

# The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. DREAM CHASERS ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

## HISTORY & PURPOSE

The Dream Chasers scholarship was created by Mark "Shadow" Stokes and Dayalan "Dee" Sonaram. Both were born and raised in Brooklyn, New York around the Flatbush/Crown Heights areas. Shadow and Dee have known each other since 1997. They met through mutual friends in the music business and developed a friendship/business relationship shortly thereafter. In 1998-99, they started an independent record company called *Casino Entertainment*. In 2000, they proceeded to start a promotions and marketing company called *Leap of Faith Promotions*. From there, a real estate company called *D&M Builders* and several other entertainment companies including *Brooklyn Knights, Loyalty Marketing & Promotions* and most recently *Dream Chasers, Inc.* were established. In addition, Shadow and Dee have worked for many major recording companies at various capacities including Def Jam, Koch Entertainment, Virgin Records and recently Universal/Interscope Records.

In the likeness of God and in the spirit of giving back to the community, the purpose of the Dream Chasers Scholarship is to give an academic scholarship to a different student from Brooklyn each year who have demonstrated outstanding academic excellence and has the ability to have an entrepreneurial attitude, such as Shadow and Dee. This is a financial needs-based scholarship for up to \$10,000 to cover costs for tuition, room and board only. This is their way of expressing that all glory belongs to God!

## CRITERIA/ELIGIBILITY

In order to be considered for the Dream Chasers Scholarship, applicants must:

- Must have an entrepreneurial and Godly spirit.
- Be a recipient of the *MLK Academic Scholarship Award* and plan to attend an accredited college or university or currently attending.
- Be a member of good standing of Zion Baptist Church (must be a part of a ministry in the church).
- Must have a GPA 3.0 or better
  - High School applicant - the GPA of the last two years of high school will count.
  - College applicant - the GPA from the previous year of college will count.
- Demonstrated business-like activities is a definite plus.
- Must submit all bills/receipts from the college or university you plan to attend indicating total cost for tuition, room and board prior to receiving any Dream Chasers scholarship monies.

*Please Note: If selected recipient is receiving financial assistance, a fellowship and/or other scholarships in connection with the college or university, the selected recipient will be eligible for the Dream Chasers academic scholarship for up to \$10,000 only to the extent that the recipient's costs are not paid by financial assistance, fellowships and/or other scholarships.*

## HOW TO APPLY

1. Submit a copy of your Certificate of Academic Scholarship presented to you by the MLK Ministry or something indicating your acceptance of receiving the Academic Scholarship.
2. If you have been involved in any business endeavors, please submit a resume detailing what business-related activities you have been involved in (i.e., leadership roles in school, internships, honor society, community service, etc.). In addition, if you ever had a business endeavor of any sort on your own or with someone (i.e., selling girl scout cookies, lemonade stand, babysitting services, etc.), please give a detailed description about it.
3. Write a brief summary about your life accomplishments and how you think the money will be used.
4. Must develop a mock business plan that will act as a roadmap to success (ways to build capital and execute plan). Be creative and do research. Put God in your plan! The plan will be judged based on content, originality and professionalism. Winner will be announced on our Annual Youth & Children's Day.
5. **All information must be mailed and postmarked by May 21, 2016** to:

Zion Baptist Church  
523 Washington Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11238  
Attn: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Ministry