Adolfo Arrastia was the Executive Director of the Worcester Youth Center (WYC) from 1995–2005. When he retired, the WYC Board of Directors created this scholarship to honor his decade of service and his exemplary role as a champion for the city’s young people. It is awarded to students who have been involved in WYC programs.

Adolfo was raised in housing projects in Brooklyn, New York, in a Puerto Rican family. In his teens, he was in a gang. He later served in the Marines and developed strong convictions about personal responsibility and self-discipline. With his background, he understood the challenges faced by the WYC’s members and had the credibility to guide them to a safer existence. He was a role model for, and supporter of, everyone who needed a second chance.

WYC's motto is “Not Just a Place to Go. A Place to Go Further.” With this scholarship, WYC encourages young people to reach for their highest goals and develop to their fullest potential.