

THE CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE FOUNDATION

Excerpts from letters of 2010-11 Charlotte W. Newcombe scholars

“I am delighted to thank you for your financial assistance towards my education. I mean it very literally when I say it would not have been possible without your support. It means so much to my family and me to be able to attend Marywood University this year and to come even closer to finishing my bachelor’s degree.

I will be continuing on through a Master’s program, and then plan on finding employment at a pharmaceutical company. I hope to work for a few years and then have enough money saved and income history to purchase our first home, and to move my boys out of apartment life and into a yard before their childhoods are over. A critical step in this goal is finishing my education, which you have kindly made possible.

Because of the scholarship I received, I am able to spend time this year working in one of the biotech labs at Marywood University, and will be gaining precious lab experience over the next few years that should set me apart from other candidates when it comes time for me to seek employment.

Coming from an extremely dysfunctional family like my own makes setting and reaching goals like these almost impossible. I have had many obstacles in my way, and owe a lot to you for helping me overcome some of them and ‘break the mold.’ I have a daily affirmations book that was written for adult children of alcoholics that I find a lot of wisdom in. I was reading through it to send some quotes to my sister, who is incarcerated, and I came across a passage that I thought fit the trajectory of my life at this time. It includes the following: ‘Just like the night sky, my childhood is cloaked with a black curtain. Now pinholes of light create beauty out of ugliness. Past hurts can now be used for something positive....The curtain does not always have to be dark. Today I can, and will, create beautiful patterns of light for others to see and appreciate.’

Your generosity has been like the pinholes in the dark, and I hope that what I choose to do with my education will do the same for others. Thank you again.”

- Marywood University

“I am highly honored to be chosen as a recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship. This scholarship has enabled me to continue on a path of academic success and has given me renewed optimism about applying to graduate programs. I am looking forward to graduating in December 2011 with an interdisciplinary degree in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy. I would like to work in a collaborative hands-on field such as design and innovation consulting. I am working hard to make this possible by maintaining a 3.9 GPA and working full time at an internship with the Army National Guard over the summer and during winter breaks.

Coming from a small community in rural Pennsylvania, I have always dreamed big, and despite hardships, have worked very hard to make my education matter. I am so grateful especially in times like these, that the Newcombe Foundation is able to help people like me reach their educational goals. As a non-traditional student, it is encouraging to know that foundations such as yours exist and are committed to helping those who struggle to afford education, but are unwilling to accept that it is unattainable merely because of circumstance and not intellect. I thank you for your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals.”

- American University

“Please allow me to express my sincere gratitude in receiving the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship for 2011-12. As an adult single woman with a full-time job, for many years I thought that returning to college to obtain my BA would be too difficult an undertaking – especially in terms of finances. I finally decided to go ahead and apply to Hunter College in 2008 and it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I enjoy being a student at Hunter very much and I feel that the education I am receiving has enriched my life on many levels. However, in order to afford my school tuition, I have been taking out student loans, which certainly add up. Therefore, receiving the Newcombe Scholarship this semester will be a great help in getting on solid ground in preparation for the next steps on my journey. Thank you so much for your generosity. It is so appreciated.”

- Hunter College

“I would like to thank you for the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship for 2011-12. I am currently a student at Georgian Court University working towards a dual degree in psychology and education. In addition to being a full-time student, I am a mother of two elementary school children and a wife. I volunteer with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and with the Girl Scouts of America.

There are very few scholarships available to the more mature students like myself, and I cannot begin to tell you how much it means to me to be a recipient of this scholarship. The Newcombe Foundation is helping to ease the burden of the cost of college alleviating some of the stress of trying to pay for college while juggling real life responsibilities. It will help me reach my goal of earning my bachelor’s degree and ultimately becoming a Special Education teacher.”

- Georgian Court University

“I am writing this after receiving the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship. Due to your kindness, my daughter Angelina and I continue to thrive in the Women with Children program at Misericordia. I am so grateful for the support you have given both of us. I could never be achieving all of this without your help. I am able to focus on being a mother and a student because of this scholarship, which is a tremendous gift. There are no words to express my gratitude. You have lightened my load and helped me to breathe easier.

I recently attended the graduation ceremony of my roommate and saw her daughter’s face beam with pride as she watched her mother cross the stage and receive her diploma. It was a precious moment that her daughter will never forget. To see all the hard work, long hours and sacrifice her mother has put into school finally pay off was beyond special. I am so grateful to have that same opportunity to show my daughter what hard work, strength of will and determination can do. I want her to know that anything in life is possible and no matter how hard things may get to always persevere.

Thank you for caring about my education and the future of my child. I feel so blessed to receive the wonderful education here and to know that you support and value me.”

- Misericordia University

“I am a senior at UMBC studying Social Work and Psychology. I just received the wonderful news that I was selected as a recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship.

I have chosen the field of social work because of my desire to assist struggling individuals in their quest to become self-sufficient. I am primarily interested in child welfare and domestic violence. I am the mother of three young children and couldn’t imagine my life without them. My interest in domestic violence and child welfare stem from my personal experience with violence.

I was in an abusive relationship for many years. Eventually, after my husband’s arrest, I moved back home with my parents. A few years later, I was a victim of a car-jacking and was shot four times. While in the Shock Trauma unit of the hospital, I met a social worker and she was an amazing human being! She encouraged me to enroll in classes for women survivors of domestic violence and support groups for victims of crime. I began to regain my self-esteem, I got married, and I began my journey at UMBC.

With a few interruptions in my education for the birth of my children, I am on a course to graduate from UMBC. I have received all A’s in my social work classes and have a 3.8 GPA. I am unable to work more than a few hours a week and spend the majority of my time attending to my children or focusing on my studies. Without the Newcombe Scholarship I would not be able to continue going to school. This has been a lifesaver for me. The scholarship has given me hope that I can overcome the issues of the past with a bright future for my family.”

- University of Maryland, Baltimore County

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your financial support. As a working mother, wife and a recipient of your scholarship, I am grateful for the opportunity this award will provide me. Receiving this scholarship will help in reducing my financial burden and provide assistance for me as I continue pursuing my goal.

I came to the United States over twelve years ago and I never stopped dreaming about going to college and earning a degree. My dream came true when I started to attend Montgomery Community College in the fall of 2007. In May 2009 I graduated with honors and then continued my education as a transfer student at University of Maryland, College Park. Now I am a Community Health senior and I expect to graduate in December of 2011. Your gift has meant so much to me in so many ways. I hope that you realize how grateful I am for investing in my future.”

- University of Maryland, College Park

“I would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity. I transferred to Rutgers last fall semester. I know I have been given an opportunity for an education and I want to make the most of it. I have been doing the best I can because I know that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me. I know that I would not be able to afford school on my own and that I need financial assistance to make it through college. I understand that the assistance given to us, the students, are gifts that come from the generosity of the people that see potential in us. That’s why I’m truly thankful for your scholarship and I want you to know that your donation is going to make a tremendous difference on this journey I’m taking in reaching out for my dreams.

I plan to go to graduate school and continue my studies in Linguistics and Portuguese once I graduate from Rutgers. I’ve been working hard with my professors and my advisors in order to make sure I’m on the right track to successfully achieve this goal.

I’m always in awe at how much kindness I get from people I don’t know, because this attitude of giving to people other than your own isn’t common in my culture. But it is definitely a good thing, and I want to give back to the world and do positive things. I’m learning a lot from all the great people that are helping me get there. You are now part of the great people that have shown me that to give is to gain.”

- Douglass Residential College, Rutgers University

“I just wanted to express my appreciation for your support for my education! I recently received a letter from Cedar Crest College informing me that my scholarship from the Newcombe Foundation was increased for the summer semester, and I cannot tell you how much this means to me. I really need to take courses this summer in order to finish my degree in a reasonable time, and I just did not have the financial ability to pay for them – especially since my husband was laid off from his job. We met last year at Cedar Crest and I was so impressed at how much the Foundation really cares about me – and about all the students it helps along the way. Your support has provided encouragement and affirmation that my dream of earning a college degree is worth the effort and commitment of my whole family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

- Cedar Crest College

“I just wanted you to know that I truly appreciate the gift you have given me. Alone, I am putting myself through college without help from family. Without help from caring people like Mrs. Newcombe, I would not be here today. I grew up very poor and some of my friends could only dream of the opportunity I have and that I am living.

I am so glad I had the chance to put a face to the generosity I was blessed with. Thank you for spending your time getting to know the people your foundation is helping. It shows me how much you really care; that we are more than just a bullet in the budget. You want to see us not as tuition statements but as people with real lives and real dreams. For this I am truly grateful.”

- Arcadia University

“I thank you so much for dedicating a scholarship to mature women. As an adult student, even with ambition, sometimes we need a little extra encouragement. In today’s economy, I can personally tell you that the financial help is the most useful and most appreciated support that anyone could get toward their education. On behalf of all the mature women who are taking the initiative to resume their studies and better their futures while holding down jobs and taking care of families, I sincerely thank you for making this possible.”

- Bloomfield College

“I am so grateful for your continued support. This is the third scholarship I have been offered, and when I look back at my previous letters, I realize how far I’ve come. As of January, I will be enrolling in the graduate education program to earn my teaching certification. Wow!

This has been a blessed journey, one full of both trials and successes. I remember vividly how it began. I whispered to my husband in the dark one night, “I want to go to school.” His simple reply was, “Then go.” I entered college and have not looked back. In the beginning, I was apprehensive and insecure, wondering if I was smart enough. My professors helped me realize my academic potential, but more than that, I was mentored spiritually and emotionally. I was never a number of another advisee; I was Joylynn. People at Gwynedd-Mercy know my name and my story and they care.

No one really knows how their lives will turn out. We have hopes and dreams and strive toward goals, but there are no guarantees that our dreams will come true. The Newcombe Foundation has been a faithful participant in making my dreams a reality. I have been blessed by your willingness to invest in the future of a complete stranger. You could not possibly have known what I secretly whispered to my husband all those years ago yet your foundation has played a big role in my success. My hope is that you will continue to bless others like me who whisper in the dark. Your generosity is the reply that changes lives.”

- Gwynedd-Mercy College

“It is a privilege and an honor to be chosen as a recipient of the Newcombe Scholarship at Widener University. Returning to school after a year of unemployment and economic turmoil as well as many decades away from the classroom has been a challenge and a hardship. This scholarship has eased the burden and allowed me to further my education and thus chart a new course in life. I am extremely grateful and will put your faith in me to good use.”

- Widener University

“Upon hearing about my scholarship from the Charlotte Newcombe Foundation, I was thrilled and excited. I am so thankful to be chosen. I cannot believe how lucky I am. Many people don’t get this kind of opportunity, and I so appreciate what Mrs. Newcombe did to set up these funds to help people. We need more people like her in this world.

Receiving this scholarship made me have a stronger will in life, as I learn that anything is possible. As a nursing major, I plan to return this kind of care to those that I care for, continuing Mrs. Newcombe’s legacy. My patients will surely receive more than the normal task-oriented attention; I plan to meet their emotional and psychological needs, as I know that just sitting and talking with someone can have a tremendous effect on their recovery.

I always tell myself that, by God’s will, if I ever obtain enough financial capacity, I will help the world, traveling to places around the world and reaching out to the poorest of us all, enabling children to obtain adequate healthcare, building schools in remote villages, building water systems for those without drinking water, and surprise, surprise, setting up scholarship funds for those in need. I believe that philanthropy goes a long way, enriching the minds and restoring the lives of many. I can testify to that, because I’m one of those people, thanks to the Charlotte Newcombe Foundation!

Having grown up in West Africa and having lived in poverty myself, I know how dire and uncertain things can be. I remember having my first textbook in grade four, something unusual for Americans. I also remember going to school barefoot because of inadequate funds to purchase footwear. I do not regret these experiences at all, because they have made me stronger and enlightened me. Now I can use the lesson learned to help others, and this scholarship has put me on the path to that. Mrs. Newcombe has truly added to my inspiration in life.”

- La Salle University

“I am writing to thank the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation for the generous support of college students. Scholarships like yours are increasingly important to help defray the financial burden of higher education, especially in this economy. I am grateful for the gift of your scholarship and your belief in me.

I am an Art Education major and will be graduating this spring with honors. I love teaching. Currently, I teach beginning piano lessons and am interning at Essex Elementary and at the Walter’s Art Museum. One of the greatest things about teaching is that you are always learning. My goal is to bring a lifetime love of learning to my students.

I am a non-traditional student and have had to put my education on hold several times because of financial barriers. I am excited to finally be a senior and only two semesters away from a college degree. When I pass the finish line, it will be in part because of the Newcombe Foundation’s contribution to me.”

-Towson University