



Call for Applications

The Clarence Martin Jr. Memorial Scholarship

This fund supports students with financial need from Benton and Franklin counties pursuing a welding degree at Columbia Basin College. It honors Clarence Martin Jr., a devoted ironworker and welder who spent decades serving the community. Clarence rose above the limitations of a rural eighth-grade education to build a respected career as an ironworker and welder. He dedicated over 40 years of volunteer service to the Tri-Cities, especially through the Water Follies. His legacy is one of hard work, loyalty, and deep commitment to community.

The criteria for application include the following:

- The student must be a resident of Benton or Franklin County.
- The student must be currently enrolled in the Welding program at Columbia Basin College (CBC) or a current high school senior entering the Welding Program at CBC.
- The student must demonstrate financial need and ability to pay additional expenses not covered by this scholarship, as substantiated by the enrolling school.

To apply, please provide the following:

Application & Narrative Questions (Attached).

Personal & Financial Information Form (Attached). If significant financial information is not available from one parent or guardian, please submit a brief written explanation of why this information has been left out.

Essay: Submit an essay (500-1000 words) telling us about yourself, your educational achievements and your future career goals and how you plan to accomplish your goals.

References: Please include two reference letters with your application. These letters should be from people who know you through your academic or employment experience or your community leadership and participation. Please do not include relatives as references.

Transcript: Your full transcript from the school you are currently attending must be stamped with an official seal and can be enclosed with your application or mailed directly to the 3 Rivers Community Foundation.

Deadline: The completed application, plus letters of reference and school transcripts, must be postmarked by March 31, 2026. Materials postmarked after this date will not be considered.

Send the fully completed application to:

3 Rivers Community Foundation
7401 W. Hood Place, #140
Kennewick, WA 99336

Decision notification letters will be sent in May. **Two \$750.00 awards will be distributed.** The scholarship funds will be disbursed directly to the institution in the recipient's name, upon receipt of enrollment verification.

Verification: I affirm that the information included with my application is true and accurate in all respects and that I intend to pursue a post-secondary degree. I understand that if selected, the awarding of funds is contingent upon my full-time enrollment in an accredited institution, and that the funds will be paid directly to the institution and used toward the cost of my education.

Signature

Date

Welding a Life of Purpose: Honoring Clarence Martin Jr.

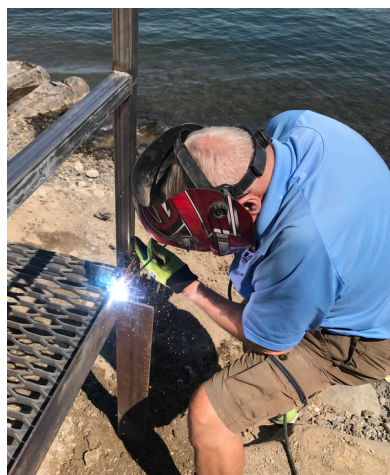
Clarence Martin Jr. was born in 1942 in Bowling Green, Kentucky, the son of tobacco sharecroppers. Life on the farm was tough, and as a teenager, Clarence spent his summers hitchhiking to California, working odd jobs alongside his older brothers to help support the family. At 19, he made the Tri-Cities his permanent home, a place where he would build a life defined by grit, generosity, and unwavering dedication.

In 1972, Clarence began working for Ray Poland and Sons, where he not only honed his skills but also formed a lifelong friendship with Ray Poland. Over the next four decades, Clarence never missed a single day of work. He wore many hats, steelworker, ironworker, welder, heavy equipment and crane operator, and eventually superintendent. Clarence built a career marked by respect, craftsmanship, and leadership.

Beyond his professional achievements, Clarence was deeply committed to his community. For over 40 years, he volunteered with the Water Follies, tirelessly installing and removing docks and cranes each year. His presence at the races became iconic, a symbol of dedication and pride in local traditions.

Clarence also cherished time with loved ones. As a charter seat holder for the Seattle Seahawks, he made it a point to share his seats with family and friends, creating lasting memories and celebrating together. He was proud of his business acumen, working hard over the years to acquire properties and build a business that could be passed down to his children and grandchildren, a legacy rooted in love, perseverance, and hard work.

His life stands as a powerful testament to loyalty, service, and the enduring impact of a man who gave everything to his craft, his community, and his family.



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Contact Information

Full Name:

DOB:

Mailing Address:

City, State, Zip:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

What is your preferred method of contact:

☐

Phone

☐

Email

☐

Text Message

☐

Mail

I agree to respond promptly to any requests regarding enrollment verification, documentation, or other materials required to support my scholarship application or award process.

If I cannot be reached, I authorize the scholarship committee to contact the individual listed below:

Full Name:

Relationship to Applicant:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Signature

Date

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Education Information

Select your current status:

☐

High School Student

☐

College Student

If you are a high school student, please complete the following:

Current High School Name:

Cumulative GPA (4.0 Scale):

Graduation Date:

Intended College or University:

Student ID Number (if available):

Include a copy of your acceptance letter if you have already applied and have received your confirmation.

If you are a college student, please complete the following:

Current College or University:

☐

Freshman

☐

Sophomore

☐

Junior

☐

Senior

☐

Graduate Student

Student ID Number:

Cumulative GPA (4.0 Scale):

Major or Area of Study:

Name of High School Graduated From:

High School Graduation Year:

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Parent/Guardian Information

Last Name:	First Name:
Address:	
Occupation:	
Employer:	# of Years:
Home Phone:	Work Phone:

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Last Name:	First Name:
Address:	
Occupation:	
Employer:	# of Years:
Home Phone:	Work Phone:

Financial Questions

Which of the following will be your living situation for the 2026-2027 academic year?

- ☐ Live at home with parents/guardian
- ☐ Live in college dorm
- ☐ Live in own apartment
- ☐ Live in shared apartment with roommate(s)

Please provide the tuition cost for the academic year. The cost of tuition should be available on the school's website. Please do not include the cost of Room and Board in this figure: \$

Please estimate your living expenses for the academic year. Be sure to consider your basic needs, housing, and transportation costs.

Estimated living expenses \$

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Will you, or did you apply for financial aid through the FAFSA or WAFSA?

- ☐ Yes, I have already applied
- ☐ Yes, I plan to apply in the near future
- ☐ No, I do not plan on applying

If no, please explain why_____

If you have completed the FAFSA or WAFSA, what is your Expected Family Contribution?

\$

Aid Gap

Tuition Cost

\$

+

Living Expenses

\$

-

Financial Aid

\$

-

Other Scholarships Awarded

\$

-

Savings/Parental Assistance

\$

=

Unmet Need/Aid Gap

\$

State your plans for additional financial aid or employment to cover additional expenses during college:

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Narrative Questions - You may use additional pages if necessary.

Clarence's life was shaped by humble beginnings and a strong work ethic. How has your background influenced your goals and the person you are becoming?

Please describe your work experience and/or leadership experience:

Essay

Describe how your personal journey, goals, and values reflect the spirit of Clarence Martin Jr.'s life. How do you hope to make a meaningful impact through your career in welding? In honoring Clarence Martin Jr.'s legacy, describe how your journey reflects his spirit: rising above adversity, staying true to your principles, and using your skills to make a lasting difference.