

## **LOU FONTANA SCHOLARSHIP**

The Selection Committee for the Lou Fontana Scholarship Fund is accepting applicants for this year's award in the amount of \$1,000.00.

The Lou Fontana Scholarship Fund is maintained through the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC) and was established through the cooperative efforts of the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC), the Maine Department of Education (MDOE), and the University of Maine as a tribute to Lou Fontana and to his many contributions to children with disabilities throughout Maine.

Louis V. Fontana was born in Providence, RI in 1948, married his beloved Rosemary in 1974, and moved to Maine in 1979. Lou met his untimely death in 1982 from injuries received in an accident on Route 201 on his way home from a MADSEC event. Lou was educated in the Providence schools, graduating from Rhode Island College with a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master's degree in Education. He was employed at the J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center in Warwick, RI from 1970-1974, first as a Recreation Director, then as the Adult Program Director of the Center's workshop training program. From 1974-1977 Lou served as Teacher and Education Director at the Dr. Joseph P. Ladd Center in Exeter, RI. He was the Assistant Special Education Director for two years for the Northwest Education Region in Rhode Island prior to moving to Maine in 1979. For his last three years, Lou was a Special Education Consultant with the Maine Department of Education in Augusta. He and Rosemary lived in West Gardiner, then in Vassalboro.

Applications are open to individuals (e.g. college graduate students, teachers, educational technicians, high school graduating seniors) who are pursuing a degree in teaching Special Education through the University of Maine system.

Applications must be submitted electronically on or before April 30, 2025 to: [info@madsec.org](mailto:info@madsec.org)

Applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee. All applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision by May 31, 2025.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

- Individuals (e.g. college graduate students, teachers, educational technicians, high school graduating seniors) who are pursuing a degree in teaching Special Education through the University of Maine system, preferably in the area of Low Incidence Disabilities, but anyone pursuing a degree in Special Education will be considered. Preference may be given to applicants following a non-traditional path to the profession.

## **DEADLINES**

- Application packet must be received electronically at [info@madsec.org](mailto:info@madsec.org) on or before April 30, 2025 to be considered for the support of post-secondary academic pursuits during the 2025-2026 school year
- Applicants notified of Selection Committee's decision by May 31, 2025

## **APPLICATIONS**

Application packet must include all documents as outlined below and complete in order to be considered by the committee:

- A cover letter that states how this scholarship will assist the individual in completing studies in teaching Special Education;
- A profile of the applicant's background (100-150 words), including work experience with individuals with disabilities (paid and/or volunteer) which can serve as the basis for a press release;
- A completed resume and/or vitae, including current email address, and current grade point average;
- A "statement of commitment" to working with students with disabilities;
- Documentation of acceptance into matriculated program in Special Education
- Up-to-date original transcript(s)

## **SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT**

\$1,000.00 awarded after successful completion of one semester in a matriculated program. An official transcript from the post-secondary institution must be mailed to the MADSEC office at 49 Community Dr., Suite 1, Augusta, ME 04330 or <mailto:info@madsec.org> prior to scholarship funds being awarded. Funds will be sent directly to the individual scholarship awardee.



Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities

Amended January 2023