

### **The Brother James Kearney Scholarship Program:**

The Brother James Kearney Scholarship Program for the Blind (formerly, the Lavelle Fund Scholarship Program) aims to help make quality undergraduate and graduate education affordable for U.S. residents who are legally blind, financially needy, and attending St Thomas Aquinas College. The program is currently authorized to admit new students through June 30, 2019.

### **Program Eligibility:**

To be eligible, a student must be:

- A legal resident of the United States.
- Either legally blind or so severely visually impaired that a Lavelle-sponsored vision assessment expert confirms that the student would need special support services to succeed in college. Examples of such supports include: adaptive technology, books in alternate formats, help from volunteer readers, and/or orientation and mobility training. As for non-legally blind students who nonetheless have significant vision impairments (those more ocular than cognitive in nature), are U.S. residents, and are determined by their college to be financially needy, these students should contact Rona Shaw, Ed.D., (rona.shaw@gmail.com) to schedule a free functional vision assessment.
- Financially needy, as defined by the student's college. Colleges will use data from students' FAFSA form to make the financial need calculations outlined below.
- Accepted into/Studying at, St. Thomas Aquinas College. Students must be studying full-time and in good standing (not suspended or on probation).

### **How to Apply:**

Incoming students should contact Samantha Bazile, Director of Admissions at 845-398-4104 for more information. All students need to complete the FAFSA application at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to determine final eligibility. The Office of Financial Aid may request additional information. The Brother Kearney Scholarship Program's also requests a mandatory release form authorizing the release of certain student education and employment outcome data to the student's college and to the Lavelle Fund.

### **Determining the Brother James Kearney Scholarship Amount:**

Scholarships are awarded on a last-dollar-of-need basis, at a rate of up to \$15,000/student per academic year for up to four years.