



ILLINOIS MASONIC CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Leading Children and Young Adults to a Brighter Future!

The Illinois Masonic Children's Assistance Program (IMCAP) administers the Norredden Gene Cowen Scholarship for young adults enrolled in vocational or trade school programs. Please read the attached handout about Master Mason Norredden Gene Cowen to understand how preparing for a career in the trades made a difference in his life. The Scholarship can be used for vocational training expenses for tuition, fees, tools, uniforms, and books. IMCAP will accept applications for the scholarship based on availability of funds. The scholarship recipients will be selected by IMCAP's Board of Managers.

Applicant Requirements are:

1. Plan to attend or enrolled in a trade or vocational program, GED program or apprenticeship.
2. Resides in a small town in the Grand Lodge Southern Area with a population under 10,000.
3. Must have a high school GPA of 3.3 or **lower**.
4. Be 25 years old or younger with an identified financial need.
5. Must receive a Referral from an Illinois Master Mason.
6. Applicants with a Referral from Masons from Madison Lodge #560, will be given first consideration.

Application Instructions:

1. Complete application below.
2. Provide required signature and attach copy of high school transcripts.
3. Email application and transcript to IMCAP@ilmason.org or mail to IMCAP, 2866 Via Verde, Springfield, IL 62703.

Application Deadlines:

1. Applications need to be submitted by March 31st

Section 1: Student Information

Student's Name:	Date of Birth:
Student's Phone	Student's Email
Student's Address:	
Name and Address of High School:	High School GPA:
What training program or field will you be studying?	



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imcap.org | 2866 Via Verde, Springfield, IL 62703 | Phone: 217 529-8900 ext. 222 | imcap@ilmason.org

Section 2: Vocational Training Program Information

Name of Training Program:	
Address of Training Program	
When will you be enrolled:	
Last 4 digits of Social Security #:	School Account #:

Section 3: Briefly, Provide Details About Your Training Program & the Cost. (May Use Bullets)

Section 4: Financial Information: **Currently Residing with Parents:** YES NO

Father's Occupation:	Mother's Occupation:
Number of minor dependents in family:	Number of siblings in college next year:
Adjusted Gross Family Income:	
Other Expenses (medical costs, financial losses, etc.):	
If "Not" residing with parents answer the following:	
Student's Occupation (if working):	Spouse's Occupation: <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Number of minor dependents in family:	Adjusted Gross Family Income:
Other Expenses (medical costs, financial losses, etc.):	

Section 5: Illinois Master Mason Referral (Master Mason must be in good standing)

May have Mason email or call Director Kilbury their Referral if unable to obtain signature.

Master Mason's Name:	Lodge Name & Number:
Master Mason's Signature & Date:	

May write comments or additional information on back.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



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Illinois Masonic Children's Assistance Program Norredden Gene Cowen Scholarship



My husband, Norredden Gene Cowen, known to all as Gene Cowen, was born in 1935 and grew up in Sorento and Greenville, Illinois.

- Gene graduated from Greenville High School in the class of 1953.
- He graduated from Ranken Trade School in St. Louis in 1955 completing the course Industrial Electrical Technology to become an electrician.
- Building on the foundation he received at trade school, he began his career repairing IBM machines, retiring as a Systems Analyst after a 37-year career at IBM, even receiving a Technical Disclosure Patent for a unique double switch along the way.

He ascended to Master of Masonic Lodge #21 in Rochester, MN, in 1982 and achieved the 32nd Degree, later joining Osman Shrine in Minneapolis, MN.

In the year he was Master, his daughter Diane was Honored Queen of the Rochester, Minnesota Job's Daughters.

Gene passed in 2014. Sorento Lodge #861 attended at his funeral, and he was laid to rest at Sunnyside Cemetery in Sorento, Illinois.

Gene's father Norredden Cowen was active in Sorento Lodge #861 which later became Madison Lodge #560. When he passed in 1980, he was celebrated as a 50-year member.

Gene's Grandfather Norredden Cowen signed the Charter in 1901 petitioning Grand Lodge of Illinois in Chicago to create Sorento Lodge #861 which later became Madison Lodge #560. His membership as a Shriner was in the Ainad Shrine, date unknown.

In honoring Gene's memory, the Cowen family hopes that recipients of this scholarship will be able to do what he did and bring back to their communities skills which will enable them to have fulfilling and prosperous careers.

Mrs. Norredden Gene Cowen