



The Jon & Sonja Laidig Community Service Scholarship Program (Application due Monday, March 1, 2021)

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 250-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.¹ 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.*

*Eligibility Note: *Students whose tuition is completely covered to the school they decide to attend either through, 1) a tuition specific scholarship or, 2) a tuition benefit that meets or exceeds the cost of tuition due to their parent(s)/guardian(s) place of employment (either at that institution or another), will not be eligible for this scholarship. **Note: 21st Century Scholars are eligible to apply.** 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).*

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Complete the Laidig Service Scholarship application found online at:
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfsjcscholarship>
- 1-page **letter of recommendation** from a person in a leadership position who knows you well (e.g. teacher, principal, guidance counselor, pastor, employer, youth worker) **submitted through the online system**. The letter should not come from family members.
- Official **transcript** through senior year, fall semester (7th semester). This should be uploaded by a school official into the online scholarship system.
- To demonstrate financial need, applicants must submit their **Student Aid Report (SAR)**, which is part of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
 - In order for the application to be considered complete, student must submit the SAR, making sure the student's name and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) are listed on the report. This report must be included with the application. The FAFSA can be completed online through the U.S. Department of Education (visit <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> for more information).

*Please note, ACT/SAT results are **not** required and will not be considered for the 2020-2021 application.*



APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Additional information that has not been requested will not be accepted.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. There will be no exceptions.**

Online application must be complete and submitted by **5:00 p.m., Monday, March 1st, 2021**. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure the application is complete and all materials are received on or before the deadline. Application also includes submission of the FAFSA Student Aid Report by March 1, 2021.

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. Demonstrated financial need is given significant weight in this process. In addition to 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, class rank, 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.

¹An exception may be made for one summer if a student has a requirement for their major that must be completed. The \$2,500 stipend will be forfeited for that summer, but the \$5,000 scholarship may still be awarded. Only one exception will be made. If an exception is not made and the student does not complete the summer internship for whatever reason, the student will forfeit the \$5,000 scholarship for that year.