

# The Groton Area Newcomers and Friends (GANF) Bic Penn Memorial Scholarship

The Groton Area Newcomers and Friends has been awarding a scholarship based on community service to a deserving senior for many years. In 1999 it was renamed the GANF Bic Penn Memorial Scholarship after Bic, one of our members. Here is the story of Bic as written by his wife Diane.

*“He and I joined the Groton Newcomers in 1995. He was born in Missouri and went to college in California. He fell in love with the Pacific Ocean and never left California until we came to live in New England. He was a Nuclear Engineer and a Mechanical Engineer by trade. His interests were in community service as well as fishing, mountaineering, scuba diving, white water rafting and kayaking. He worked for the Newcomers in lots of capacities, but those who knew him would most likely remember him in the kitchen doing dishes after the Holiday dinner that we put on for the elders in the town. That was his station along with our son, Nate. He always wanted to help and felt most comfortable in the jobs that were not in the limelight. Bic took to reading all the applications for the scholarship. At that time no one wanted to do that and he would read all of them himself and pick three to show to a couple of other members. One student would then be selected to receive the scholarship. He really loved doing this little task as he got to hear the student’s views on things and felt the pulse of what the young folks were up to. He also worked the parking lot for any event that the Newcomers held and for the road race held in Groton. You could always count on him finding the time to help in whatever capacity was needed. He believed in community service but didn't let the social side of Newcomers slip by him. The members all knew him and liked his easy friendly manner. Not everyone knew the strength of character he had in dealing with his own medical issues. In 1989 he had a heart transplant and we were told that one of the side effects of the strong medications that he had to take was the possibility of getting cancer. That was a dance he was engaged in for the 10 years he managed to stay alive after the transplant. In 1998 it caught up to him and in a very short time (3 months after diagnosis) he ran out of options. He lost his valiant fight as so many do. The club members who knew him asked the club to name the scholarship after him and it has remained that way ever since.”*

## Scholarship Guidelines

1. For more than 20 years the Groton Area Newcomers and Friends (GANF) has demonstrated a positive role in community service. We will award a scholarship to a graduating senior who demonstrates how his or her community service has made a positive contribution.
2. The scholarship is open to a college bound high school senior who resides in either Groton or Dunstable, or a college bound senior who is the child of an active GANF member.
3. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded.
4. To be eligible the following items must be submitted on or before **April 6, 2012** to Groton Area Newcomers & Friends Scholarship; P.O. Box 796; Groton, MA 01450.
  - 4.1 A completed application.
  - 4.2 A copy of the student’s transcript.
  - 4.3 The applicant’s community service essay.



# THE GROTON AREA NEWCOMERS AND FRIENDS (GANF) BIC PENN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## EDUCATIONAL PLANS

Which college or school are you planning to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this an accredited program? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

## GANF MEMBERSHIP

Are you the child of an active GANF member? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY SERVICE ESSAY CRITERIA

**Please answer the following questions in your essay, and limit the essay to 2 pages.**

1. What was your community service project?
2. Why did you choose this particular project?
3. What kind of time commitment did it involve?
4. Did you create this opportunity or was this part of an existing community service program?
5. Identify what you learned from this volunteer experience.
6. What skill(s) did you acquire or enhance from this experience?
7. How will those skills help you with your college pursuit?
8. Why is your community service project important to you and/or your community?

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit the completed application, student's transcript and community service essay by **April 6, 2012** to:

Groton Area Newcomers & Friends Scholarship  
P.O. Box 796  
Groton, MA 01450