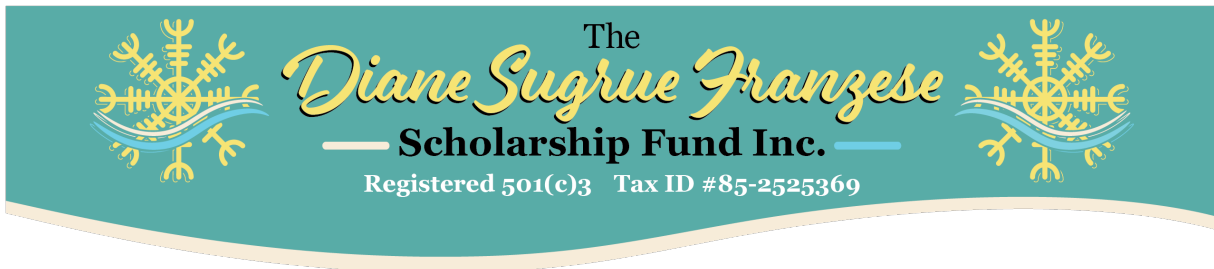


*Diane E. Sugrue Franzese* was a gifted lawyer, devoted mother to her two sons Hunter and Louie, and beloved wife to her husband Lou. On May 21, 2020, Diane passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Throughout her life, Diane was the epitome of grit and resiliency. She was a graduate of Saint Catherine of Siena's primary school, Cedar Grove High School, Montclair State University, and Seton Hall Law School. She had a remarkable legal career, rising to the position of Vice President and Associate General Counsel for Novartis and served as Global Compliance Officer for Ingersoll Rand. During the last 14 years of her legal career, Diane was a Partner at Nukk-Freeman & Cerra, a women-owned employment law firm, where she headed the Counseling Department and was a member of the firm's Executive Leadership Team. Diane was a brilliant attorney and a passionate advocate for her clients. She also had a unique ability to inspire, lead, and mentor her team. She met each day with grace, strength, and determination and made everyone around her better. A passionate champion for social justice, Diane served as President of the Board of Trustees for the Community Health Law Project, a statewide nonprofit advocacy and legal services organization designed to deliver services to the disabled. Never one to be in the spotlight, Diane worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help others. She will be remembered as a champion and advocate for those in need and those without a voice. Diane's family and friends established the Diane Sugrue Franzese Scholarship Fund to honor her memory.

The DSF Scholarship Fund will award up to two (2) \$5,000 scholarships annually. Scholarship finalists will be invited to attend the Diane Sugrue Franzese Scholarship Fund Annual Fundraiser Dinner, where scholarships will be presented to the winners. The Diane Sugrue Franzese Scholarship Fund Committee will select the finalists, who will be interviewed and selected by the Funds' Board. No member of the Diane Sugrue Franzese Scholarship Fund Board or Scholarship Committee, or his or her immediate family, shall be eligible for scholarship assistance during his or her tenure on the Board or Committee. The Board retains the right to withhold scholarship grants in any year if no candidate is determined to be qualified.



### **DSF SCHOLARSHIP FUND CRITERIA**

- Must be a graduating Senior, who either attended Saint Catherine of Siena School or is currently attending Cedar Grove High School.
- Must have maintained a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0.
- Must plan to attend a two or four year college or university.
- Must have an interest in pursuing a career in the law and/or social justice.
- Must complete an application and submit an essay of 500 words or less that describes how you have demonstrated grit or resiliency. *Grit* is defined as passion and perseverance for long-term goals that give meaning to everything you do; that to which you hold steadfast even if you fall, screw up, or progress is slow. *Resiliency* is defined as the capacity to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or significant sources of stress.
- Must provide one (1) letter of reference from a non-family member.

Applications are available at [www.DSFscholarshipfund.org](http://www.DSFscholarshipfund.org).

Applications should be emailed to [info@dsfscholarshipfund.org](mailto:info@dsfscholarshipfund.org) on or before **April 30, 2021**.