

# ANDREW NILGES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In the past few years, America has seen many organizations and businesses fail. We've seen some with the best equipment, the best locations, the best backing, the best marketing and even the best planning fail.

Gillis has come to believe that what matters most in any enterprise is having the best people. Only good workers seem to make good work.

Our mission to help Kansas City's most vulnerable children and families depends on us finding, developing, and keeping talented and committed workers. One of the ways we do this is through the Andrew Nilges Higher Education Assistance Fund. The Fund was established to cultivate dedicated youth care staff with a talent for nurture and empathy. The scholarships are named after Andrew Nilges, a talented Gillis care worker who was tragically a victim of the Ward Parkway shootings in 2007. Andrew is greatly missed at Gillis.



Many of our youth care workers do not make enough money to pay for the advancement of their job-related education. However, many have the talent to serve Kansas City's most vulnerable youth more effectively if only they had additional education. This fund provides support to worthy persons with the ambition to improve their performances. We award an average of 5 scholarships each semester at an average of \$500 per scholarship. The employee must be taking college courses toward the completion of a degree in a field related to education, health care or social work.

The program provides many advantages. First, it helps our people get better at what they do and better people means we can get better results for Kansas City. Second, the fund helps us to retain and recruit good people. Third, having more educated and qualified workers in the city helps the economy and culture of this great community. But by far the most important advantage of this program is for the children in our care. They receive better, more informed treatment from the people they interact with the most.