

The Janis Lynn Shafer Memorial Scholarship (2020)

In 2020 the Janis Lynn Shafer Educational Endowment will award one scholarship to a graduating high school senior who best exemplifies the dedication and enthusiasm that Janis Shafer displayed throughout her life for service to her church, family, community and country, as well as her commitment to Christian education for youth and the love and devotion she had in the care and nurturing of children.

The scholarship, which will be in the amount of \$1,500.00, is for tuition, fees, textbook or computer hardware expenses, or on-campus room and board expenses incurred within the calendar year following the award of the scholarship. The purpose of this document is to tell the applicant about Janis Shafer, the scholarship, selection criteria, and the deadline for the submission of applications.

Janis Lynn Shafer **1954 – 2004**



Janis Shafer was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania October 14, 1954. She grew up in Pleasant Hills, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Pittsburgh, where she graduated from high school in 1972. An excellent student, Janis was active in school and community events and enjoyed being a varsity high school cheerleader and a “Candy Striper” volunteer at a local nursing home. Janis attended the Pleasant Hills Presbyterian Church, sang in the church choir, and taught Sunday School. After graduation from high school Janis attended West Virginia University (WVU), in Morgantown, West Virginia, majoring in Education with the goal of becoming a high school German and English teacher.

While at WVU she met her future husband, Jeff, and they were married in February, 1976. After graduating from WVU in 1976 the newlyweds started their first home in the Army by moving to Baumholder, Germany. It was in Baumholder, while working as a pre-school teacher, that Janis realized just how much she enjoyed working with young children. In 1978, Janis and Jeff returned to the United States and Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for their first of many stateside assignments. In 1980, a move to Fort Polk, Louisiana, caused Janis to once again find herself employed in the early childhood education area at the post preschool. Fort Sill again became their next home and in 1983 Janis was hired as the director of the “Little Trooper” child care annex at the post preschool. It was at Fort Sill that Janis realized that her true educational love was planning and coordinating the resources and programs needed for teaching “little troopers”. In August of 1984, Janis and Jeff were blessed with the birth of their son, Jared. Janis continued her early childhood work at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas (1986-1987), Fort Stewart, Georgia (1987-1989), Huntington Beach, California (1989-1990), and Fort Benning, Georgia (1990-1992). While at Fort Sill and Fort Stewart Janis was responsible for the planning and design of new childcare facilities that were planned for construction on the post. It was also at Fort Stewart that a daughter, Jenna, was born in December 1987.

In 1992, Janis packed up her family and household and once again moved to a new assignment in Bamberg, Germany. In Bamberg, Janis was hired as the Post Chapel Protestant Religious Education Coordinator. This began the merger of what would become a career of love for Janis - - serving the Lord and church while engaged in the education of young children. After follow-on assignments at Weisbaden, Germany, and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Janis moved with her family to Peachtree City, Georgia, in 1997. She started work as the PTCUMC Director of Children’s Ministries and Education in 1998, and immediately began pouring her heart and soul into the love and care of the children of the church. Her work with Pioneer Clubs, PTCUMC Vacation Bible School, youth confirmation program, Tree House Children’s Ministries, and Crosswalk Student Ministries became her passion.

Throughout her adult life Janis was active in service to her church, family, community, and country. She possessed incredible energy and a sincere concern for all those around her, but especially for children. Janis touched the lives of so many in such a short period of time, and made life better for all through her ability to develop her ideas into programs that brought a positive impact to everyone.

Qualifications

The terms of the endowment establishing this scholarship require that the scholarship be awarded to a graduating high school senior who (1) has been confirmed, as that term is defined by the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*; (2) is on the roll of members of Peachtree City United Methodist Church; and, (3) will enroll in either a two-year or four-year accredited undergraduate program in the Summer Term or Fall Term immediately following the applicant's graduation from high school.

Selection Criteria

The Janis Lynn Shafer Memorial Scholarship is not intended to have as its primary criteria either need, or academic or athletic achievement. Rather, the individual to whom this scholarship is awarded should be a person who best exemplifies the dedication and enthusiasm that Janis Shafer displayed throughout her life for service to church, family, community, and country. Characteristics to be considered will include consideration of the commitment shown by the student to perform to the best of his or her ability in all areas of high school, to include academics, athletics, and extra-curricular activities. Involvement in activities whereby the applicant displays dedication to the principals of service to church, family, community, and country will be an area of particular emphasis by the Selection Committee.

Application

The following documents must be submitted to the Selection Committee in accordance with the schedule set forth below:

1. Letter (not more than 2 pages) from the applicant addressed to the Selection Committee that tells about the applicant and the ways in which the applicant believes he or she has sought to be an example of the spirit of service to church, school and community exemplified by Janis Shafer. The letter should also identify the colleges or universities to which the applicant has applied and the institutions to which he or she has been accepted.
2. Current Resume
3. Seven-semester high school transcript (in sealed envelope).
4. Copy of most recent ACT or SAT test scores.
5. Picture of applicant (school picture or similar).
6. Letter of recommendation from teacher. Letter is to be signed by recommending official.

7. Letter of recommendation from a non-relative member of Peachtree City United Methodist Church, with signature. Letter is to be signed by recommending PTCUMC member.

Deadlines for Submission

The application, to include all required documents, must be submitted to the Peachtree City United Methodist Church, 225 Robinson Road, by SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020. The Selection Committee will review all applications so that the scholarship recipient can be announced in conjunction with the Church activities for recognizing graduating high school seniors on May 17, 2020.

Other Requirements

The funds provided by this scholarship are to be used only for tuition, fees, textbook or computer hardware expenses, or on-campus room and board expenses incurred within the calendar year following the award of the scholarship. The Endowment will issue a check directly to the educational institution for any tuition, fees, textbook or computer expenses or on-campus room and board expenses, or to a bookstore for the purchase of textbooks or computer hardware. Should the recipient fail to enroll in an accredited two-year or four-year institution by September 30, 2020, he or she will forfeit the award and the award may be made to the runner-up. The decisions by the Selection Committee are final and are not appealable.