

2026 Darlene A. Lee Scholarship
COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

“Believe in Yourself and Dream BIG!”

darleneleescholarship.blogspot.com



Darlene Lee dedicated her life to making her community a place where all felt welcome and safe. She served as the unofficial Oakland Chinatown historian, and helped new immigrants find a sense of home in the neighborhood. From Tiny Tot students to at-risk teens struggling with life, Darlene nurtured rootedness in the lives of the youth to whom she served as a mother figure. As a friend to the homeless and elderly, and in seeing children as human beings rather than as problems, Darlene's compassion made everyone feel loved. She never let others' negative comments about her being Chinese, poor, or a woman, diminish her pride in her heritage or who she was.

Darlene believed in herself, her family, friends and community.

She believed in the power of the imagination to change lives – the life she imagined for herself was to serve her family and community.

In fulfilling that dream, the hope and responsibility that Mrs. Lee instilled in those whose lives she touched will continue to influence the world for generations to come.

What dreams do you have for yourself and your community?

Apply today for a Darlene A. Lee Community Service Scholarship
and let it inspire you to accomplish your goals.

To learn more about Darlene Lee's impact on the community, please read the 3-page pdf excerpt from a 2007 interview with her, as part of the Oakland Chinatown Oral History Project, or watch the following videos or read the following articles:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xguQPORv29Q>

<http://youtu.be/P72Feek7244>

<https://oaktownchinatown.wordpress.com/2012/03/23/6-a-day-at-the-rec-center-在康樂中心的一天/>

[Oakland Rec Center Serves as Glue For Asian Community](#)

[Park Mom Helps Kids Navigate Life](#)

[Chinatown Memory Map: Darlene Lee](#)

[Oakland Chinatown Oral History Project: Darlene Lee](#)

2026 Darlene A. Lee Scholarship

COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Deadline: May 3, 2026

Email application to dlee_scholarship@yahoo.com

*Candidate must be a graduating high school senior of Asian descent associated with Lincoln Square Recreation Center or Lincoln Elementary School, who will be attending college this Fall. Award recipient or a representative must attend the presentation at 890 Fargo Avenue, San Leandro, CA or via Zoom during the "All Church Family" worship service on **June 21, 2026 from 10:30 am-12:15 pm**. Failure to attend the service will result in forfeiture of your scholarship. One scholarship of **\$1,000** will be awarded to a student who serves the community and sets goals to benefit the Asian American community.*

Selection Criteria. Semi-finalists will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Community volunteer service
- Participation in school and extracurricular activities
- Demonstrated leadership in school and/or community related activities
- Minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA
- Unusual circumstances, if any (i.e. health or financial need)

Timeline for the Scholarship:

- May 3 - Deadline for receiving application and requested materials
- May 17 - Semi-finalists and other candidates notified
- June 7 - Semi-finalists interviewed
- June 14 - Scholarship recipient notified
- June 21 - Awards Presentation at the Chinese Presbyterian Church of Oakland's sister church

Application Requirements: Email all information to dlee_scholarship@yahoo.com

- Must be a high school senior starting college in Fall 2026.
- Submit a completed scholarship application form (Word or pdf).
- Submit one (1) letter of recommendation from **EITHER** your school or community organization (Word or pdf).
- Submit a 1,000-word (or less) essay
- Submit a copy of your latest transcript and SAT/ACT scores
- Incomplete applications will not be considered
- All application materials must be received by **May 3, 2026**. Materials arriving after the deadline will not be considered.

NOTE: We ask all recipients to consider "giving back" by volunteering at Lincoln Square Recreation Center or donating to this fund AFTER you graduate from college, to help perpetuate this scholarship in the future.

Candidate's Name: _____ School: _____

Address (including zip code): _____

Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

Career Goal(s): _____ Gender: ☐ M ☐ F

Elementary School: _____ Middle School: _____

High School: _____ Expected College: _____

School Letter of Recommendation from: _____

OR Community Letter of Recommendation from: _____

1. List three (3) of your most personally fulfilling community service activities in order of importance that you have participated in, including, but not exclusive to, the Asian American community:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Your Role</u>	<u>Involvement Dates</u>	<u>Hours Per Wk</u>
i.e. <i>Lincoln Square Recreation Center</i>	<i>John Doe</i>	<i>510-555-1234</i>	<i>After school tutor</i>	<i>9/2023-present</i>	<i>3.0 hrs</i>

A.

B.

C.

2. List three (3) of your most meaningful school extracurricular activities in order of importance and your involvement:

<u>Extracurricular Activities</u>	<u>Your Role</u>	<u>Involvement Dates</u>
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A.

B.

C.

3. List any employment experience (with your most current job first):

<u>Company</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Your Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Hours Per Wk</u>
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A.

B.

C.

4. Have you received or applied for other scholarships?

_____	☐ Applied	☐ Received
_____	☐ Applied	☐ Received
_____	☐ Applied	☐ Received

5. Do you qualify for free or reduced lunch?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ I qualify for <i>free</i> lunch | ☐ I don't know if I qualify for free or reduced lunch |
| ☐ I qualify for <i>reduced</i> lunch | ☐ I do not qualify for free or reduced lunch |

6. Please attach a personal statement of 1,000 words or less elaborating on the following topics:

- Explain why the community service activities you listed above are important to you and the positive effects it has on the community at large.
- What is your family and personal background, including any unusual circumstances?
- Please specify how your heritage has played a role in shaping your identity.
- How has Darlene Lee been an inspiration to you and what goals have you set to "Believe in yourself and dream big" to help the Asian American community in honor of her memory?

7. How did you hear about this scholarship?

If I am selected for a scholarship, I, or a representative on my behalf, will attend the presentation in-person at the Chinese Presbyterian Church of Oakland's sister church located at 890 Fargo Avenue in San Leandro, CA in the small chapel at the end of Endicott Street or via Zoom on June 21, 2026 to receive my award.

Signature

Date

Letter of Recommendation

Please ask a school or community staff who is familiar with your work in the community to complete this form. Please have them type and sign this form and return with your application.

Student's Name: _____ School: _____

Staff Name: _____ Organization: _____

Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____ Title: _____

The Darlene A. Lee Scholarship Fund was established to award scholarships to high school seniors who have demonstrated community service, leadership qualities, and above-average grades. Please address the following topics, providing specific examples, to give an accurate description of the candidate:

- In what capacity have you known the candidate and how long have you've known him/her?
- What personal attributes about the candidate impress you most and why?
- Describe the candidate's leadership qualities.
- Are there any additional details that you would like to share with us about the candidate?