



CHRIS MITCHUM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored and funded by The Law Firm of Kesa M. Johnston, LLC.

The Chris Mitchum Memorial Scholarship is hereby established to promote the education and advancement of a Randolph County or Handley High School student who will attend Southern Union State Community College pursuing a degree or certification in the performing or fine arts or other areas that provide for use of metals, wood and other materials to create usable tools and art.

Chris Mitchum was a Roanoke, Alabama artist, creator, musician, community servant, visionary, and a protector of animals. Chris loved his family and friends unconditionally and everyone who knew him was bettered by his presence in their life. His desire to make the world a better place is evident in the many hours he gave to those he loved and the gifts he offered to Randolph County.

A computer programmer by trade, Mitchum was also a remarkable and talented artist who dabbled in music, painting, stone sculpting, metals, glass and woodwork. He used a variety of materials and discarded items to create masterpieces of monumental proportion and beauty. Chris crafted useful tools, whimsical faux animal heads, old cannons, secret bookcase passages, and extraordinary medieval cabinet beds.

After purchasing the old Schuessler cotton warehouse on Main Street Roanoke in 2004, Mitchum immediately began diligent work to restore the structure and breathe new life into the building. Chris hosted friends and offered his beloved warehouse as a community space for animal shelter and other community fundraisers, wedding showers, reunions, and his weekly gathering of friends. Those individuals fortunate enough to enjoy the space often participated in “pick and grin” music sessions, lively political debate, sharing of new ideas and occasionally a front row pass to watch Chris working on his latest treasure!

This Scholarship was created by Kesa M. Johnston to honor the life and work of her dear friend Chris Mitchum by offering a financial award to visionary students wishing to better their communities through art, music architecture, and revitalization!

The award is conditioned upon the following guidelines:

Donor will gift funds to the Southern Union Foundation earmarked for the Chris Mitchum Memorial Scholarship. The corpus shall be held in a non-restricted account of the SU Foundation and funds will be utilized until depleted.

One annual scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 shall be awarded each May to Randolph County students who wish to pursue a career in the arts or technical degrees which allow for using creative process to better the community by providing culture and art opportunities. No applicant shall apply who is not dedicated to pursuing such a degree or certification. Funds shall be used to cover tuition, fees and/or textbooks only.

The following are the necessary Application Criteria:

1. The scholarship is open to first-time freshmen who have been accepted for enrollment by SUCC following graduation from **Handley High School or a Randolph County High School**.
2. Applicants must be a high school senior with good standing at a local Randolph County/ Roanoke City Schools. The student must have passing grades, no record of any serious disciplinary action, and must be considered by the school to be a good citizen of the community.
3. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and demonstrate a need for financial aid.

Directions for Submission:

1. Complete the application and attach the necessary documents.
2. Attach a recent transcript with current GPA.
3. 2 letters of recommendation from educators or community leaders who have firsthand knowledge of your interest and dedication to the arts or other trade.
4. Email all info to kesa@kmj.law or drop off at 994 Main Street, Roanoke, Alabama by **March 1st**.
5. The recipient will be notified by May 15th.

No person is to be denied an award of funds on the basis of race, creed, sex or religion provided he/she otherwise qualify with the terms and guidelines set forth by this agreement.

The amount of any scholarship shall not exceed the rate of annual award or an amount in excess of the cost of tuition and fees. Should a suitable candidate not be identified each year, funds may be held and donor can then determine whether to offer another to another candidate the following year.

Kesa M. Johnston

The Law Firm of Kesa M. Johnston, LLC