COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Northeast Alabama

Mary Katherine "Katy" Williamson Memorial Scholarship Fund Guidelines



Tribute: John and Susan Williamson and their son, Ben, established the scholarship after the death of their daughter and sister in June of 2005. The Fund both honors Katy's memory and reflects the love and admiration of her family, friends, classmates, and co-workers. This Fund supports very specific scholarships, but these activities only capture a small portion of Katy's life, talents, and broad interests. Katy enjoyed sunflowers and constantly planted more and more of them each year at the family farm in Wellington; she cherished creation and the wonders surrounding her, and she welcomed all the seasons of the year and deeply trusted that the fall included the promise of spring.

Katy also loved every kind of animal, both wild and tame. She worked as a Veterinarian Technician, where her work ethic complimented her compassion. It is not certain where Katy's talents would have led her, but all who knew her were confident that she would contribute to the well-being of others. Her picture truly reflects the fullness of life she lived for twenty years, bringing the same joy and exuberance to her family and friends.

Award: The scholarship benefits individuals pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree in healthcare (Human or Animal). The award is for part-time or full-time enrolled students attending any accredited higher learning institution in the United States. The award is renewable annually for four years, providing that the recipient continues to maintain the standards of these Guidelines. The award is further renewable annually for up to four years of graduate school education, providing that the recipient continues to maintain the standards of these Guidelines.

Depending on the Fund's annual income, the Community Foundation will project and allocate the assets available for scholarship awards. This scholarship is strictly funded based on available assets. The award can be used for tuition, supplies, books, and fees. Even though a scholarship is listed as "renewable," this does not guarantee a future award. The award amount can change each year or semester based on available assets; therefore, recipients are encouraged to apply for other available financial resources.

Due to the renewable nature of the Fund, it may not be available on an annual basis. Please contact the Community Foundation to inquire about award dates.

Eligibility: Graduating High school seniors or Individuals who have earned a high school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) and are residents in the region served by the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama (currently Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, St. Clair, Randolph, and Talladega Counties) are eligible to apply for the scholarship without regard to race, religion, gender, national origin, or disability. The following priorities, in the enumerated order, shall be used to evaluate candidates: (1) reflect a passion for serving the needs of others; (2) exhibit financial need; and, (3) demonstrate academic ability.

All donors and relatives of those donors who contribute more than two percent of the Fund's assets are ineligible to receive a scholarship from the Fund. In addition, the Foundation's Board of Trustees, former trustees, staff, and Scholarship Review Committee members, including their spouses, children, adopted children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, are prohibited from applying for or receiving any scholarship, grant, or financial award from the Foundation. Based on IRS regulations, this disqualifying exclusion exists for three (3) years after concluding volunteer service or employment.

Application: Application and Guidelines are available online at www.cfnea.org. The Community Foundation will maintain and revise the guidelines and application documents as necessary. Applications must be electronically submitted to the Community Foundation by **March 1** of each year.

Scholarship Review Committee: Under federal law, scholarship recipients shall be selected by the Community Foundation's Scholarship Review Committee, solely appointed by the Foundation's Board of Trustees. The committee will submit its recommendations to the Foundation's Board of Trustees for final approval.

Review Process: Foundation staff will screen the application for clarity and completeness. The applications deemed by Foundation staff to be clear and complete will be presented to the Scholarship Review Committee for review and scoring. The scores and recommendations will be compiled by the Foundation's staff and submitted to the Foundation's Board of Trustees for final approval.

Award Distributions: The Foundation will make scholarship payments at the beginning of each academic semester. Distributions will not be made until the Foundation receives all required documentation, including but not limited to (1) certified proof of enrollment from the institution, (2) confirmation that the recipient is enrolled in a program, and (3) school transcripts. Checks are made directly to the financial administration office at the college or institution. No distribution will be made to any individual for any reason.

Continuing scholarship payments are made based on regular (quarterly or semester) reviews. The scholarship recipient must provide the Foundation with an official college or university transcript at the end of each academic term (quarter or semester). Failure in any single term to maintain a 2.5 overall grade point average or better on a 4.0 scale will result in the termination of the scholarship award.

Students must notify the Foundation of any additional educational or financial aid grants or awards immediately. Also, the Foundation is to be notified if there is any change in the student's financial support.

An Award may not be renewed beyond the customary time period required for the completion of a degree: two years for an associate degree and four years for a bachelor's degree. An Award to a part-time Scholarship Recipient may not be renewed beyond six years of progressive study.

Formal Handwritten Thank You Card: Communications of gratitude for this award from scholarship recipients can be sent to Mr. and Mrs. John Williamson in care of The Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama. You are required to mail in a handwritten thank you note by June 1 of each year of the scholarship.

Mr. and Mrs. John Williamson
C/O The Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama
1701 Henry Road
Anniston, AL 36207

Responsibility of Recipient: Each scholarship recipient is responsible for fulfilling requirements for admission to the college or university of choice. The scholarship recipient must enter a post-secondary institution of higher learning no later than the fall term following the selection and award; otherwise, they forfeit the award. No award shall be carried over beyond twelve months from the date of acceptance. Recipients not completing the entire academic year must request the institution to reimburse the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama for any funds eligible for refund because of separation from the academic program.



Conditions: The Mary Katherine "Katy" Williamson Memorial Scholarship Guidelines are not a contract. No obligation or liability of any kind will be imposed upon a scholarship recipient, nor will the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, except as expressly stated in this document, assume any obligation or liability. These guidelines are subject to change; therefore, applicants should inquire if revised guidelines have been issued. Changes may impact the due date of the application documents. The Foundation respects the privacy and confidentiality of all personal information.

The Community Foundation will not (1) accept applications that are presented after the due date; (2) contact students to locate missing documents such as transcripts; (3) contact students to return the Letter of Acceptance form; or, (4) contact students to provide proof of enrollment in order to receive payment.

Revised December 15, 2014
Revised December 14, 2016
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