



Help is Here!

Scholarships for Florida Schoolchildren

January 2020 Newsletter

Dear Friend,

Xioamara Kitchen was born prematurely and with a heart defect. Her mom knew the key to a successful life for her daughter would be found in a terrific school. She wanted an environment where Xioamara would be safe and where her health condition could be monitored.

With the help of a [Florida Tax Credit Scholarship](#) managed by [Step Up For Students](#), Xioamara found that educational environment. Today, Xioamara is a strong and successful high school student.

Read about Xioamara's journey [here](#).



Scholarship application updates for the 2020-21 school year



Renewal families may apply now for a Florida Tax Credit Scholarship for the 2020-21 school year by clicking [here](#). You are a renewal family if your child is using this scholarship for the 2019-20 school year. Applications are processed in the order they are received and completed.

If a student is using the income-based [Family Empowerment Scholarship](#) for the 2019-20 school year, the Florida Department of Education has sent a communication to current Family Empowerment Scholarship students explaining what needs to be done for the students for the 2020-21 school year. If you currently have a student on the Family Empowerment Scholarship and did not see that email, please reach out to the [Florida Department of Education](#).

New families interested in applying for a Florida Tax Credit Scholarship for the 2020-21 school year are encouraged to click [here](#) to learn more and sign up for our interest list so you may receive updates on when applications open.



At this time, [Gardiner Scholarship](#) applications for the 2020-21 school year are not available.

Renewal families are encouraged to monitor their email for updates on when they may apply for the 2020-21 school year.

New families interested in applying for a Gardiner Scholarship for the 2020-21 school year may click [here](#) to learn more and sign up for our interest list to receive updates on when applications open.



Know another family who might qualify for a scholarship? Please help us [spread the word](#).

To learn more about our other scholarships, please visit www.StepUpForStudents.org.



Hundreds rally in Tally for the Gardiner Scholarship

Marsy Miller's son, Ian, struggled for years to keep up with his classmates. Mainstreamed at his district school, Ian, who is on the autism spectrum, needed behavioral therapy, one-on-one attention, tutoring, and a smaller classroom environment.

Thanks to the Gardiner Scholarship, Ian received those services.



“It opened up a world of opportunities for Ian,” said Miller, who was among hundreds who attended [a rally Jan. 21 at Waller Park in Tallahassee near the Capitol](#) to thank lawmakers for creating the scholarship and to ask for an expansion to help more students.

To read more stories like this, please visit Step Up’s daily blog at [redefinED](#).



Schools: There is still time to nominate your Rising Stars

The deadline is Jan. 31 to nominate outstanding members of the Step Up family – students, teachers and parents – for our annual [Rising Stars Awards](#) program.



Schools can nominate students in one of three categories: High Achieving Student Award, Turnaround Student Award or Outstanding Student Character Award. Schools can nominate teachers for the Exceptional Teacher Award and parents for the Phenomenal Family Member Award.

Each school can nominate up to six individuals, and the first person nominated must be a student. Those selected will be honored in March and April during ceremonies held in one of 16 locations around the state.

Schools can click [here](#) to nominate someone.



News from the Donor Corner

Cal-Maine Foods, Inc., the largest producer and marketer of eggs in the United States, has contributed \$100,000 to the Step Up For Students Scholarship Program.



The donation funds about 14 scholarships for deserving K-12 schoolchildren in Florida through the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship. Read more about Cal-Maine's donation [here](#).



#GratefulForGardiner

Gardiner families, we are always moved hearing your stories about how the scholarship has helped your children. We'd love to hear more. Would you like to share yours? It's easy.

Step Up has launched a social media campaign where families can share their story with a photo and a few words. Use the hashtag #GratefulForGardiner and we will share it across our social media channels.

You may also share your story with us, as [Crystal Ludlow did](#), by sending your story and contact information to social@sufs.org. Please use #GratefulForGardiner in the subject line.



Step Up For Students

15 hrs · 🌐

Crystal Ludlow's son is on the Gardiner Scholarship. She is #GratefulForGardiner and sent us this in an email: "We are a family of five. Our youngest son, Riker, was diagnosed in 2017 with autism. He also has autoimmune disorder. We have been on the scholarship since 2018 . Without this scholarship, I would have to send my son to school which would endanger his health and well-being. We have received curriculum and other items through the scholarship to help us in our everyday life. He struggles in crowds and one of the best things the scholarship allowed for us to provide for him is his Veer stroller wagon for field trips and co-op meetings. And even at home lessons he sits in it to regulate his body. He also has learned to read. Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to afford the curriculum he needs. We are forever grateful for everything the Gardiner Scholarship has provided to us. Thank you Gardiner! The Ludlow family"



Wanted: SuperFans

Want to be a Step Up For Students hero, but can't find your cape? Here's the next best thing, and it's at your fingertips: Become a Step Up SuperFan.

No capes required.



How? It's easy: by staying connected with Step Up and becoming a social ambassador. You're invited to join the Step Up For Students SuperFans program.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Get your Step Up 'merch' here!

There's no doubt everyone has it in one form or another, like a T-shirt with a favorite band, a ball cap with a No. 1 sports team, a water bottle with a top brand. Yep, we're talking about "merch."



Every fan needs a way – or many – to express his or her loyalty to something they support, and now Step Up For Students' fans do too. Introducing our [online retail store](#) hosted by Print Your Cause, where anyone can purchase merchandise with our branding.

Click [here](#) to shop.

Support Step Up by shopping on AmazonSmile

You can support Step Up every time you shop on Amazon using our AmazonSmile link found [here](#). Every little bit helps!



The banner features a blue background. At the top left, the word "Support" is written in white. In the center is the Step Up for Students logo, which consists of a white circle containing a red stylized figure of a person jumping, with the text "Step Up" in a script font and "for students" in a smaller sans-serif font below it. To the right of the logo is a cartoon illustration of a girl with dark skin and hair, wearing a blue mask and a red cape, flying. Below the logo, the text "When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates." is written in white. At the bottom center is the AmazonSmile logo, with "amazon" in black and "smile" in orange. To the left of the AmazonSmile logo is a cartoon illustration of a boy with brown hair, wearing a red mask and a blue cape, standing with his hands on his hips.

Thank you for reading!

Step Up For Students | [Website](#) [Blog](#)





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REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



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