

# NAACP establishes a scholarship in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rev. Dr. Eddie Whitehead

**Published: Monday, 1 March 2021 12:56**

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BRISTOL – The Greater Bristol Branch of the NAACP has established a scholarship fund at Main Street Community Foundation in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rev. Dr. Eddie Whitehead of Bristol.

The local NAACP has awarded scholarships in the past, last awarding a \$500 one in 2018. The first scholarship will be awarded in 2022 and applications will be accepted beginning Jan. 15, 2022.

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship & program officer at the Main Street Community Foundation, explained that Whitehead was one of the community members that "spearheaded the establishment of the local branch of the NAACP."



Eric Clemons, president of the Bristol chapter of the NAACP-NAACP

"He was instrumental in ensuring that political, educational, social and economic equality was achieved for all individuals in the local communities," she said.

The Greater Bristol Branch of the NAACP has been around since the 1960s and was formally re-organized in 1985 by many community members including Whitehead.

Eric Clemons, president of the Greater Bristol Branch of the NAACP, said that the fund was established to "honor his legacy and to continue their mission of advancing educational opportunities."

"Partnering with Main Street Community Foundation allows this scholarship to now be permanent," said Clemons. "This fund was created so the Greater Bristol Branch of the NAACP could create a legacy for the communities we serve. At the same time, we remember the efforts of men and women like Dr. King and Pastor Whitehead, whose dreams to insure educational opportunities and equity will now live through this fund forever. It's the gift that keeps on giving."

Clemons said that Whitehead was born in Yazoo City, Miss., was "always knocking on whatever doors he had to help push the envelope of opportunity and equality in our community."

"In his younger days, he had seen more than his share of opportunities denied in the Jim Crow South," said Clemons. "Whomever he visited was guaranteed a good conversation, a push to take action, and some biblical advice to top it all off."

The Greater Bristol Branch of the NAACP will continue to build this scholarship fund as a legacy to these two individuals.

“We invite the community to come together and donate, allowing the awards to grow and more students to be assisted,” said Clemons.

Anyone interested in making a contribution to the Reverend Dr. Eddie C. Whitehead of Bristol CT – Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund may do so at any time by donating online at [mainstreetfoundation.org](http://mainstreetfoundation.org) or by sending donations to Main Street Community Foundation, P.O. Box 2702, Bristol, CT 06010.

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