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**END VIOLENCE PROJECT ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP FOR EX-OFFENDERS**  
*Mahin Bina Memorial Scholarship honors founder, encourages community leadership*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** – March 16, 2015 – The End Violence Project today announced the establishment of the Mahin Bina Memorial Scholarship which encourages returning citizens, men or women formerly incarcerated in a U.S. state or federal correctional institution, to further their education and demonstrate leadership in their communities. The organization is calling for applicants for 2015. Application information can be found at [www.endviolenceproject.org/evp/scholarship-program.html](http://www.endviolenceproject.org/evp/scholarship-program.html).

“We are excited to offer this scholarship to individuals who have committed to ongoing education or training after prison and are being an example of leadership and contribution in their communities,” said Stuart Papavassiliou, chairman of the board of directors of End Violence Project. “This is the heart of our work and what our founder, Mahin Bina, stood for. She recognized that every person wants to contribute and make a difference, regardless of past behaviors and circumstances. This scholarship fund memorializes her vision of ending the cycle of violence without violence and furthers the work of transformation beyond prison walls.”

Details of the scholarship:

Study level:	All
Award type:	Grant
Purpose:	To continue the work of transformation and promoting leaders in the community
Focus:	Returning citizens (formerly incarcerated men and women)
Qualifications:	Applicants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have been incarcerated for a term of 1 or more years in a U.S. state or federal correctional institution</li><li>• Demonstrate leadership in their community through volunteer work</li><li>• Be enrolled in a certificate or degree-granting program (includes associate, bachelor’s or professional certification)</li></ul>
Criteria:	Recipients selected based on End Violence Project board of directors review of applicant materials
Funds:	\$500
Number of awards:	(1) one annually
Deadline:	May 31, 2015
To apply:	Applicants must submit an application along with:

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[www.endviolenceproject.org](http://www.endviolenceproject.org)

- Proof of prior incarceration
- (3) three references for volunteer work
- A 500-word essay explaining the contribution they wish to be to their community

Download application or apply online at [www.endviolenceproject.org/evp/scholarship-form.html](http://www.endviolenceproject.org/evp/scholarship-form.html).

### **About Mahin Bina**

At the age of 20, Iranian-born Mahin Bina (1936-2012) committed herself to the service of others, particularly in the area of human awareness, relationship, and communication. Her commitment led her to work with a group of prisoners, known as Lifers, Inc., who were sentenced to life in prison, and develop a program called the Leadership in Action seminar series. Through their participation in the program they each took on projects in the areas of drug awareness, AIDS awareness, music, arts, religion and youth at risk support. The program provided an extraordinary opportunity for inmates to make a contribution to ending violence inside the prison walls. In 1990 the End Violence Project was born.

Mahin was also the creative force behind the development of the Leadership Training and Transformational Thinking Program in prisons, an End Violence Project initiative, and she also developed and trained ex-offenders to lead Freedom by Design programs in community correction centers. Working tirelessly on behalf of these communities, Mahin was “mom” for many of the program participants. She saw in every one of them who they could become rather than who they had been.

Mahin received several local and national awards for her work with the inmates of Graterford Prison (Pennsylvania) and the Residents of Community Correction Centers in Philadelphia.

### **About End Violence Project**

End Violence Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded by Mahin Bina and a dedicated team of people whose mission is to end violence without violence. We do this by providing leadership programs to inmates and ex-offenders, helping them transition successfully back into life with their families and communities.

In addition to the programs offered inside of prisons, the End Violence Project also works with the residents of community correction centers. In these centers we continue our support of ex-offenders who are committed to staying free and who strive to be leaders in their own communities. We provide opportunities for them to experience leadership by helping other ex-offenders become leaders as well. The program also provides much needed practical assistance such as help in obtaining proper identification, transportation passes and clothing, and finding legal employment. For more information visit [www.endviolenceproject.org](http://www.endviolenceproject.org).

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