

MONEY MATTERS



Finding Scholarships Means Doing Your Homework

(NAPS)—When it comes to getting scholarship funds for college, opportunity doesn't knock—it waits for an invitation. There are numerous people and organizations that are willing to help pay for education through scholarship funds; it's simply a matter of finding them.

"I had no clue what to do," says Michael Oliver of Miami, a college sophomore. "I didn't get started soon enough so I missed some of the deadlines. Now I wish I hadn't waited."

The money is out there. There are full scholarships and partials, from every kind of organization—and all kinds of students are eligible, not just valedictorians. Here are some tips from college counselors to help you get started:

1. Make an appointment with a high school counselor in your (or your child's) sophomore year.

2. Go to the bookstore; there are many helpful books available for under \$40 that list available scholarships by fields of study and under general headlines.

3. Go online and surf the Web; there are a number of national scholarship Web sites, such as www.freschinfo.com and www.fastweb.com, that provide information on available scholarships. Simply key in the search term "scholarship" and you can find thousands of options.

4. Call the local Rotary Club, Kiwanis or other community and philanthropic organizations; many of them provide scholarship money.

5. Check with your (or your



Scholarship money is ready for the harvesting, if you know where to look.

parents') employer; a number of corporations sponsor scholarships for their employees or family members.

There are also corporations that have established scholarship foundations to help students outside of their organization. For example, Burger King Corporation expects to award 1,000 scholarships this year in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico through the Burger King Scholars Program.

"We are trying to help kids who are good students and good citizens, who have to work out of necessity," says Bentonne Snay, executive director of the Burger King/McLamore Foundation. "A student must maintain a 2.5 to 3.5 GPA, work part-time, be involved in co-curricular or community activities and show financial need to be eligible."

For more information on this scholarship program, visit the Web site at www.nfabk.org and click on "Burger King/McLamore Foundation."