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The Jon & Sonja Laidig Community Service Scholarship Program

Scholarship Overview

The Jon and Sonja Laidig Community Service Scholarship provides worthy St. Joseph County students generous tuition assistance and an opportunity to give back to their community while gaining meaningful work experience in the process. This will be accomplished through a summer internship program involving some of St. Joseph County's best nonprofit agencies. Scholarship recipients will be required to fulfill a 300-hour paid internship each summer in order to be eligible for up to \$7,500 annually, including a \$2,500 internship stipend and up to \$5,000 in tuition assistance. The scholarship is renewable up to four years. Potential recipients should be bright, motivated, dependable individuals who enjoy helping others and are eager to assist local charities in making this community a better place for all of its citizens. Financial need will also be considered. In linking those with a passion for service with charities in need of talented and dedicated individuals, the hope is to deepen the students' understanding of and commitment to social issues and good citizenship.

Eligibility

Students must:

- be a resident of St. Joseph County, Indiana;
- graduate with a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5 (4.0 scale) from an accredited St. Joseph County high school by June 30 of the year of application;
- intend to pursue an associate or baccalaureate degree through a full-time course of study at an accredited tax-exempt college or university;
- demonstrate financial need for tuition assistance over and above other sources of support*

*** Students eligible to receive a tuition benefit due to their parent(s)/guardian(s) place of employment will not be considered for this scholarship if the benefit meets or exceeds the cost of tuition. In addition, family members of those serving on the scholarship nomination committee or Community Foundation staff are deemed ineligible (defined as spouses, lineal descendants and their spouses, siblings and their spouses).**

Selection Process

Students must submit by March 1st:

- typewritten application form, which can be downloaded at www.cfsjc.org;
- two letters of recommendation from individuals in a leadership position who know him/her well (e.g., teacher, principal, guidance counselor);
- official transcript through the student's seventh semester, including high school class ranking; official copy of ACT/SAT results.
- complete submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the U.S. Department of Education (see Office of Financial Aid or visit <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> for more information). In order for the application to be considered complete, students must forward the

- **Student Aid Report (SAR)** listing the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to the Community Foundation.

Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee is looking for students who are motivated to deepen their understanding and commitment to working for the benefit of others. In addition to demonstrated financial need and academic qualifications, the committee will assess matters of character including work ethic, experience, leadership, and motivation to contribute to one's community and society.

Previous service performed with community organizations will be taken into consideration but is not a requirement for obtaining this scholarship. The committee recognizes that individuals may serve others in less traditional ways and is interested in discovering the motivation, compassion, skill set and commitment needed to be effective in serving others.

Indicators that will be used to evaluate each application include: GPA, SAT score, demonstrated leadership, involvement in school-related activities, community service, employment history, written essays, letters of recommendation, financial need, and if the student is the first generation of her/his family to attend college. A personal interview will also weigh significantly in the Committee's selection process. The process and applicants' status is held in strict confidence.

Name: _____

College/University Information

List colleges/universities applied to **in order of preference**:

I have been accepted

I expect notification on _____ date.

I have been accepted

I expect notification on _____ date.

I have been accepted

I expect notification on _____ date.

Major area of study, program or degree you plan to pursue: _____

Course Offerings

Are Advanced Courses/Honors Courses offered at your school during a regular school day?

____ Yes ____ No

Please list all AP, IB, ACP, and Honors courses taken each year.

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
AP, IB, ACP Courses (Please label each)				

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Honors Courses				

Scholarship Awards (please check the boxes that are applicable)

I am eligible to receive a 21st Century Scholarship

I am eligible to receive a tuition benefit based on my parent(s)/guardian(s) place of employment (please explain below the amount and length of the award)

I have been notified of other scholarship awards (please list the name and amount of each scholarship you will be receiving below)

Name: _____

Work Experience (Indicate Dates of Employment, Employer, Hours Worked per Week, Nature of Work)
For those jobs where you are currently employed, please type "currently employed" in the *End* column.

Dates of Employment

Begin	End	Employer	Hours/ Week	Nature of Work

Service Hour Requirements

Please list below the number of service hours, if any, that are required for students at your high school for either graduation or a designated diploma program and give a brief description of requirement if necessary. Please do not include service hours for individual clubs and activities, they should be listed in the space provided below.

Please list below each school club/activity and or outside organization (i.e. National Honor Society, Student Government, etc.) you belong to that requires service activity and the number of hours required for each club.

Name: _____

Additional Information

Indicate below any additional information or unique or notable circumstances, which you believe should be considered by the Selection Committee. Please limit your response to the space provided, additional materials will not be accepted.

Essays

Follow directions carefully. Please choose **three** of the questions below and attach a **typewritten** response for each question. Please include the original essay question at the top of each response. Limit your response to no more than **400 words per question**. Failure to comply with the **400 word limit** may place the eligibility of your application in jeopardy.

Please keep in mind that your essays are a critical component of your application. Along with content, your ability to communicate your ideas and write clearly will be taken into consideration.

1. What are your primary motivations for doing service and for being a Laidig Community Service Scholar?
2. Describe a challenging situation that you have faced and explain how you took the initiative to address this challenge.
3. Describe in detail one family, work or service activity to which you've felt most committed. How is/was it meaningful to you?
4. Please describe an experience you have had that has made you more aware of the diversity in our world. What makes this particular experience important?
5. What single problem do you think is the most urgent crisis in your community and/or in today's society at large and why?
6. If you had unlimited time and resources to devote to a cause or organization, please explain what it would be and why.

Name: _____

Acceptance of responsibility as required by the Laidig Community Service Scholarship Program:

1. "If I receive this scholarship, it is my intent to pursue full-time undergraduate study leading to an associate or baccalaureate degree at an accredited tax-exempt college or university."
2. "I understand that I must reapply for the program each year while satisfactorily completing my summer service internship (300 hours) and maintaining a minimum cumulative 2.5/4.0 GPA at my college or university."
3. "If I receive this scholarship, it is my intent to complete four summer internships at an approved St. Joseph County, Indiana non-profit organization. I understand that my scholarship award payment and summer stipend is based on the successful completion of each summer service assignment."
4. "I will maintain a professional relationship with the service organizations involved in the Laidig Community Service Scholarship Program that includes professional dress, showing up to work on time, completing assignments as given, and adhering to organization policies."
5. "To assist with the processing of my scholarship payments each semester or quarter, I will forward immediately to the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County all invoices received for tuition and any eligible fees that may be covered by my scholarship."
6. "I agree to notify the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County of any scholarship awards I may receive for tuition or required fees from a source other than the Laidig Community Service Scholarship."

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

By signing below, I hereby certify the information in this application to be truthful and accurate, and I meet the eligibility requirements of this program. (I am not entitled to receive free tuition at my university of choice and/or am not a family member of the following entities; a Laidig Community Service Scholarship Selection Committee member, a Jon & Sonja Laidig Foundation Board member, a Laidig family member or Community Foundation staff member.)

Student Signature

Date

Please answer the following questions:

- Please indicate how you heard about this scholarship, i.e. a teacher, counselor, advertisement, etc.

- How do you most often learn about scholarship opportunities?



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The Jon & Sonja Laidig Community Service Scholarship Program Application Check-List

Please use this check-list as a guide when you complete your application. There are many attachments with this application; failure to submit a complete application will render your application ineligible.

When you submit your application, please make sure you:

- Do not use staples.
- Submit legible one-sided copies.
- Do not submit any additional materials not requested.
- Submit all materials in one envelope.
- Submit the application either in person or via the mail by March 1st. Applications postmarked after March 1st will not be accepted.

Please make sure the following documents are included with your submission:

- One copy of a completed **typewritten** application. Please make sure both you and your parent/guardian sign the application.
- Three** essays, printed one-sided.
- Two** letters of recommendations in their sealed envelopes.
- Your official transcript that **includes** your class rank. The SAT/ACT scores included on your transcript may be used for the official test scores.
- Your **Student Aid Report (SAR)** from the Free Application of Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It is your responsibility to make sure you complete the FAFSA and receive your SAR report prior to the March 1st deadline.

All materials should be submitted via mail to:

**The Jon & Sonja Laidig Community Service Scholarship Program
c/o The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County
PO Box 837
South Bend, IN 46624**

Or hand-delivered to:

**The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County
205 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 610
South Bend, IN 46601**



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Letter of Recommendation

- Please provide a 1-page typewritten letter of recommendation.
- Place recommendation in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal to ensure confidentiality. Please do not staple letters.
- Letters of recommendation must be included in the student's application packet and postmarked no later than March 1st. Letters not included in the student's application packet will cause the student to be ineligible for consideration.

Letter of Recommendation for: _____
Student Name

By: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

How long have you known student and in what context? _____

The student has applied for a 4-year Laidig Community Service Scholarship that will pay both a summer service stipend of \$2,500 and a \$5,000 a year scholarship for tuition and fees totaling \$7,500 per year, up to four years. Selection will be based, in part, on factors such as academic performance, leadership, community service, involvement in extra-curricular activities, and employment. Please comment on your personal knowledge of this student's achievements, character, and potential, and why you believe this student should be selected as a Laidig Community Service Scholar. **Please submit your typewritten letter with this cover page.**



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