

# GoFundMe Awards \$10,000 in College Scholarship To UC Berkeley Student

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., October 20, 2016 -- GoFundMe, the world's largest social fundraising platform, today announced ten recipients of the GoFundMe Scholarship, including UC Berkeley student Mayia Vranas. Ten college or postgraduate students were awarded \$10,000 each to help pay for their education.

[Mayia Vranas](#) was diagnosed with Tourette's and OCD in the 3rd grade. Despite her disability, Mayia stayed focused and graduated with straight As. She's now attending UC Berkeley, where she is studying physics and is the Co-VP of the Society for Physics Students. Because of her disability, Mayia cannot maintain a job on top of her academic schedule, but needs to take an extra semester for her courses. She plans to go on to graduate school in physics to receive her Ph.D., which she has dreamed of doing since she was a young girl.

"We're proud and excited to help these remarkable, determined students achieve their educational dreams," said Rob Solomon, GoFundMe CEO. "All of us here have been touched by the stories shared by the scholarship winners, and we can't wait to see how they'll continue to give back to their communities."

Over the past several years, students, teachers, and parents are increasingly turning to GoFundMe to raise money for education expenses, including tuition. In fact, in the last two years, over \$100 million has been raised on GoFundMe for education related campaigns, making it the fastest growing category on the platform.

Every month, college campaigns raise more than \$1.5 million on GoFundMe, with the average campaign raising nearly \$2,000. In just the last 12 months, \$20 million has been raised for college tuition on GoFundMe. With the average college graduate in 2016 facing \$37,172 in student loan debt—up 6% from last year—the need is clear.

## **About GoFundMe**

Launched in 2010, GoFundMe is the world's largest online fundraising platform, with over \$3 billion raised so far. With a community of more than 25 million donors, GoFundMe is changing the way the world gives.

Contact: [press@gofundme.com](mailto:press@gofundme.com)

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