



Durham Middlefield
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

SUE VANDERZEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

DMYFS will award one Sue VanDerzee Memorial Scholarship. Minimum \$500

Applications are due May 15th. Checks will be awarded directly to the recipient by June 15th.

Eligibility:

1. Must be a senior in high school from Durham, Middlefield, or Rockfall.
2. Must use the scholarship to fund further education, including but not limited to a college/university, a technical school, or a training program.

Applicant Name:

Address:

Date of Birth:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Telephone Number:

How would you spend the scholarship money?



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MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP BACKGROUND:

Sue VanDerzee was an entrepreneur, educator, writer and editor of numerous different town newspapers, including the Town Times in Durham and Middlefield, of which she was a co-founder. In all her endeavors, and in service of a better world, Sue believed in equitable politics for all, building community, and volunteering her time and generous spirit to others. Sue leaves behind a legacy of love and her joyous laugh, bright smile, compassionate nature and ability to bring people together will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her.

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who embodies Susan's spirit: someone who is a lifelong learner, a compassionate leader, and an active participant in making their corner of the world a little brighter.

ESSAY OR VIDEO OPTION

Sue appreciated different forms of expression. Applicants are encouraged to address one of the prompts below in a 500-word essay or a 3-minute video.

PROMPTS (Please choose one and attach to the application when submitting)

- Sue believed that a community is only as strong as the people who actively participate in it. Describe a time you stepped up to solve a problem in your school or town. What did you learn about the importance of local leadership?
- Sue dedicated her life to the growth of others. How has a specific teacher or mentor changed your perspective on the world, and how do you plan to pay that influence forward in your future career?
- "Gardening is an act of hope for the future." Describe a project or goal you have "cultivated" over a long period. What challenges did you face, and how did you persevere?



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- Sue was known for her thoughtful approach to difficult conversations. Describe a situation where you had to advocate for what was right, even when it wasn't the popular opinion. How did you handle the situation with grace?

Please submit your application by **May 15, 2026** to:

DMYFS

405 Main Street, Unit 11

Middlefield, CT 06455

Attn: Claudia White, Executive Director

OR

CWhite@dmyfs.org