



The late Senator Robert Kennedy called César Chávez, “One of the heroic figures of our time.” As a testimony to his lifelong contributions to humanity, he received the highest civilian awards from the United States and Mexico, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the *Aguila Azteca* respectively.

This is the legacy that The César Chávez Scholarship Fund celebrates and seeks to share with our young people and all Rhode Islanders by celebrating César Chávez Day on March 31, and by offering educational opportunities for students in the form of Grants and Scholarships.

On César Chávez Day we recognize students who have performed community service by following the 10 Core Values that César carried out in his life and work. We believe that today is a great time to celebrate the spirit of community and values embodied in César’s life. We hope that students will be inspired to get involved with service if they are given an opportunity to learn about some of the community’s most pressing problems.

In studying César’s life, work, and values and in performing service in his honor, students are able to learn about history, self-determination, service to others, and equality and justice. They develop a sense of what it means to contribute to society and understand how they can make a difference in their own lives, and become leaders in their communities. “The end of all education,” César stressed, “should surely be service to others.”

César Chávez Core Values

- ◆ **Service to Others** - Service that is predicated on empowering others; engendering self-help, self-determination, and self-sufficiency versus charity.
- ◆ **Sacrifice** - Sacrifice that is spiritual; that is courageous and steadfast in its willingness to endure great hardship for others.
- ◆ **A Preference to Help the Most Needy** - A concerted effort to support programs that reach the most needy, the most dispossessed, the most forgotten people in society no matter how difficult the challenge that choice may bring.
- ◆ **Determination** - Determination that is characterized by an attitude that with faith, steadfast commitment, patience and optimism human beings can prevail against all odds.
- ◆ **Non-Violence** - Invoking non-violence as the most powerful tool for achieving social economic justice and equality; action that requires boldness and courage versus meekness and passivity.
- ◆ **Acceptance of all People** - An essential ingredient for success in organizing diverse forces to achieve social change, create community, and actualize democracy is the acceptance of all people; an absolutely indispensable necessity to the well-being of this country.
- ◆ **Respect for Life** - Respect that holds as sacred the land, the people, and all other forms of life.
- ◆ **Celebrating Community** - Sharing the joyous and respectful expression of cultural diversity through the reinforcement of the values of equity and responsibility to and for one another.
- ◆ **Knowledge** - The pursuit of self-directed learning and the development of critical thinking and constructive problem solving skills; overcoming ignorance through education.
- ◆ **Innovation** - A creative capacity to find pragmatic strategies and tactics to resolve problems and situations that often seem insurmountable to others.

