



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
*of Calhoun County*

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**Whitney Laine Gallahar  
Memorial Scholarship Fund Guidelines**



Tribute: The scholarship was established by Whitney's parents, Ricky and Donna, Whitney's brother, Blake, and grandparents, Travis and Gayle Reaves. The award is also made possible through the generosity of dozens of friends, classmates, coworkers and matching gifts provided by the UPS Foundation.

As a freshman at the University of Alabama, Whitney sought to pursue teaching rooted in her love for children. She excelled in sports at Ohatchee High School in volleyball and softball, where she graduated with honors in 2006. After her death from a congenital heart problem on May 28, 2007 (Memorial Day) Whitney's family created this award to celebrate her life, ambitions and character.

Remembered as a leader both in athletics and among her peers, Whitney was most known for striving to make a difference. Whether at home, in church, among friends, on a court or a field, she helped make everything whole. Thus, this award recognizes the void left by Whitney's absence as it seeks to assist other young men and women in striving to make a difference.

Awards: The Whitney Laine Gallahar Memorial Scholarship Fund is a one thousand dollar (\$1,000) award designated to a graduating senior of Ohatchee High School. The Fund is intended to provide supplemental funding for full or part-time enrolled students, to an accredited state college or university within Alabama. The award is currently not renewable for subsequent years.

Application: Applicants should review these guidelines, complete the Community Foundation's application form, draft the required essay and submit two letters of recommendation to be considered for this scholarship. These forms are available from the Ohatchee High School guidance department or the Community Foundation ([www.yourcommunityfirst.org](http://www.yourcommunityfirst.org)). Saks High School administration will publicize the Fund in a widely available student handbook or newsletter to ensure accessibility for all students. The Community Foundation will maintain and revise as necessary the guidelines and any application documents.

Eligibility: Graduating seniors of Ohatchee High School, or its successor institution, are eligible to apply for the scholarship without regard to race, religion, gender, national origin, or disability.

Applications will be ranked using the following priorities: (i) essay reflecting strong character and personal initiative, (ii) recommendations sighting attributes such as positive role model, mentor, advocate or leader, (iii) references indicating a team spirit in the classroom, on an athletic field or other extracurricular association, (iv) students having a grade point average (GPA) between 2.5 and 3.5 and motivated to succeed academically at an institution of higher learning and (v) applicants needing financial assistance.

Members of the Gallahar family and all relatives of donors who contribute more than two percent (2%) of the Fund's assets, are ineligible to receive a scholarship from the Fund. In addition, the Foundation's Board of Trustees, staff and Scholarship Committee members, including their spouses, children, adopted children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews are prohibited from applying or receiving any scholarship, grant or financial award from the Foundation.

Essay: An essay serves as the primary evaluation tool for this award. In this paper, the applicants are asked to identify and describe in detail their most significant character trait(s) and to cite examples of this/these attribute(s). The applicants should also address how the scholarship will benefit them in life based on their aspirations, educational and career goals. Also, include one extra curricular activity or volunteer project and how it has contributed to your career goals or personal development. The composition should be typed and be from three to four double-spaced pages.

Review Committee: Scholarship candidates shall be selected by the Community Foundation's Scholarship Committee, solely appointed by the Foundation's Board of Trustees. The committee may include one (1) advisor from Ohatchee High School. If such individual is not available or cannot serve, then the Foundation's Scholarship Committee shall continue to carry out the charitable purposes of the Fund as described in the Fund Agreement. The committee will submit their recommendations to the Foundation's Board of Trustees for their final approval.

Review Process: Students are required to submit the application packet to the Community Foundation by February 1 of each year. The Scholarship Committee will have four weeks to review the applications, conduct interviews if necessary and hold a determination meeting to recommend awards. Final recommendations will be submitted to the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Ideally, the scholarship will be announced at the Ohatchee High School Senior Class recognition event.

Payment of Awards: Upon formal acceptance of the award, payment is made at the beginning of the academic term (quarter or semester), once the Foundation has received official proof of registration as a full or part-time student. Distributions will not be made until the Foundation receives the (i) signed letter of acceptance provided by the Foundation, and (ii) certified proof of enrollment from the institution. 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.

Responsibility of Recipient: Each scholarship recipient is responsible for fulfilling requirements for admission to the educational institution of his or her choice based on the limitations of these guidelines. The scholarship recipient must enter a post-secondary institution no later than the fall term following their selection. The scholarship will not be recognized as an obligation of the Foundation if the recipient has not utilized the award within six months after graduation. Moreover, recipients not completing the full academic term must request the school to

reimburse the Community Foundation of Calhoun County for any funds eligible for refund because of separation from the academic program.

Assumptions: The Whitney Laine Gallahar Memorial Scholarship Guidelines are not a contract. No obligation or liability of any kind will be imposed upon a scholarship recipient; nor will any obligation or liability be assumed by the Community Foundation of Calhoun County, except as expressly stated in this document.

These guidelines are subject to change; therefore, applicants should inquire if revised guidelines have been issued. This may include the due date of the application documents. The Community Foundation will not (i) accept applications that are presented after the due date; (ii) contact students to locate missing documents such as letters of recommendation (iii) contact students to return the Letter of Acceptance form and (iv) contact students to provide proof of enrollment in order to receive payment.

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