



## **Foundation helps local kids who help others**

[By RYAN ORR - Staff Writer](#)

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VICTORVILLE — In the two years since its creation, the Don Ferrarese Charitable Foundation has awarded \$4,000 scholarships to 18 High Desert students.

With the addition of Lucerne Valley High School, they will now give out 10 scholarships annually.

The students who are awarded the scholarships need to be well-rounded, but the focus is on how much they have given back to the community.

“You don’t have to have a 4.0 or 3.8 GPA,” said Jack Fales, founding member of the foundation. “It’s a scholarship based on volunteer work and how much these kids have given back to the community,”

Don Ferrarese has been in the Victor Valley since 1963 doing work for various charities after ending a seven-year career as a major-league pitcher.

“It offers a tremendous amount of satisfaction in recognizing the good kids when the focus seems to be on the bad,” said Ferrarese. “It’s for kids who can emulate what I have done.”

The foundation holds fundraisers to continue the scholarships. Most recently, they raffled off a 2007 Chevrolet Silverado, won by a local Apple Valley man.

On May 5, they will be hosting a golf tournament at Spring Valley Lake Golf Course.

But Ferrarese said if they get people to pledge \$100 a year for a certain number of years, they could lay off on the fundraisers and special events, and have a more constant stream of funding.

Ferrarese himself was surprised to hear that the foundation was named after him.

“We always honor people after they croak,” said Fales. “So we thought, why don’t we honor Ferrarese before he goes.”

Each kid that gets the scholarship is awarded \$1,000 dollars, and gets an additional \$1,000 for each year that they continue college for up to four years.

The hope, said Fales, is that someday the kids will become great citizens.

For more information, visit [www.Don-Frse.com](http://www.Don-Frse.com).

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