



## **STEAM Star Awardees Shine Bright as NAEHCY Continues Empowering Promising Young Scholars**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2025 – The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEH CY) is delighted to announce the first-ever recipients of its innovative STEAM Star Scholarship Program. This groundbreaking initiative, launched earlier this year, provides financial support to K-12 students who have experienced homelessness or foster care, nurturing their passions and talents in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM).

Out of a pool of inspiring nominations, NAEHCY is proud to award scholarships of \$500 each to the following exceptional young individuals:

- **Zen**, an 11th-grade student from Virginia, will utilize the scholarship to participate in college-level theater classes and productions, furthering their exploration of the arts alongside their interest in sociology.
- **Adele**, a graduating 12th-grade student who will be attending Montserrat College of Art in Massachusetts, will use the funds to make their art education more attainable, pursuing their dream of becoming an animator and inspiring future young artists. Reflecting on this opportunity, Adele shared, "I will be able to pursue my dreams and goals of becoming an animator and use my talents to inspire young artists in the art world. These funds will go towards my education at college to make education attainable for myself."
- **Kharma**, a 12th-grade student from Arkansas who is actively involved in calculus club and taking college-level courses, will dedicate the scholarship funds towards books and other college expenses to support their advanced studies in math and science. Kharma stated, "I am currently in calculus club, and taking the highest math and science courses available at my school. If I were awarded these funds, I would use them for my books, and other expenses in college in order to further my career dreams and goals."
- **Melody**, an 11th-grade student from Massachusetts and a dedicated member of two show choir ensembles, will utilize the scholarship to cover the remaining cost of a school-sponsored trip to a competition in Virginia. This support ensures Melody can continue to pursue their passion for vocal and dance performance.

This inaugural cohort of STEAM Star Scholars exemplifies the potential and resilience of young people facing significant challenges. The scholarships will directly support their participation in extracurricular activities, including academic competitions, art classes, dance, theater productions, and other STEAM-related programs.

"Witnessing the aspirations and dedication of these first STEAM Star Scholars fills us with immense hope for their futures," said Deirdre Lynch Nicholson, Executive Director of NAEHCY. "This program underscores our belief that every young person, regardless of their housing situation, deserves the opportunity to explore their talents and ignite their passion for learning. These awards are an investment in their dreams and a testament to their bright potential."

The STEAM Star Scholarship program is a key component of *NAEHCY Next*, a suite of new initiatives designed to create a more effective and coordinated response for unhoused youth and their families. By supporting younger students in their STEAM pursuits, NAEHCY aims to foster academic engagement, build confidence, and open pathways to future success.

NAEHCY extends its heartfelt congratulations to these scholars and looks forward to witnessing their continued growth and achievements. The organization remains committed to expanding the STEAM Star Scholarship Program to reach even more deserving students in the years to come.

For more information about the STEAM Star Scholarship Program and NAEHCY's work, please visit [naehcy.org/scholarships](http://naehcy.org/scholarships).

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## **About NAEHCY**

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) is the leading national organization working to ensure the educational equity of homeless children and youth. NAEHCY provides professional development, technical assistance, and advocacy support to educators, policymakers, and advocates at the federal, state, and local levels. Learn more at [naehcy.org](http://naehcy.org).

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