

Sapphire Fund
Tony Sparacino Memorial Scholarship
2011 Scholarship Program



1. Who was Tony Sparacino?

To all who knew him, Tony was a kind and generous spirit. As one of Sapphire Fund's early Board members, Tony's passion helped steer a course of philanthropy that supported the Philadelphia LGBTQ and HIV-AIDS communities. Passion like his had real, concrete results: returning hundreds of thousands of dollars to numerous community-based non-profits.

And, importantly, Tony loved Philadelphia. He was one of our urban pioneers – transforming two run-down blocks on 13th Street into something special as he relocated his established business – Sparacino Mens – to this gentrifying area.

As if raising money for worthwhile causes or running a business was not enough, Tony started one of Philadelphia's longest running monthly parties – Lucky Lounge. It was this party that epitomized Tony's zest for life.

Indeed, to the many people who knew him, Tony's smile, passion, and generosity will be the remembered legacy of a life well lived. As Tony's partner remarked shortly after Tony's passing, "One never expects a flame as bright as Tony's to dim so early. Let's keep that flame alive."

Sapphire Fund honors Tony's legacy with the creation of this scholarship. We're hopeful that its recipient will shine as brightly: loving this city, loving their art, and being as generous and passionate with their time as Tony was with his.

2. What is Sapphire Fund?

Sapphire Fund is an all-volunteer, community-based, non-profit that exists to champion the multifaceted needs of Philadelphia area LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS organizations.

We supply resources to local organizations providing HIV/AIDS research, education, prevention and treatment as well as promoting the overall health and well-being of the community through education, events, and advocacy.

Sapphire Fund is among the leading LGBTQ granting agencies in the tri-state region and is extremely proud of the work undertaken by our beneficiaries on behalf of the HIV/AIDS and LGBTQ communities.

Since its inception, the Sapphire Fund has hosted, partnered, or participated in a variety of events and programs and has provided more than \$250,000.00 in financial support to many extraordinary organizations.

For more information, visit Sapphire Fund's website at www.sapphirefund.org.

3. Scholarship Amount

\$1,000 scholarship awarded annually for educational expenses to include tuition, books and supplies, and/or room and board. Where possible, the scholarship funds will be payable on the student's behalf directly to the school.

4. Important Dates

- a) Application Deadline: **October 28, 2011 by 5:00 pm**
- b) Announcement/Presentation: **November 2011**

5. Award Criteria and Guidelines

Award criteria are based on the academic credentials, answers to application questions, community service involvement, a potential individual interview, financial need and future goals. All applications must be complete for consideration.

- a) Document Requirements: You must send (i) the completed application form and (ii) TWO letters of recommendation from professional, extracurricular, or academic sources.
- b) Eligible Recipient: (1) A self-identified LGBTQ student, or student supportive of the LGBTQ community; (2) currently enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university in Philadelphia; and (3) seeking a degree in an art program/major. For purposes of this award, art program includes: art history or related study, visual arts, fashion design, music, media arts, theatre or dance.
- c) Geographic Limitations: Available to a student attending an accredited university or college in the City of Philadelphia or its immediate suburbs.
- d) Community Service Expectations: Applicants involved in LGBTQ organizations and/or seeking to improve the Philadelphia region through community service are especially encouraged to apply and significant consideration will be given to such service.

Application for the Tony Sparacino Memorial Scholarship

Salutation ___ First Name _____ M.I. ___ Last Name _____

Philadelphia Area Address _____ Apt. No. _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Address (if different from above) _____ Apt. No. _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Primary Phone No. _____ E-Mail Address _____

ARE WE PERMITTED TO LEAVE A MESSAGE AT THIS NUMBER REGARDING
OUR ORGANIZATIONAL NAME OR PURPOSE?

YES NO

IF NO, WE WILL CONTACT YOU VIA THE E-MAIL ADDRESS PROVIDED.

Do you self-identify as LGBTQ? Yes No

Please describe how you are paying for your college education (i.e., loans, parents, self-funding through work, or combination of the above. If a combination of the above, please describe an approximate percentage for each combination. For instance: 50% self-funded through work/50% parents):

Please provide the following:

1. Name of University or College: _____
 - a. Major(s): _____
 - b. Overall GPA: _____
 - c. Anticipated Graduation Date: _____
2. Please use a separate page to answer the following questions:
 - a. Why did you select an art major and how do you plan to utilize your degree?
 - b. Why did you decide to attend a school in the City of Philadelphia?
 - c. Please describe your community service (highlighting any involvement with LGBTQ organizations)?
3. Are you willing to work with Sapphire Fund in promoting this scholarship?

This includes, but is not limited to: public recognition of your scholarship award (including use of your photograph in promotional materials), donating artwork or other class projects, attending Sapphire events, etc.

Yes No

I certify that the information contained in this application is true:

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

Please submit completed scholarship application package, including all attachments, to:

The Sapphire Fund
1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Deadline: October 28, 2011