



# Bill Ferzacca

## Education Scholarship Fund

---

---



Bill Ferzacca grew up in poverty in Michigan. His father passed away when he was young and his family of 10 slipped into rough times. As a high school student he came to the realization that education was the key to improving his situation. He worked hard and had aspirations of college. His dream became a reality after he enlisted in the Navy during World War II and was able to take advantage of the GI Bill. Eventually he enrolled himself at Michigan State University where he had, what he calls, a life-changing experience.

“While I was visiting the nursery one day, there was a little girl with an olive complexion. Another little girl came up to me and said that she couldn’t play with her because she was black,” he said. He knew at that moment that he wanted to teach preschool, believing that if outlooks like that could be changed at the preschool level, then children could grow in tolerance and acceptance. He spent years teaching preschoolers in Missouri and then studying the learning capabilities of children with disabilities. During his career in child development he spent his weekends setting up community action agencies with Head Start across the United States, voluntarily. “It wasn’t for the money,” he said, “it was for the concept.”

Ferzacca has always felt a strong connection between education and poverty.

“When I looked at my own situation, [experiencing poverty] in school, there seemed to be a pecking order with those in poverty on the bottom. I found that [to get out of my situation] I had to get an education...It’s such a grinding and devastating process to be in poverty, but with education you have something to sell.” His feelings on the relationship between poverty and education are why he supports Head Start child development programs.

In 1999, he and his wife, Ruth, moved to Lexington and immediately got involved with the Council. The Council’s deep concern for low-income citizens was apparent to him. He recounts, “After meeting with [Executive Director, Jack Burch] I was convinced that this community action agency was dedicated to [combating] poverty.”

He began volunteering at the Southeast Child Development Center. While there, he saw first-hand the caliber of developmental teaching the children at the Council received. Bill Ferzacca believes so much in Head Start that he partnered with the Council to create the Bill Ferzacca Education Scholarship intended to help low-income individuals climb out of poverty with a college degree.

“What I want to do with this scholarship is to give someone the opportunity to get an education, create more Head Start teachers, and move at least one person out of poverty,” says Ferzacca. He believes that while poverty may never be eliminated, it can be diffused through generations. If one parent can graduate college then his/her children will be better for it.

Sadly, Mr. Ferzacca passed away on October 19, 2014. His impact on the community, students, and the Council will certainly be everlasting.

*“Whatever I have, I have to share with someone who needs it,” ~ Bill Ferzacca*



**Bill Ferzacca**

# **Education Scholarship Fund**

---

---

Bill Ferzacca created this scholarship fund in an effort to assist those trying to escape poverty as well as to help children in Community Action Council's Head Start programs. In the 2017 school year, up to two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,250 per semester.

Head Start is the oldest school readiness program in the United States. It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. Community Action Council provides child development services, including Head Start, in Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison, Nicholas, and Scott Counties. Services are provided by the Council's Centers as well as through partnerships with local school districts and community-based childcare providers.

The Bill Ferzacca Education Scholarship will be awarded to a deserving individual(s) as laid out by the criteria below. This scholarship is renewable each year by application only, as funding allows. The scholarship fund is intended to cover partial tuition at a post secondary institution or assistance to cover the cost of childcare if the scholarship recipient requires. *Scholarship recipients are required to teach in a Head Start classroom for two years after receipt of their degree.*

- The applicant may begin at a two-year or four-year college or university. The applicant must intend to earn a BA/BS or graduate degree in Early Childhood Education, or a related field, and intend to meet state and national standards for lead teachers in Head Start classrooms.
- The applicant must be admissible at an accredited college or university.
- The applicant must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- The applicant must be a resident of or attend school in Bourbon, Fayette, Harrison, Madison, Nicholas or Scott County.
- The applicant must demonstrate a financial need for the scholarship.
- The applicant must maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA to keep the scholarship.
- 

Awards will be made on a semester basis until funding is depleted. Up to two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,250 per semester. For more information please contact (859) 244-2212 or visit [www.commaction.org](http://www.commaction.org).

**The deadline to apply is 5:00 p.m. EST  
Friday, April 28, 2017**



## Instructions:

### 1. Prepare all application materials well in advance

- Consider all criteria for the scholarship before applying to ensure you meet the requirements
- Fill out the application form and attach additional sheets as necessary
- Compose an essay that will help the selection committee understand how the Bill Ferzacca Education Scholarship can help you achieve your goals and interests in early childhood education. Include information that explains your intent to receive a BA/BS or graduate degree in a field related to Early Childhood Education, including 18 college credits in Early Childhood Education. Please be sure to include your experience in early childhood development (The essay should not exceed 700 words)
- Submit one official transcript from the high school, university or college you most recently attended
- Submit one letter of recommendation (letters of recommendation may come from teachers, supervisors, colleagues or community members)

### 2. Compile the application packet

### 3. The application packet must be received by Friday, April 28, 2017

### 4. Ways to submit applications:

Mail:

Bill Ferzacca Education Scholarship Fund  
Community Action Council  
Attn: Karen Thomas  
P.O. Box 11610  
Lexington, KY 40576

Hand deliver:

Community Action Council  
Attn: Karen Thomas  
710 West High Street  
Lexington, KY 40508

Scan and email to:

karen.thomas@commaction.org

**Applications received after 5pm EST April 28,  
2017 will not be reviewed**





# Bill Ferzacca

# Education Scholarship Fund

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have or have you had a child in Head Start? (*circle one*) Yes No

*If yes, dates/program name:* \_\_\_\_\_

Were you, personally, ever enrolled in a Head Start program? (*circle one*) Yes No

*If yes, dates/program name:* \_\_\_\_\_

## Education

- Currently in High School
- Earned GED
- Currently Employed
- Currently in College
- Name of College/University: \_\_\_\_\_
- Full time student? (*circle one*)  
Yes No
- Undergraduate Student
- Graduate Student

Current student ID number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

If not currently in college, what college or university do you plan to attend?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Planned date of enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_



## Financial Need

### Annual Gross Income of Your Family

Estimate the total 2017 income for your family. If you are a dependent, provide your parents' income.

- More than \$44,999
- \$40,000-44,999
- \$35,000-\$39,000
- \$30,000-\$34,999
- \$20,000-\$29,999
- \$10,000-\$19,999
- Less than \$10,000

Number in household: \_\_\_\_\_

### Estimated College Expenses for 2017 Year

Total the estimated expenses for you to attend college.

Tuition \$  
 Room/Board \$  
 Books/Supplies \$  
 Other (specify) \$

**Total Expenses** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Estimated Income for 2017 Year

List all income you expect to receive from other sources, including federal financial aid\*

Expected family contribution \$  
 Personal (savings, earnings, etc.) \$  
 Confirmed scholarships \$  
 Confirmed grants \$  
 Confirmed work study \$  
 Confirmed student loans \$  
 Other \$

### How did you hear about this scholarship?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Extra-Curricular Activities

List your participation in activities outside of the school curriculum, including athletics, student government and clubs, organizations, committees, or performance art. Please indicate the duration in hours, days, years, etc. any office or leadership position you held, and any awards you received. Attach additional pages if necessary.

Organization	Office Held	Awards Received

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed Name*

\*Attach an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from the school you wish to attend.

