June 13, 2012

Dear Financial Aid Officer:

The Arc of Texas is a statewide non-profit volunteer organization that seeks to create opportunities for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to actively participate in their communities and to make the choices which affect their lives in a positive manner. The Arc of Texas is pleased to announce the availability of the Don Miller Memorial Scholarship for eligible students who will be enrolling in your institution for the 2012-2013 fall and spring semesters.

This scholarship is offered to full-time students in need of financial assistance who have chosen a degree plan that will result in a professional career in the field of intellectual and developmental disability services. The scholarship is limited to $1,000 annually and is paid in equal semester installments. The scholarship is available only to junior and senior students. The Arc of Texas awards only one scholarship per year.

Attached is a copy of the rules relating to the Don Miller Memorial Scholarship and an application form. The recipient is chosen by a volunteer committee of leaders from The Arc of Texas Board of Directors. All decisions of the Scholarship Committee are final. Please inform qualified students of the availability of this scholarship. Copies of all materials relating to the scholarship, including the application form, are available at The Arc of Texas website at www.thearcoftexas.org.

The deadline for submission for the 2012-2013 scholarship award is July 13, 2012.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Mike Bright – Executive Director
SCHOLARSHIP RULES
Don Miller Memorial Scholarship

1. The Don Miller Memorial Scholarship is open to any full-time junior or senior student enrolled in a state supported college or university who has a primary career interest in providing services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

2. Applicants must have applied to and been accepted by the college or university of their choice prior to making application for the scholarship.

3. Applicants must identify their chosen degree plan on the application form. The degree plan must relate in some way to the field of intellectual and developmental disability services.

4. By the required date the applicant must submit to The Arc of Texas office the following materials:
   - Completed application
   - Transcript of college grades
   - Three letters of recommendation from:
     1. A teacher who has taught the applicant
     2. A person employed in the applicant’s career field
     3. A character reference

5. An applicant must demonstrate achievement of a cumulative 2.5 or greater Grade Point Average through his/her college career to date.

6. The recipient must maintain a 2.5 G.P.A. for the fall semester in order to qualify for the spring semester installment of the scholarship.

7. The scholarship is awarded in single semester installments. In order to qualify for the spring semester installment, the recipient must:
   - Submit documentation of attainment of a 2.5 Grade Point Average for the fall semester.
   - Affirm that the original degree plan has not been amended
   - Confirm his/her intent to continue to pursue the degree plan in the spring semester.

8. The amount of the scholarship is $1,000 and is to be given in two equal semester installments of $500. The check is made out to the designated college or university and may be used for any expense charged by the institution.
9. The check for each semester's installment of the scholarship is mailed directly to the recipient. Scholarships are offered only for the fall and spring semesters. Assistance for summer semester(s) is not offered.

10. Scholarship decisions are made without regard to age, sex, race, national origin, religion or handicapping condition.

11. All decisions by The Arc of Texas Scholarship Committee are final and may not be appealed.
2012-2013 Don Miller Memorial Scholarship Application
Submit By 7/13/12

Applicant Information

Full Name: ________________________________ Date __________________

Last First M.I.

Address: ________________________________ Apartment/Unit # ________________________________

Street Address

City State ZIP Code

Phone: (_____) ___________________________ Cell Phone: (_____) ___________________________

E-mail Address: ________________________________

Educational Information

Name of College/University you intend to attend for Fall/Spring of 2012-2013: ________________________________

Have you been accepted for enrollment or have registered for the fall semester? YES ☐ NO ☐

Your status in the coming fall semester: Junior ☐ Senior ☐

Major: ________________________________ Minor: ________________________________

What is your current cumulative GPA? ________________________________

Narrative Information:

State your justification for financial assistance:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

State your future career goal(s):

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

State how your career goal(s) will advance the mission of The Arc of Texas ("Creating opportunities for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to actively participate in their communities and make the choices that affect their lives in a positive manner"): 

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
Affirmation and Signature

I affirm that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: __________________________________________

Attach the following to this application:

1. Notification of acceptance/or proof of registration for the fall semester from the College/University

2. Copy of most recent transcript with cumulative GPA

3. Three reference letters:
   - A teacher who has taught the applicant
   - A person in your intended career field
   - A character/personal reference

Mail all materials to:

The Arc of Texas
Attn: Don Miller Memorial Scholarship
8001 Centre Park Drive
Suite 100
Austin, TX 78754

Or email to: mbright@thearcoftexas.org

Or fax to:
(512) 454-4956
Don Miller Memorial Scholarship

2012-2013

BACKGROUND: From 1967-74 Don Miller of San Angelo was an active youth volunteer leader in The Arc’s statewide youth volunteer movement. He was instrumental in the planning and implementation of local and state-level recreational, athletic and social services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Although confined to a wheelchair by muscular dystrophy, Don became a great example of volunteerism in action. Following his death in 1974, the Don Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to honor his memory.

The scholarship provides one $1,000 scholarship (in two equal semester installments) per year to a junior or senior full time student at a Texas college or university who plans to pursue a future in the filed of IDD services.

The deadline for submitting applications is July 13, 2012.