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Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation Launches 2016 Scholarship Program

Ann Arbor, MI – The Binc Foundation today opened its annual scholarship program, which supports booksellers and their families in pursuing higher education goals. Applications will be accepted until February 29, 2016. Binc will award up to \$109,000 in scholarships to eligible current bookstore employees/owners, Independent Bookseller Association employees, as well as former Borders Group employees. Dependents are also eligible to apply. The awards will be broken down as follows: twenty-four (24) awards of \$3,500, two (2) awards of \$10,000, and one (1) Karl Pohrt Tribute Scholarship award of \$5,000 granted to an independent bookstore candidate who has overcome learning adversity or is a non-traditional student.

Binc Executive Director, Pam French, commented, “The launch of our annual scholarship program always makes January exciting. Helping booksellers achieve their dreams and explore possibilities is one of the ways Binc supports booksellers who make an impact in their own communities every day. I encourage all students to apply for this competitive scholarship. Not every applicant will receive an award, however, the ratio of recipients to applications is historically high at close to 25%.”

Since 2001, the Binc Foundation has supported the educational goals of over 600 recipients with more than 1.7 million dollars in awards. Now in the fifteenth year, the focus on making a positive impact in the lives of bookstore employees and their families continues. All current employees/owners and dependents of retail bookstores in the U.S. who have a minimum of one year of continuous employment at a bookstore are eligible. The bookstore must have a retail bricks and mortar presence in the U.S. and generate a substantial portion of the store’s revenue from the sale of books. Eligible employees must be employed directly by the bookstore.

Scholarship America (Scholarship Management Services) will again manage the 2016 scholarship program. The evaluation process will utilize selection criteria including financial need, prior academic achievement and leadership capabilities (including participation in school and community activities) as well as work experience, a statement of career and educational goals and objectives, and unusual personal or family circumstances.

To apply for a Binc Scholarship visit the Scholarship America website at <https://www.scholarsapply.org/binc>.

About The Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation

The Book Industry Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that coordinates charitable programs to strengthen the bookselling community. Established in 1996, the core program provides assistance to bookstore employees who have a demonstrated financial need arising from severe hardship and/or emergency circumstances. Since its inception, the organization has provided over \$5.2 million in financial assistance and scholarships to more than 6,900 families. Support for the Foundation’s programs and services come from all sectors of the book industry.

The Book Industry Charitable Foundation’s mission is to strengthen the bookselling community through charitable programs that support employees and their families. The Foundation was imagined and built by booksellers and proudly continues to be their safety net. It is our vision to be a caring community of book people.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.bincfoundation.org>.

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