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Thank you for your interest in the Whitley Sue Hedger Memorial Scholarship. Whitley was a student in the Edwardsville School District from 2007 – 2015. She was in 6th grade at Lincoln Middle School when she was diagnosed with DIPG, a devastating form of pediatric brain cancer. Whitley loved school and was an honor roll student. Whitley also loved to help when she saw a need. Little brought as much joy to her heart as knowing that she made a difference in something or someone's life. It is this spirit that has inspired us to create the Whitley Sue Hedger Memorial Scholarship.

The winner will be selected for his or her outstanding community service. The award, funded by Whitley's Wishes, is a one-time, \$1,000 scholarship to be used toward undergraduate education-related expenses.

Eligibility

Applicants to the Whitley Sue Hedger Memorial Scholarship Fund must:

- Have a demonstrated commitment to community service, outstanding qualities in character, integrity and leadership
- Be enrolled as a high school senior at Edwardsville High School, Edwardsville IL
- Plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical college in the United States for the entire academic year
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent)
- Demonstrate financial need

Board members of Whitley's Wishes, their children and other family members are ineligible to receive an award.

Awards

All awards are for undergraduate study only and may be used for education-related expenses based on the institution's cost of attendance. Acceptable expenses include tuition, fees, books, supplies, and room and board on or off campus.

Awards are one-time only. Past recipients may not reapply.

Application Deadline

The program year is open from March 1 until April 15 or until 20 applications are received. Please submit the required documents by email or mail.

Selection of Recipients

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of demonstrated leadership in volunteer work, participation in school and community activities, academic record and honors. Additionally, financial need must be demonstrated for the student to receive an award. Selection of recipient is made by the board members of Whitley's Wishes, Inc. All applicants must agree to accept the decision as final.

Notification

Semi-finalists will be notified by April 23. Additional required documentation will be due within 1 week of notification. Scholarship awardee will be notified in May. All applicants will be notified with the final decision.

Payment of Scholarships

Scholarships are processed in two installments. The first will be disbursed in August for fall semester and the second, in January for spring semester.

Obligations

Recipients have no obligation to Whitley's Wishes, Inc. They are, however, required to notify us of any changes in address, school enrollment, or other relevant information, and to send a complete official transcript when requested.

Revisions

Whitley's Wishes, Inc reserves the right to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time including termination of the program.

Required Documents

1. Completed Application
2. List of volunteer work you have completed.
3. Essay describing one or more of the volunteer projects you have been part of and the impact it had on our community. Please also tell us what your plans are for the future. How do you plan to make an impact on the world through volunteerism and outreach programs etc.?
4. Letter from the Lead Reference. A Lead Reference is an adult advocate who has solid knowledge of the applicant's volunteer activities. Examples of Lead References include teachers, librarians, school counselors, youth service officials, and religious leaders. Members of the applicant's family cannot act as Lead References.

*All required application materials must be included at the time of submission. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Semifinalists will be required to provide the following:

1. Documents confirming financial need. Annual household income must be no more than \$120,000/year.
2. High School Transcript confirming GPA of 3.0 or better.
3. Interview by Board member of Whitley's Wishes, Inc.

