Juliette P. Doster Scholarship Fund Guidelines

Tribute: The Juliette P. Doster Scholarship Fund was created to honor Mrs. Doster’s forty years of volunteer service and leadership in promoting better healthcare in Calhoun County. Mrs. Doster served as a member and Chairman of the Board for Stringfellow Hospital; she was instrumental in establishing the Stringfellow Hospital Foundation; and she shepherded the hospital’s transition to the Stringfellow Health Trust, now known as the Stringfellow Health Fund. In recognition for her many accomplishments, the Stringfellow Hospital Foundation placed its previous Scholars Fund into a health education scholarship fund in honor of Mrs. Doster.

Award: The Juliette P. Doster Scholarship is a renewable award intended to provide supplemental funding for full- or part-time enrolled students to any accredited two or four-year college or university within 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 restricted to a specific area of study or academic degree.

The Community Foundation will project and allocate the assets available for scholarship awards depending on the Fund’s annual income. This scholarship is strictly funded based on available assets. The award is renewable and may include institutional room and board, books and fees. Even though a scholarship is listed as “renewable” this does not guarantee a future award. Moreover, 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 Foundation to inquire about award dates.

Eligibility: Applicant must be a resident of the area served by the Community Foundation (currently Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair and Talladega counties). Awards are made to nontraditional students who are pursuing continuing education, advanced training or certifications in a healthcare career. Students are eligible to apply for the scholarship without regard to race, religion, gender, national origin or disability. Nontraditional students defines a continuum of characteristics, but are generally recognized as students who did not enter post-secondary education in the same calendar year that he or she finished high school.
Moreover, applicants must be enrolled or pursuing training in an accredited college, university, technical school or institute in the United States. Priority will be given to individuals pursuing training in areas of specialized care or discernable healthcare services needed in the community.

Members of the Doster family, and 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 Advisory Committee members, including their spouses, children, adopted children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, are prohibited from applying 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.yourcommunityfirst.org. The Community Foundation will maintain and revise as necessary the guidelines and application documents. Applications must be electronically submitted to the Community Foundation by March 1 of each year.

Essay: An essay is required with the application. The applicant is asked to describe his or her personal aspirations, educational or career goals and how the award will further their contribution to healthcare services. The applicant should conclude the statement by identifying the main reason the committee should award him/her the scholarship.

Scholarship Advisory Committee: In compliance with federal law, scholarship recipients shall be selected by the Community Foundation’s Scholarship Advisory Committee, solely appointed by the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. 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 on-line at www.yourcommunityfirst.org by March 1. 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 Advisory Committee for review and scoring. The Committee will have four weeks to review and score the applications. 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 payment 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 a copy of the official transcript from the institution at the end of the academic term (quarter or semester) or a copy of the certification
document at the completion of the program. Failure to maintain a 3.0 or “B” average or better on a 4.0 scale will result in the termination of the Juliette P. Doster Scholarship.

Students must notify the Foundation of any additional educational or financial aid grants or awards immediately. In addition, 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.

Acknowledgments: Communications of gratitude for this award from scholarship recipients can be sent to Mrs. Juliette P. Doster in care of the Community Foundation’s address.

Reimbursement: Recipients of the Juliette P. Doster Scholarship Fund are required to progress toward one of the specifically named degree/certification areas. Failure to pursue a curriculum related to the designated fields of study will result in the termination of this award. In addition, the Foundation may take other actions to reclaim misused funds.

Responsibility of Recipient: Each scholarship recipient is responsible for fulfilling requirements for admission to the educational institution of his or her choice. The scholarship recipient must enter a post-secondary institution 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 full academic year must request the school to reimburse the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama for any funds eligible for refund because of separation from the academic program.

Conditions: The Juliette P. Doster 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 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 letters of recommendation, (3) contact students to return the Letter of Acceptance form; or, (4) contact students to provide proof of enrollment in order to receive payment.

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