WHAT MAKES ETF SCHOLARSHIPS UNIQUE?

FLEXIBILITY We meet with potential donors individually to discuss the process of establishing a scholarship fund and their preferred degree of involvement. We help them identify their scholarship goals and desired criteria to ensure the scholarship reflects their unique donor intent.

STEWARDSHIP All ETF scholarships are endowed so they are permanent and provide a legacy which serves future generations of students. ETF is committed to maintaining donor intent. To that end, ETF’s Board of Directors has the authority to exercise variance power. Variance power is a distinctive feature of community foundations, and its primary objective is to fulfill a donor’s original charitable intent as time goes by and circumstances change.

CRITERIA ETF scholarship eligibility requirements include a wide variety of criteria to enable traditional and non-traditional students from many counties and differing backgrounds, strengths, challenges, and interests to apply. ETF is one of a few programs to offer scholarship opportunities for non-traditional students from many counties and differing backgrounds, strengths, challenges, and interests to apply. ETF is committed to maintaining donor intent. To that end, ETF’s Board of Directors has the authority to exercise variance power. Variance power is a distinctive feature of community foundations, and its primary objective is to fulfill a donor’s original charitable intent as time goes by and circumstances change.

SELECTION There are many factors that contribute to applicants’ unique circumstances and qualifications.

Committees composed of educators, community volunteers, and subject matter experts consider a student’s whole picture when reviewing and comparing applications. This year we had over 200 selection committee volunteers!

STUDENT SUPPORT We truly believe in ETF scholarship recipients as “our” students. We give ETF scholarship recipients who do not meet renewal requirements the chance to explain extenuating circumstances and to describe their plan to address their challenges. In addition, we advocate for our recipients with educational institutions, when needed, to maximize their scholarship benefits.

ASSESSING NEEDS We continually seek input regarding scholarship needs of traditional and non-traditional aged students. We share insights gained with prospective donors so that the scholarships they establish may address the needs of the students in our region.

BEST PRACTICES ETF keeps current with nationally recognized best practices. Through membership in the National Scholarship Providers Association, we stay abreast of scholarship-related topics and trends, and ETF maintains compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

MEASURING IMPACT Through exit interviews, scholarship recipient forms, and conversations, ETF collects, analyzes, and reports data on the impact of scholarship programs.

IN A NOTE TO THE PARENTS WHO ESTABLISHED THE MICHAEL CURTIN RENAISSANCE STUDENT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF THEIR SON, THE RECIPIENT WRITES, “When I initially worked on the scholarship application, I told my mom that this was the one I would most like to receive. October 9, 1999 must have been the hardest day of his family’s life and yet they asked for donations to be made to this scholarship in lieu of flowers. They graciously looked down the road and saw friends like me who would one day benefit from this endowment. The only way I can possibly return some of what they gave is to live in a way that would best exemplify all the qualities that were so obviously important to Michael and his family. I wish I could have met Michael. In life all we can hope for is to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Michael did this and I will always remember his story.”
NEW ETF SCHOLARSHIPS LAUNCHING IN 2021

AUNT BETTY’S TECHNICAL CAREER SCHOLARSHIP
Established to benefit students from Knox and Laurel counties in KY and Loudon, Campbell, Claiborne, Hancock, Hawkins, Union, Grainger, and Morgan counties in TN enrolled in a program to prepare for a job in a skilled trade.

ELIZABETH HOPE MARLETTE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Established to benefit students who require financial assistance to pursue post-secondary education in a health-related field. Graduating high school senior or current college student who graduated from high school located in Blount, Loudon, or Monroe County, TN; Boyd County High School in Boyd County, KY; or Ironton High School in Lawrence County, OH.

JOE R. AND KATHY M. MAY SCHOLARSHIP
Established to benefit students with financial need from Knox, Anderson, Roane, Loudon, Blount, Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger, or Union County who may not display the highest scholastic rankings yet possess potential and motivation. Preference will be given to first-generation students, graduates of West High School, and those attending or planning to attend Carson-Newman University.

ETF SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHT

JAMES K. GOLDSTON INFOSEC SCHOLARSHIP
In 2006, the family of James K. Goldston had a desire to provide assistance to students from Tennessee attending NSA-approved INFOSEC programs and later expanded the criteria to include computer engineering, computer science, cyber science, and information security.

Sandra Goldston, who established the James K. Goldston INFOSEC Scholarship in memory of her husband, recently said, “Each year there has been a recipient that clearly stood out with a need and special circumstances that epitomizes what James stood for and came from. I hope each recipient has the opportunity to rise above their situation just as he did and that this scholarship will help and encourage them in some way. James’ legacy lives on through others that we’ve been able to help.”

For more information about ETF scholarships or to donate to the James K. Goldston INFOSEC Scholarship or other ETF scholarships, please visit etf.org/scholarships or contact Beth Heller, Vice President for Scholarship Programs or Tamara Boyer, General Counsel + Vice President for Advancement.

AUNT BETTY’S TECHNICAL CAREER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

RECIPIENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF OAK RIDGE COLLEGE FOUNDERS’ SCHOLARSHIP

RECIPIENT OF THE BUTTERFLY FUND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

RECIPIENT OF THE KAROLYN KING CARTER SCHOLARSHIP

ETF HELD THE SPENSER F. POWELL MEMORIAL LAW SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

FROM OUR SPENSER F. POWELL MEMORIAL LAW SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

“it is an honor to be the recipient of the Spenser F. Powell Memorial Law Scholarship. Your generous contribution will allow me to pursue an education at the University of Tennessee College of Law.

I will begin my first year of law school in August. I plan to use this degree to pursue a career in advocating for social justice and equality from within our legal system. My son has been my inspiration to dedicate my life to helping others. As a single mother, I cannot tell you how much this scholarship means. It will help pay for my tuition in the 2020-2021 year.

Thank you again for your generosity.”

FROM TWO OF OUR GORDON W. AND AGNES P. COBB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

“On May 1, 2020 I received a call that changed my whole entire future. That was the call I received from your foundation. Tears filled my eyes; I began to sob—my dream was not a dream anymore. It was about to become my reality. Thank you all, for believing in me. For continuing to reward students for their educational and community devotion. For helping build futures. For paving the way for a first-generation college student to become just that: a college student. Thank you for making my dream come true. No amount of words can express the thanks I wish to give.” This recipient of the Gordon W. and Agnes P. Cobb Scholarships signed her thank you note with, “Dreamer whose dreams came true.”

“Since I was young, my dream was to continue studying and be someone—someone who I arrived in this country, I have focused on my studies and learning the language. Thanks to this scholarship, I will be able to continue studying to hopes that my dreams will come true to one day become a doctor. Without this scholarship, I would not be able to go to college.” This first-generation recipient of the Gordon W. and Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship immigrated to the U.S. from Honduras on his own at the age of 14.

STUDYING IN A PANDEMIC

A recent sign exclaimed, “The lifestyle you ordered is temporarily out of stock,” aptly describes student life during this pandemic. Imagine being a high school senior or college student whose school closes two months into the spring semester followed by online instruction. No prom, no graduation, no in-person goodbyes or signing of yearbooks, no in-person instruction for those challenging courses, no in-person advising for next year’s classes.

In addition to the uncertainty we all share, our scholarship recipients have reported pandemic-related challenges in pursuing their education, including unreliable or no computer or internet access, increased responsibilities for child-care, work, or other health or income support needs for themselves or their families during this time.

How has ETF helped our scholarship recipients during these uncertain times? We continue our unique flexible approach!

• We extended deadlines for applications and submission of scholarship acceptance forms and grade reports.
• We provided alternatives to online submission for scholarship recipients and students not meeting renewal requirements for multi-year scholarships.
• We reached out to students and remained totally accessible via email and phone.
• We are being flexible with scholarship payments by accommodating students’ pandemic-related enrollment needs, such as allowing students to postpone their enrollment date to defer scholarships or prorating scholarships for students requiring part-time enrollment.

ETF HELD THE SPENSER F. POWELL MEMORIAL LAW SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

GORDON W. AND AGNES P. COBB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

RECIPIENT OF THE BUTTERFLY FUND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

RECIPIENT OF THE KAROLYN KING CARTER SCHOLARSHIP

ETF HELD THE SPENSER F. POWELL MEMORIAL LAW SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION VIRTUALLY DURING AUGUST 2020.

CLASS OF 1965 BELMONT UNIVERSITY

2020 SPENSER F. POWELL MEMORIAL LAW SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT ARE ETF TEAM MEMBERS BETH HELLER, JOHN JOHNSON, AND JEANETTE KELLEHER FOLLOWING KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES WHILE SAFELY PREPARING 218 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CHECKS FOR MAILING.

HAILEY BROOKS, GORDON W. AND AGNES P. COBB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, RECENTLY EMERGED ETF ON HER SUCCESSFUL GRADUATION AND WHAT IS NEXT FOR HER.

RECIPIENT OF THE ROYALTY CLUB OF OAK RIDGE COLLEGE FOUNDERS’ SCHOLARSHIP

“Receiving this scholarship has been a bright spot in these stressful and uncertain times.”

RECIPIENT OF THE BUTTERFLY FUND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

“During this season of social isolation and uncertainty, know that you are touching lives with your generosity.”

RECIPIENT OF THE KAROLYN KING CARTER SCHOLARSHIP

“Going into college knowing that people and foundations like ETF support me and want me to succeed is exciting and empowering, especially in times like these when so many uncertainties are uncertain.”

RECIPIENT OF THE KAROLYN KING CARTER SCHOLARSHIP

IF YOU HAVE A DREAM OF FURTHERING THE EDUCATION OF OTHERS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME, PLEASE CONTACT TAMARA BOYER bboyer@etf.org OR BETH HELLER, bheller@etf.org OR CALL 877-524-1223.