

MALTESE CROSS FOUNDATION OF CALIFORNIA

VELLA-DANKWERTH CULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP

PO Box 698 San Carlos CA 94070 (650) 592-3030

2020-2021 Scholarship

To All Applicants:

The Maltese Cross Foundation of California is proud to announce the twenty fifth annual Vella-Dankwerth Cultural Scholarship for students of Maltese descent, residing in Northern California*. Our thanks and appreciation go to all generous donations towards these scholarships. Special thanks go to the Dankwerth family and friends who through the years, have consistently supported this scholarship program.

In the Spring of 1991, Mr. Louis J. Vella and Mrs. Lorna Vella-Dankwerth, who were both serving on the Executive Board of Directors of the Maltese Cross Foundation of California at the time, explored the concept of introducing a scholarship fund for students of Maltese descent. Maltese-American families often wondered why there was no financial assistance for their students. Unfortunately, no such scholarships existed. Vella and Dankwerth pondered over the idea for some time until Mrs. Dankwerth became seriously ill and was unable to continue her work on the development of a scholarship. The vision of a scholarship went dormant for several months.

Mrs. Lorna Dankwerth passed away peacefully on June 23, 1993. The Board of Directors of the Maltese Cross Foundation, determined to carry on with the challenge, approved unanimously to add the scholarship as one of the Foundation's annual activities. It was agreed to name the scholarship, **Vella-Dankwerth Cultural Scholarship in memory of Lorna Vella-Dankwerth.**

Lorna was born in Mosta, Malta in 1944. She immigrated to the United States in May 1952 with her parents, Abraham and Josephine Vella, her brother and her sister. She attended Catholic elementary and high schools in San Francisco, then entered college at San Francisco State University where she obtained her Bachelor's Degree and teaching credentials. Lorna loved to teach children. She not only taught full time in the South San Francisco Unified School District and at St. Dunstan School in Millbrae, but she also tutored, taught summer school, and religious education classes. In April 1984, Lorna received the "My Favorite Teacher" award from the San Francisco Examiner. Mrs. Dankwerth was an active member of the Northern California Kindergarten Conference. She was one of the original members of the Board of Directors of the Maltese Cross Foundation and an active promoter and supporter of Maltese-American social and cultural activities.

In loving memory of Lorna Vella-Dankwerth, her achievements and contribution in the field of education, her love and interest in Maltese traditions, and heritage, these Annual Cultural Scholarships are to be awarded.

Sahha u Grazzi:

Maltese Cross Foundation of California
Vella-Dankwerth Cultural Scholarship

* This includes the following counties: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba.

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A total of three scholarships will be awarded for the year 2020-2021. The awards will be divided as follows: one scholarship for one thousand five hundred dollars **(\$1500)**, one for one thousand dollars **(\$1000)** and one for seven hundred fifty dollars **(\$750)**. Eligibility is extended to: high school seniors or college freshmen, sophomores, or juniors.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read the introductory letter and all instructions very carefully.
2. Fill out the application form completely and accurately.
3. The applicant must write an essay of approximately 500 words in a typewritten format on one of the four topics listed below. Although applicant's chosen topic may be researched, the essay must be stated in the applicant's own words. Plagiarism of any kind is grounds of disqualification. Applicants are welcome to reapply but a different essay topic must be chosen.
Please choose one from the following topics:
 - (a) **Choose one aspect of current and foreign affairs as it relates to Malta, giving background as to how it came about and where it stands now.**
 - (b) **Interview a Maltese immigrant: Record his/her memories of Malta and adjusting to American culture. Compare/contrast some aspects of Maltese and American culture, education, cuisine, family life, recreation, etc.**
 - (c) **Write about the origin, influences, and evolution of the Maltese language.**
 - (d) **The Covid-19 epidemic has created unprecedented widespread hardships all over the world. Malta was not spared. How has Malta confronted the economic and social difficulties brought about by the pandemic?**
4. With your application, include a school transcript and college acceptance letter(s) if applicable.
5. Before you send the scholarship package make sure that it includes: the completed application form, the essay, the signed instruction sheet, school transcript, college acceptance letter/s, if applicable, and all attachments. The entire package must be returned to the Maltese Cross Foundation of CA **no later than May 1st, 2021.**
(transcripts from college students may be sent directly from their university)
6. Scholarship awards must be applied towards academic expenses.
7. I _____ have read and understood all the instructions given to me in connection with the Vella-Dankwerth Scholarship and agree to abide by them. I understand that the decision of the Maltese Cross Foundation scholarship program committee is final and all submitted material becomes the property of the Maltese Cross Foundation of California.

Applicant's Signature

Please send this sheet with the rest of your submittals. Family (including children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces/nephews) of the Vella-Dankwerth Cultural Scholarship Committee members are ineligible to apply.

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2020-2021 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

1. Full Name _____
Last First Middle
2. Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Telephone (____) _____
3. Date of Birth _____ 3a. Email _____
4. Father or Guardian: Name _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Telephone (____) _____
5. Mother or Guardian: Name _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Telephone (____) _____
6. Describe your Maltese descent _____ Use separate paper if necessary.
Proof of your Maltese descent must be available if requested by the scholarship committee.
7. At which college or university have you been accepted? _____
Please include copy of acceptance letter.
8. What other honors/awards have you received? _____
9. Describe your community/extra curricular activities, and/or work experience.
Please explain on an attached sheet.
10. What are your future academic goals and objectives? Please explain on an attached sheet.
11. How did you hear about this scholarship program? Please explain on an attached sheet.

CERTIFICATION: I certify that the information given above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature

Date

***Return completed Application with Attachments by **May 1st, 2021**. Mail entire package to Maltese Cross Foundation of California, Vella-Dankwerth Cultural Scholarship, PO Box 698, San Carlos CA 94070.