

**David Ray Caillouet Memorial Scholarship  
2023**



**(Tell us his story or your inspiration for offering this scholarship)**

I was on a journey of personal development in 2012, when the idea of honoring my father's legacy in a way that could serve others was laid upon my heart. When I returned from the "Heart of the Samurai" seminar hosted by Klemmer & Associates, I began looking into options to form a non-profit or memorial fund and was eventually advised to go and speak to Raymond Hebert at the Community Foundation of Acadiana to open a fund in honor of my dad, David Ray Caillouet who was tragically killed in an offshore accident on October 24, 1986, when I was only 6 years old, my sister Maria was only 2 years old, and my mother Henrietta was only 37 years old and left to raise her two babies as a widow and without my dad by her side.

Having a first grade student at Mount Carmel Elementary, my mom was able to lean upon the faculty and staff there to help us grieve and journey through this newfound tragic situation. I can honestly say that Mount Carmel became *family* for us! We needed the love and guidance that would support our family moving forward. Little did she know how much greater the gift of Catholic education would become to us when she and my dad decided to send me to Mount Carmel to be enriched in the Faith while being in a learning environment that would come to grow their children into well-rounded, faith-filled young women!

My mom always told Maria and I just how important it was to her and my dad that we would be able to have a Catholic education, so when I formed the David Ray Caillouet Memorial Fund, I knew that it would serve to support families like ours who wanted to provide the same education to their children. Officially formed in September of 2012, we were able to award our first grants to one student attending Mount Carmel Elementary and one student attending Vermilion Catholic High School during the 2014 Catholic Schools' Week Celebration, and what an honor it was for me and my family to have assisted in giving the gift of Catholic education to these students in memory of my dad, David!

In addition to supporting Catholic education, the David Ray Caillouet Memorial Fund has also granted monies to support Healing House: Hope for Grieving Children which is an organization whose mission is to let no child grieve alone. As someone who has served with Healing House in many capacities, it makes sense to give back and volunteer to an organization that helps families cope with the grief of the loss of a loved one through death. The ability to continue my father's legacy by way of granting funds to organizations so close to our family has been quite healing to me throughout my own grief journey.

It is through service to others through Christ that I have been able to put his life - and death - into perspective. It doesn't take away the pain, but it does give meaning to it. It's also a reminder that Our Lord is here with us every step of the way! The fullness of heart that I've received as a result of giving back is the intention behind having the student applicants reflect and write about their service to others. In a world full of judgment and negativity, we are subject to doubt our own worth and abilities, but in serving others through Christ, all doubt can be erased by a single smile from someone on the receiving end of our service. How beautiful it is to receive such a beautiful gift of love from Jesus himself!

Encouraging the seed of service is so very important to me, and I feel it's a unique way to likewise encourage the hearts of these beautiful, bright and faith-filled students by incorporating service and reflection thereof into this grant opportunity. My hope is that they continue to grow in faith and in service to others so that they can "move mountains" in the world that so eagerly awaits them. Their insight and experiences never cease to amaze and inspire me, and it's through the Love of Christ that I get to offer this opportunity in honor of the legacy of my father, David Ray Caillouet!

With love,  
Annie N. Caillouet

**Scholarships Offered:**

One PreK through 4th grade scholarship worth - \$500

One 5th through 8th grade scholarship worth - \$500

One 9th through 11th grade scholarship worth - \$500

**Application Requirements:**

*PreK through 4th grade:* Please fill out the application form below. In lieu of an essay, it is requested that a **letter** be submitted entailing your family's service and commitment to Catholic education.

*5th through 8th grade & 9th through 11th:* These scholarship opportunities will be awarded on the basis of a record of service performed over the past calendar year and a one page essay entitled ***"Living Our Catholic Faith in Service to Others"***

**Application Submissions:**

Applications must be submitted by email to - [scholarships@vermillioncatholic.com](mailto:scholarships@vermillioncatholic.com) by **Thursday, February 22, 2023.**

**Award Date:**

All School Mass - March 3, 2023

**David Ray Caillout Memorial Scholarship  
Application**

Please include this application cover page to your service record and essay to [scholarships@vermilioncatholic.com](mailto:scholarships@vermilioncatholic.com) by February 22, 2023.

Applicant Name:

Applicant Grade:

Parents of Applicant:

Applicant GPA:

List of Extracurricular Activities:

## Service Record for David Ray Caillouet Memorial Scholarship Application

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