

## **Principles and Selection Criteria For MGNV's Master Gardener Training Scholarships**

### **General principles:**

1. Equal opportunity application process – The opportunity to submit an application for scholarships shall be publicly advertised and open to all to apply.
2. Timely period – The open period for submitting a scholarship application should be at least one month prior to the start of a training class, to provide a fair amount of time for candidates to consider and prepare applications.
3. Number of scholarships awarded – The number of scholarships awarded may vary from year to year, depending on the number and strength of applications submitted and on the financial resources available from MGNV for this expenditure.
4. Size of scholarships awarded – The amount of financial aid represented by the scholarship shall generally be less than the full amount of tuition, and should generally be the same amount per scholarship; however, the Board may in its discretion vary the amount in cases of exceptional financial need.
5. Conditional grant – Each scholarship shall be conditioned upon successful completion of both the classroom training program and the subsequent community service internship. In the event the recipient does not successfully complete both requirements, the scholarship shall be revoked and the recipient shall be required to return the full amount awarded.

### **Selection criteria:**

Awards shall be granted upon the basis of the following factors --

1. Financial need – this may be established by self-described economic circumstances and/or by accounts from credible references
2. Commitment – the individual is expected to convey both an understanding of what it means to be a Master Gardener and a genuine enthusiasm for becoming a Master Gardener
3. Value-added contribution – the ideal individual should possess creative or unusual skills that would bring significant added value to MGNV
4. Public service – the individual must convey a clear and convincing commitment to public education and community service

*Approved by the MGNV Board of Directors, October 2009*