



THE NEXT STEP
SCHOLARSHIP
GALA

2026 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

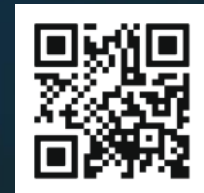
5:30 PM

SHERATON WESTPORT CHALET HOTEL

[THENEXTSTEPSTL.ORG/GALA](https://thenextstepstl.org/gala)



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Saint Louis, MO 63122
314.719.2880, ext 102
sleblanc@thenextstepstl.org
Tax ID: 20-1750945



ABOUT THE NEXT STEP

- ★ Our mission is to provide tuition assistance to individuals active in a 12-step recovery program for substance use disorder who demonstrate financial need and are pursuing an academic or vocational education.
- ★ Since 2005, we have impacted countless lives in the St. Louis community by providing more than **\$2.8 million in funding and 1038 scholarships.**
- ★ We fund Associate's, Bachelor's, and advanced degrees, as well as vocational, technical, and certification programs.
- ★ To qualify, applicants must be active in a 12-step recovery program for substance use disorder, have a minimum of one year of recovery, demonstrate financial need, be employed at least part-time, and live in the St. Louis metropolitan bi-state region, including surrounding counties in Missouri and Illinois.
- ★ Scholarships can be used for tuition and books and are paid directly to the educational institution.

OUR IMPACT

2025 FUNDING

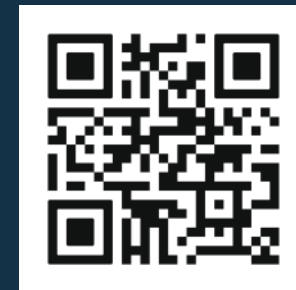
\$500,600

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AWARDED

40% increase from 2024

139

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Scan to learn more about how The Next Step supports recovery through education.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



Michael F.



The Next Step scholarship has allowed me to advance not only in my career but also in life. I owe so much to The Next Step program and I look forward to continuing to spread the mission of helping people like me achieve their goals!



Deborah J.



For someone in recovery, pursuing education is not always an easy path. Financial barriers and self-doubt often stand in the way. This scholarship reminded me that I am not defined by my past and that others believe in my potential, and it gave me confidence that my hard work and commitment to sobriety mattered!



ABBY S.

Receiving this scholarship changed my life. Not just because of the financial relief, but because it felt like someone out there truly believed in me and in the life I have been working so hard to build over the last few years.

The Next Step reminded me that redemption is real and that recovery opens doors.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

SPONSORSHIP

- ★ Showcase your company or family support through event advertising, reaching over 500 attendees
- ★ Digital marketing on social media (2,400 followers) and email marketing (2,500 individuals)
- ★ Recognition on The Next Step website, with over 31,000 annual page views (9,400 visitors)
- ★ Print recognition on the event invitation and year-end newsletter, mailed to 2,200 households
- ★ Table of 10 can be donated to our students if you cannot attend and you receive a full tax deduction

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

- ★ Provide gala tickets to our scholarship recipients and fund the pre-event student celebration
- ★ 100% tax-deductible

FUND A FUTURE

- ★ Give a 100% tax-deductible donation during the paddle raise at the event
- ★ If you can't attend, a student will raise a paddle on your behalf

★ WHY GIVE? ★

Supporting education is an investment in the long-term success of individuals in recovery.


By supporting our organization, you can help reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorder.

Tuition assistance provides a concrete and tangible form of support.

You will be actively helping individuals in recovery build a new, positive chapter in their lives.

Together, we are making St. Louis a better community!

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

	 PRESENTING \$25,000	DIAMOND \$15,000	PLATINUM \$10,000	GOLD \$5,000	SILVER \$2,500
EVENT TICKETING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIP table of 10 with elite front of stage seating Student table donated in your honor Invitation to speak at student program and early event entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIP table of 10 with premier seating near the stage Invitation to student program and early event entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIP table of 10 with premium seating at the front of the room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table of 10 with preferred seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table of 10 with standard seating
PRINT ADVERTISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prominent logo or name on event invitation cover Prominent logo or name in annual newsletter Prominent logo or name on signage at The Next Step office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logo or name featured on event invitation Logo or name featured in annual newsletter Logo or name featured on signage at The Next Step office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logo or name highlighted on event invitation Logo or name highlighted in annual newsletter Logo or name highlighted on signage at The Next Step office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name listed on event invitation Name listed in annual newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small name listing on event invitation Small name listing in annual newsletter
DIGITAL ADVERTISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prominent logo or name and website link on event website Sponsorship spotlight on social media and email marketing Logo or name, company video, and website link on The Next Step website Opportunity to share company video or content on social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logo or name featured on event website Sponsorship featured on social media and email marketing Logo or name featured on The Next Step website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logo or name highlighted on event website Sponsorship highlighted on social media and email marketing Logo or name highlighted on The Next Step website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logo or name displayed on event website Sponsorship mention on social media and email marketing Logo or name displayed on The Next Step website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small logo or name displayed on event website Sponsorship mention on social media and email marketing Small logo or name on The Next Step website
EVENT ADVERTISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsorship recognition from the podium <u>twice</u> during the event Opportunity to give brief podium remarks Full-page color ad on the back or inside cover of the event program, plus logo or name on the cover Prominent logo or name display on all event signage and video screens Prominent logo or name on 10' x 10' photo backdrop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsorship recognition from the podium during the event Full-page color ad in a premium location in the event program Logo or name featured on all event signage and video screens Logo or name featured on 10' x 10' photo backdrop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsorship recognition from the podium during the event Full-page color ad in the event program Logo or name highlighted on all event signage and video screens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half-page color ad in event program Logo or name displayed on all event signage and video screens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter-page ad in event program Small logo or name displayed on all event signage and video screen

If you cannot attend, donate your table of 10 to our students and still receive all advertising benefits and a 100% tax deduction.

STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS

STUDENT CHAMPION SPONSOR

\$2,500

- Provides tickets for 10 students to attend the Scholarship Gala
- Helps fund The Next Step hoodies for all of our students
- Provides decor and refreshments for the pre-event student program
- Logo or name recognition on student program signage
- Logo or name displayed on video screens during the program
- Sponsorship highlight on website, digital media, event program and signage, and annual newsletter

STUDENT SUPPORT SPONSOR

\$1,000

- Provides tickets for 5 students to attend the Scholarship Gala
- Helps fund The Next Step hoodies for all of our students
- Logo or name recognition on student program signage
- Logo or name displayed on video screens during the program
- Sponsorship listing on website, digital media, event program and signage, and annual newsletter

STUDENT TICKET SPONSOR

\$150

- Provides a ticket for a student to attend the Scholarship Gala
- Name listing on student program signage

Student sponsorships are 100% tax-deductible. Please note they do not include attendee tickets for the purchaser.



OUR STUDENTS THANK YOU!

Your sponsorship provides our 2026 scholarship recipients with Gala tickets.





SUPPORT THE GALA!



Help us make St. Louis a better community by becoming an event sponsor, sponsoring a student, or making a donation to our 2026 Scholarship Gala. Your generosity supports our mission and creates a lasting impact!

REGISTER OR DONATE ONLINE

thenextstepstl.org/gala



DONOR ADVISED FUNDS OR CHECK PAYMENT

The Next Step
10097 Manchester Rd., Suite 207
Saint Louis, MO 63122
Tax ID: 20-1750945

STOCK DONATIONS OR INVOICING

Contact us to start the process:
Sherry LeBlanc, Senior Director
sleblanc@thenextstepstl.org
314.719.2880, ext 102

Connect with Darcy Glidewell at **314.378.9515** or dglidewell@thenextstepstl.org to discuss the most beneficial way to show your support for our Scholarship Gala!

