PAUL “ANDY”, 2006 RECIPIENT
Andy was born in southern California to a Hispanic family lacking education or opportunity. Andy and his sister lived with their mother, who suffered from mental illness. As a result, the family struggled with poverty, homelessness, and impulsive moving. Eventually, Andy and his sister were placed in foster care until his father was awarded custody and moved them to Mexico to live with him. Andy did well in school, and in 8th grade, he was accepted into the Better Chance Program and moved to Rochester to finish his education. Following high school, Andy pursued his dream of becoming an Architect at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

MARY, 2008 RECIPIENT
Mary was born in Sudan and lived with her parents and brother until the family’s life was shattered by the war. The rebel forces captured her father to fight in the war and he was ultimately killed after repeated attempts to escape. Her mother was then seized by rebel forces on suspicion of aiding her husband, and she was tortured and killed as well. A neighbor rescued Mary and her brother and they were taken in by her grandmother. However, with the perilous conditions in Sudan, Mary and her brother would not be safe. An uncle took the children to the United States to provide them with a more secure home. Living in Fargo, North Dakota, Mary faced discrimination and came to hate school. It was not until moving to Rochester that Mary began to feel at home and embraced the education available to her. Mary attended Century High School and participated in RCTC’s Upward Bound Program. After graduation, Mary planned to pursue a career in healthcare in order to return to Sudan and help others.

HANNA, 2012 RECIPIENT
At 16, Hanna received physical therapy for what was believed to be a pinched nerve and a pulled muscle. Further testing indicated she had a grapefruit sized tumor, classified as Osteosarcoma or bone cancer. Sadly, after ten weeks of chemotherapy, the treatment did not shrink the tumor and Hanna underwent a 21-hour operation to amputate her leg, hip and half of her pelvis. Despite all of her incredible losses, Hanna did not lose hope. She felt that even though she couldn’t play soccer, she wouldn’t let my disability keep her from the game.” She accommodated to untold levels of pain and adapted to the limitations of a wheel chair to become the soccer team manager. After graduating from Lourdes High School, Hanna went on to the University of Minnesota.

“I feel this scholarship has given me all these opportunities to continue to pursue my dream. Thank you Beat the Odds.”
Tamara, 2000 Beat the Odds Recipient

“I am so thankful that I received this scholarship. Thanks to everyone who organized this program to help and encourage recipients.”
Adam, 2002 Beat the Odds Recipient

“This scholarship meant success for me. It told me I could achieve.”
Joyce, 2004 Beat the Odds Recipient

“Financially, I wasn’t able to go to college. Now with this scholarship, I can go to college.”
Samantha, 2006 Beat the Odds Recipient

“Beat the Odds Scholarship proved to me that I can ‘Beat the Odds’ and dared me to attend one of the top institutions in the United States.”
Sandy, 2009 Beat the Odds Recipient

“I’m determined to be that one person that makes a difference in this world even if it is just one step at a time.”
Angalee, 2014 Beat the Odds Recipient
ABOUT BEAT THE ODDS

BEAT THE ODDS is a unique scholarship and fundraising program that celebrates high school seniors or first-year RCTC students who have faced considerable challenges and obstacles in their young lives, yet have achieved personal and academic success. The purpose of the program is to raise awareness to the struggles of many youth in our community and recognize their ability to overcome difficulties.

Despite significant odds, such as personal or family hardships, medical issues, disabilities, poverty, neglect, chemical dependency or language and cultural barriers, these individuals have persevered and begun a path of personal achievements. As their path leads them toward higher education, they are provided with a $2,500 scholarship to attend Rochester Community and Technical College.

Besides recognizing these inspiring young students, BEAT THE ODDS also pays tribute to the adults who detected the struggles and reached out with encouragement, advice, resources and support.

Since its inception, our BEAT THE ODDS has awarded over $205,000 in scholarships to 133 students. Proceeds from the event not only provide these inspiring students with scholarships, they also benefit the RCTC Foundation with resources to administer scholarships and support RCTC programs.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To be eligible for a BEAT THE ODDS Scholarship,

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MUST:

• Be a high school SENIOR in a Rochester, or surrounding community, in Fall 2016
• Be on track to graduate from high school prior to July 2017
• Plan to attend RCTC for Fall 2017
• Be nominated by an adult that can attest to their ability to overcome struggles.

A completed application includes:
1. Nominator Form and letter of recommendation
2. Student Application form and 1-2 page essay
3. High School Transcript

FIRST YEAR RCTC STUDENTS MUST:

• Be currently enrolled at RCTC as a first year student in Fall 2016
• Plan to continue at RCTC for Fall 2017
• Be nominated by an adult that can attest to their ability to overcome struggles.

A completed application includes:
1. Nominator Form and letter of recommendation
2. Student Application form and 1-2 page essay
3. RCTC DARS report
4. High School Transcript

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 31, 2016

A selection committee will review each application and narrow down the pool of applicants to semifinalists. Semifinalists will participate in an interview with the scholarship selection committee and based upon those interviews, finalists will be selected by mid-December to receive a $2,500 scholarship. Additional scholarships in smaller amounts may be offered.

Application materials can downloaded at: www.rctc.edu/foundation

SEND APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:
RCTC Foundation | 851 30th Avenue SE | Rochester, MN 55904

AWARD CEREMONY

The selected BEAT THE ODDS recipients will be recognized at the 17th Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony in January.

Scholarship recipients and their nominators will be interviewed and videotaped prior to the award ceremony to create a production for the event.

Recipients and their nominators are expected to attend the ceremony and represent BEAT THE ODDS in media and publicity prior to the event. Students may invite two family members to attend the event with them. Tickets may be purchased for additional family members.

The BEAT THE ODDS Scholarship Ceremony will also be attended by area business and community leaders who sponsor BEAT THE ODDS and help to fund the scholarships.

Thursday, January 12, 2017
Rochester International Event Center
7333 Airport View Drive SW
Rochester, MN 55902

The evening will begin with a social hour and silent auction at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner and the award ceremony.