

Ralph and Clare Rudolph Scholarship

The Ralph and Clare Rudolph Scholarships are awarded exclusively to eligible dependent children of associates at Rockline Industries (United States sites only) who are not descendants of the Rudolph family.

Eligibility: (taken into consideration to determine recipients)

- Graduating high school seniors who are dependent children and stepchildren of associates employed at Rockline Industries, for at least one year as of December 31, who are planning to attend an accredited 4-year college or university or a 2-year technical college as a full-time student
 - *Dependents are defined as someone who can be claimed on the Rockline associate's income taxes*
- Also eligible are Rockline Industries associate's dependent that has graduated high school, entered the military and upon return would be planning to attend an accredited four-year college or university or a two-year technical college
- Minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for college or 2.5 GPA for technical college
- Involvement in extracurricular activities, community service, Work experience/history, application essay
- Family values, integrity, hard work, dedication, and ability as represented by the Rudolph's and Rockline Industries
- Financial need will be considered

Award Amount:

One \$2,000 scholarship award, renewable annually for a 4-year college or university (\$8,000 total) for tuition, payable in the fall semester.

One \$1,000 scholarship award, renewable annually for a 2-year college or technical college (\$2,000 total) for tuition, payable in the fall semester.

Selection:

Recipients are recommended each spring by the Community Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee.

Collecting the Award & Payment Procedure:

Recipients must fill out and submit Scholarship Acceptance Form and a Scholarship Verification Form through the [Scholarship Portal](https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cffvrscholar) (<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cffvrscholar>). Recipients are required to provide supporting documents *as instructed* in the Scholarship Verification Form, such as class registration/list **with** credits listed, proof of major, grade transcript, etc.

After approval of online Scholarship Verification Form, the scholarship check will be paid directly to the school the recipient will be attending. The **Community Foundation communicates with students via email**; it is the student's responsibility to keep their Scholarship Portal account updated with their current email address.

Loss of Eligibility:

Failure to maintain full-time student status at an accredited technical college, college or university with a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) or 2.5 for technical school.

Further Information:

- Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region
 - Website www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships/
 - Email scholarships@cffoxvalley.org
 - Phone 920.702.7629

Ralph & Clare Rudolph Scholarship

Background:

The Ralph & Clare Rudolph Scholarship was funded through the generosity of Ralph and Clare Rudolph, the founders of Rockline Industries, Inc.

Ralph's early years growing up in Germany were interrupted by World War II when he was drafted into the German Air Force before he could finish high school. He was eventually shot down and spent several years as a prisoner of war. After the war ended, he immigrated to Minneapolis, Minnesota, speaking very little English and with no money. There he met Clare who had grown up in Minnesota farm country. Clare has 9 siblings. Her parents couldn't afford to pay for education after high school. Clare worked and paid her own way through nursing school.



Ralph's first job entailed sweeping floors as a janitor at a manufacturing company. Always ambitious, hardworking, and willing to take risks, he worked his way up to a sales position. He married Clare and they started a family. A job opportunity took them to Plymouth, Wisconsin. They raised three boys and a girl with very few financial resources and only each other for support. But no matter what the circumstances, they were disciplined enough to always save a little out of everything they earned towards retirement. They also strongly believed in the value of education and constantly sacrificed their own needs to help their four children get the college educations they never had.

While in his mid-fifties, Ralph found his future employment prospects suddenly dimmed. As a result of a leveraged takeover of his employer, the division he worked for was slated for closure. All employees including Ralph faced losing their jobs. This small division was unprofitable, but Ralph saw potential as an independent company. Against the advice of business associates, lawyers, accountants and friends, Ralph and Clare made an offer to buy the division known as Rockline. Every cent they had and could borrow went to a down payment. Retirement savings, house, car, were all pledged to banks. Failure would completely wipe Ralph and Clare out. On these shaky financial foundations, a newly independent Rockline emerged in 1976.

The first years were difficult. The pressure was intense to ensure the company could come up with enough cash every payroll to honor the commitments made to employees and their families. Believing the company was only as good as its people, from the very start Rockline offered employee benefits. Hard work and thrifty management paid off. A company that had always lost money as part of a larger company began to slowly grow and earn money as an independent company.

Eventually all the sons joined the business as growth continued. Ralph continued to go to the office until age 89 and health issues dictated retirement.

Ralph and Clare wanted to give back something to the people who had worked so hard to help make the company successful. As children of the Depression, both saw how economic hardships could take away any material possession a person owned. The one thing hard times couldn't take back was the investment people made in themselves acquiring skills and knowledge.

As firm believers in the hope of every parent for a better life for their children, Ralph & Clare felt scholarships for children of Rockline employees would be the best way to share the good fortune they enjoyed in life. They saw the power of education throughout their life and wanted to give others a better chance to realize their own dreams of success.

The same values that Rockline Industries has come to represent are looked for in the Ralph & Clare Rockline Scholarship recipients – integrity, hard work, dedication, ability.

The American Dream was very real for Ralph and Clare. These scholarships are their legacy. They come from the profits earned by many years of hard work and effort. For Ralph and Clare, building a business was a labor of love. They never asked for or expected wealth.

Having been successful beyond their dreams, they want to pass on to others the chance for a higher education that they themselves never enjoyed. The chance to build your own future and profit from your own sweat has made America a destination of choice for many people over the years.

Ralph and Clare hope these scholarships equip and inspire others to take the risks and put in the hard work that helps perpetuate the American Dream of hope for a better future for every generation.