** Cole Gordon “Helping Hand” Grant**

Cole Gordon’s tragic passing in 2019 at the young age of 17 brought to light his love of community through his extensive volunteerism. Born and raised in Friendswood, Texas, he followed in his family’s footsteps giving time to worthy causes. He was an active member of Friendswood FFA, raising farm animals for show, while spending endless hours helping the Lighthouse Charity Team, Friendswood Fire Department, Police and Emergency Medical Service Departments, the Rotary Club of Galveston, Galveston County Emergency Response, the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce, along with many of his friends from FFA. In the last nine years of his life, Cole’s volunteering activities spanned 750 charitable events and touched the lives of over 500,000 people. Cole was known throughout the community for his “Helping Hand”.

The purpose of the Cole Gordon “Helping Hand” FFA Grant is to honor a student who exemplifies these qualities. The grant is available to FFA students from 9th-12th grade and will be offered each Spring and Fall. Student’s applying for the grant should share the same “Helping Hand” characteristics and will explain in an essay how they exhibit these qualities in their everyday life. The student will also need to include how the $500 grant will be used to continue their growth as an FFA member. Examples for underclassmen include: showmanship clinics, State Convention or other leadership conferences, Excellence Conference, judging clinics, SAE expenses, including feed, feeding supplies, bedding, etc. For Seniors applying for the Spring grant, please share how it will be used post-graduation i.e., trade school/college tuition, books, etc. Payment options to fund directly to school, feed store, breeder, etc., can be arranged.

Criteria:

* You must be a Friendswood High School student who is an active member of the FFA program.
* You must submit an essay stating why you believe you should be selected for this grant, what your financial need is based on and what you plan to do with grant in the future.
* You must submit 1 letter of recommendation from an academic teacher, and/or extracurricular coach or sponsor (outside of FFA), and/or from a source outside of school such as a boss, or church or youth pastor. The letter of recommendation should be emailed directly from the person writing it, to the Friendswood FFA Alumni and Supporters email address at alumnifhsffa@gmail.com

Value: $500

Deadline: October 23, 2023 and will be announced at the November FFA Meeting.

* Emailed application to Friendswood FFA Alumni alumnifhsffa@gmail.com
* Must include in the Email Subject line: Cole Gordon “Helping Hand” FFA Grant with student full name
* Attachments: Include page 2 of this form, essay from the student
* Letter of Recommendation specific to why you should receive the Cole Gordan “Helping Hand” FFA Grant emailed from person writing on behalf of the student directly to alumnifhsffa@gmail.com

ln applying for the Cole Gordon “Helping Hand” FFA Grant, I agree to use any funds awarded to me toward my FFA development during the 2023-2024 school year or tuition/fees related to my post-high school education. I will provide documentation of the fees/program to the FFA Alumni Treasurer by May 1, 2O24, or the grant will be forfeited. Documentation must include detail charges/proof of enrollment and where the payment should be mailed.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_