



“Touch a life every day.”
**The Charles Martin
Touch a Life Scholarship**

Dream Big. Set Goals. Commit to Achieving Them.

An initiative of the African American Community Fund
of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County



Charles E. Martin, Sr., Executive Director of the YMCA Urban Youth Services Program for more than 20 years, had a special ability to relate to young people. He knew how to challenge them to think about the future. Dream big, Charles would say. Set goals. Commit to achieving them.

Because of Charles, literally hundreds of young African-American students from South Bend went on to college.

His support didn't end when those students left town. Charles wrote letters—hundreds of letters—to his “kids.” The letters were filled with words of inspiration, advice, and high expectations. Charles pushed his “kids” to work hard, earn good grades, and finish school. For Charles, the greatest demonstration of love was to help a young person succeed.

Anyone who knew Charles—whether as a student, a friend, a colleague or by virtue of his larger than life reputation—knows exactly what he meant by his motto: “Touch a life every day.” During his short life, Charles lived his motto twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and changed thousands of lives as a result.

The Charles Martin “Touch a Life” Scholarship was established to create a meaningful and lasting tribute to this remarkable man, and helps local, academically motivated African-American students attend college through a \$2,500 annual renewable scholarship.

This scholarship mirrors Charles Martin's spirit in a way that goes beyond financial support. Each student who receives a Charles Martin “Touch a Life” Scholarship will be connected with a network of Mr. Martin's former students. Those students will keep in touch with the young scholar throughout his or her college journey, offering encouragement, inspiration, and advice, just as Mr. Martin did.

Scholarship: Up to \$2,500 per year, renewable up to four years, to be used toward tuition and required fees, for full time study leading toward a two- or four-year degree from an accredited college or university.

Students must meet the following criteria to be considered for a Charles Martin “Touch a Life” Scholarship:

- be of African-American descent
- be a resident of St. Joseph County, Indiana
- graduate from an accredited Indiana high school by June 30 of the year of application
- intend to pursue a full-time associate or baccalaureate course of study beginning in the fall after graduation at an accredited public or private college or university
- possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and be in good academic standing
- demonstrate financial need

Application Deadline: March 1



All scholarship materials are on the Community Foundation's website: www.cfsjc.org. Applications are available to download and complete. Questions regarding the scholarship should be directed to the Community Foundation's Program Officer, Malissa Ayala, at 574-232-0041 or mallisa@cfsjc.org.