, Canada, and Ireland, Bright Horizons is the partner of choice for hundreds of organizations, including more than 82 Fortune 500 firms. Our extensive client list includes universities such as MIT, Johns Hopkins, and The George Washington University; major corporations such as Universal Studios, SC Johnson Wax, and JPMorgan Chase; and many leading hospitals and government offices. More than 80% of our eligible centers have received NAEYC accreditation – an honor unparalleled in the child care industry. In addition, we have been chosen nine times by FORTUNE magazine as one of the “100 Best Companies to Work For,” and have also been selected four times as one of Working Mother’s “100 Best Companies for Working Mothers.”*

*As the employer of almost 16,000 early childhood professionals, we recognize that teachers are the cornerstones of our success. Our Bright Futures Scholarship Program supports the field of early childhood education by offering scholarships for future teachers and directors. We believe the profession of early childhood education deserves more respect and support. It is our hope that this scholarship will be a way to encourage students of great promise to continue pursuing their dreams of caring, teaching, and mentoring young children. We would also like to recognize the individuals who have inspired these future teachers, and therefore ask nominees to provide the name of a mentor who inspired them so they can be recognized as well.*

*Please share copies of this application with exceptional students in your program who you feel have the potential to be outstanding teachers of young children or directors of child care centers.*

**Program:** The three scholarships are available for students pursuing degrees in early childhood education or in a related field who meet the criteria for each degree category below:

1. \$1500 Scholarship for those entering their second year of an associate's degree program.
2. \$2500 Scholarship for those entering their junior year in a bachelor's degree program.
3. \$2500 Scholarship for those enrolled in a master's program interested in a teaching career or those in a master's program in Education, Educational Leadership/ Administration or related degree pursuing a career as a director of a child care program.



### **Eligibility for the teacher scholarships will require:**

- Full-time enrollment in an accredited degree program.
- Demonstrated potential as teachers of young children under the age of 8 and at least nine months of experience working with this age group.
- A consistent display of excellence as a standard in their educational coursework, especially in classes related to education/child development. Candidates must demonstrate achievement in their field-based experiences working directly with young children and their families.
- Experience overcoming obstacles to obtain access to post-secondary education and a career in early care and education.
- Non-traditional students, people making a career change, and people of color are encouraged to apply.
- The scholarship is open to everyone including Bright Horizons Family Solutions' employees who meet all the criteria.

### **Eligibility for the director scholarship will require:**

- Documentation of enrollment in a master's level program in Director Administration or comparable related degree.
- Minimum of one-year experience directing a child care program.
- Documentation of excellence in coursework.
- At least one year teaching or directing experience at NAEYC accredited program.
- Experience overcoming obstacles to obtain access to graduate school and a career in early care and education.
- Non-traditional students and people of color are encouraged to apply.
- Bright Horizons Family Solutions' employees are not eligible.

**Awards:** Two Bright Futures Awards for up to \$2500 will be presented each year: one each to a teacher/director pursuing one of the following degrees: bachelor's and master's degrees and one Bright Futures Award for up to \$1500 will be presented each year for a teacher pursuing an associate's degree. Recipients must be enrolled in and attend an accredited institution in the academic year following selection, September 2009. Verification of enrollment will be required. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to schools and no funds will be disbursed to students. We reserve the right to review other financial aid candidates may receive in granting this scholarship.

**Mentors:** Great teachers not only make an impact on the lives of hundreds of children and families, but also inspire other teachers. In this vein, we want to recognize the individuals who have encouraged and inspired our future teachers. We are asking each applicant to offer the name of a mentor so that we may acknowledge his or her contributions.

## Application Requirements:

- A typed personal essay of at least 500 words but not to exceed 800 words in a standardized 12 pt. font that focuses on why the individual is passionate and committed to their education, including any obstacles they may have overcome to reach their goals to pursue their career in early childhood education. Please make sure your first and last name appears on every page of the essay.
- Three recommendations – *References must be written specifically for this Bright Horizons Family Solutions' scholarship program and include both the attached recommendation form and personal letter of reference on business stationery.* Two college faculty recommendations (specific to an area of study in child development and early learning), and one from a professional in the field who has observed the candidate working with children within the age ranges of birth through age 8 are required. **Note:** If you are new to the field of ECE and you have less than the required minimum hours, a recommendation of someone who can comment on your skills in dealing with children is still required.
- Résumé documenting work history. If you are new to the field of ECE, please include a résumé that includes all prior work experience outside of working/volunteering with children.
- Official transcript and GPA of at least 3.0.
- The name of a mentor/ teacher who inspired the applicant to pursue a career with young children.
- **Applications must be received by Monday, June 1, 2009. Winners will be notified in the beginning of August.**
- **Only complete applications will be reviewed.**
- Bright Horizons Family Solutions employees are not eligible for the Director Award.

**Selection Board:** will be comprised of Bright Horizons Family Solution managers and faculty as well as other national ECE leaders and educators.

200 Talcott Avenue South, Watertown, MA 02472 TEL 800-324-4386

FAX 617-673-8001

[www.brighthorizons.com](http://www.brighthorizons.com)





## Bright Horizons Family Solutions

“Bright Futures” 2009

### Scholarship Application

#### I. PERSONAL DATA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

I am applying for the scholarship for students entering the:

- \_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Year of their Associate's Degree Program
- \_\_\_ Junior year of their Bachelor's Degree Program
- \_\_\_ Enrolled in a Master's Degree Program pursuing an ECE teaching career
- \_\_\_ Enrolled in a Master's Degree Program concentration Director Administration

I am enrolled **full time** in my degree program Yes  No

#### II. EDUCATION

High School Attended \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Graduated? Yes  No  Date \_\_\_\_\_

GED? Yes  No  Date \_\_\_\_\_

List all Colleges/Universities Attended After High School

College/University	Degree/Units Earned	Dates of Attendance

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please attach transcripts)*

#### III. HONORS. AWARDS. ACHIEVEMENTS

Honor, award or achievement	Date

#### IV. EMPLOYMENT

Are you currently employed? Yes  No  If yes, how long? \_\_\_\_\_ Hours per week: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Experience with Young Children:

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours per week: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid: Yes  No

*(Please attach resumé to document work history.)*

### V. CAREER GOALS

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### VI. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND/OR SPECIAL INTERESTS

Activity	Responsibilities/Involvement	Dates

### VII. GENERAL

Ethnic Category (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently receiving financial aid?                      Yes       No

Have you previously received any scholarships?                      Yes       No       If Yes:

Donor	Amount	Years

Are you a U.S. Military Veteran?                      Yes       No

**VIII.**    *Please provide the name of a mentor you consider to be either an excellent role model for teachers of young children, or a professor who inspired you in your work with young children.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

School/ Place of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



IX.

**Please attach your personal essay, resumé, recommendations, and transcripts.**

**APPLICANTS CERTIFICATION – ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION**

1. I understand that the information provided on this application is voluntary and will be used for scholarship award eligibility and selection only. I understand that my voluntary omission of requested information may preclude my eligibility for one or more of the scholarships.
2. I affirm that the information provided within is true, complete, and accurate, and that any award may be revoked without appeal, if the information is found by the committee to be otherwise.
3. I hereby authorize the release of the above information at the discretion of the scholarship committee including the release of academic and biographical information to the news media.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Return ATTN: Human Resources to:** Bright Horizons Family Solutions  
200 Talcott Avenue, South  
Watertown, MA 02472 [www.brighthorizons.com](http://www.brighthorizons.com)  
**DUE BY: Monday, June 1, 2009** TEL 800-324-4386 FAX 617-673-8001



