

## **Naples Yacht Club Blue Gavel Scholarship Fund**

*The Naples Yacht Club Blue Gavel Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) charitable fund established 14 years ago to provide financial aid for higher education to local students, with a particular focus on Club employees and their families. Over the last three years the NYC Blue Gavel has awarded 190 scholarships to qualified local high school students to help defray college expenses. The total dollar awards for these scholarships is in excess of \$217,000. About one quarter of these awards - 50 scholarships and over \$63,000 - was awarded to NYC employees or members of their families?*

*The financial assistance the scholarships provide has allowed a number of NYC employees to complete their college degrees and secure higher level jobs. One of our servers, Micaela Gay, whom many NYC members know from her cheerful and efficient demeanor in the dining room, attended FGCU and Edison State College and has completed her degree with financial assistance from Club Members. Here is what Micaela says about her Blue Gavel Scholarship:*

*“Hello. My name is Micaela Gay and I have been a full and part-time server at the Naples Yacht Club since October of 2000. I am writing this to express my sincere thanks to the Blue Gavel Scholarship Fund. Since I graduated from high school, I have had to work full-time and could only attend college on a part-time basis. From my experience, the Blue Gavel Scholarship Fund is perfect for anyone trying to squeeze school into their busy lifestyle. The funded amount varies by situation, but for me, it was enough to pay for two classes each semester plus books and supplies. If weren’t for the scholarship, I may have never been able to afford to go to college, or I may have ended up in debt with student loans like many of my peers.*

*I hope that anyone who is eligible for this scholarship takes full advantage of it. It is a great opportunity for parents who need a little extra help with their children’s educational funds, adults looking to start or continue their education, or the high school graduate wanting to further his or her education.*

*I owe any and all success that has resulted from my continuing education to the Naples Yacht Club Blue Gavel Scholarship Fund.*

*Thank you all for your help and support.”*

*The NYC Blue Gavel Scholarship Fund also supports the Florida Gulf*

*Coast University First Generation Scholarship Program in which 20 deserving students –residents of Florida, in good academic standing, and with parents who have not earned baccalaureate degrees- receive \$1,000 scholarships funded equally by NYC Blue Gavel and the State of Florida. The letters these recipients write thanking NYC for their stipends are truly inspiring.*

*These scholarships are awarded only through the generosity of Naples Yacht Club Members. We are proud to be helping employees, their family members, and local students achieve the benefits of higher education.*

*Past Commodore Charlie Gaillard, President NYC Blue Gavel*