

Scholarship Policy – Friends Community Church

The Children's Ministries Department of Friends Community Church is pleased to be able to offer times of focused opportunity for spiritual growth through camps and seminars during the year. These include, but are not limited to:

Winter Camps

Weekend Retreats

Summer Camps

And other special events

While we believe the use of personal funds for such opportunities is good stewardship of one's income and worth the sacrifice it takes to make such events a priority, we also realize that there are times when a family or individual may not have the financial means to pay for it.

For this reason we have funds designated each year from our budget. These funds, however, are not limitless. It is not uncommon for the requests to outnumber the resources. For this reason, we find it necessary to consider God's Word for help as we prioritize the requests. Here is one such passage that gives us insight into helping others:

"...look after orphans and widows in their distress." James 1:27

Many children in our congregation find themselves in this situation or similar situations. There are the true widows and the true orphans; there are family members caring for other family members' children; there are grandparents raising grandchildren, and most predominantly there are children who have been "orphaned" by one parent or the other through divorce, and are now living in single-parent homes.

But what about people who are just having a hard time financially due to loss of employment, catastrophic illness, and so on? An illustration given in Romans 16:1-2 is very helpful.

"I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well."

Paul gives two reasons for rendering help to Phoebe: she has a need and she is a helper of many. This passage gives us several more principles to consider when scholarship applications are submitted.

1. Is there a genuine financial need? Could the person attend if they plan ahead and sacrifice to make it happen? Can they attend if they were given the opportunity to make interest-free payments? Or will there be no way the person can attend without assistance?
2. Does the person/family have a servant's heart? Have they made a regular habit of giving their time, talent and treasure?

Finally, we are called to make every effort to bring the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to others. There are times when we believe that someone we know, who has not heard the Gospel, is in a place in their life in which they are uniquely vulnerable to hearing about Jesus. At that time a setting such as camp would be especially valuable, however, their funds may not allow them to attend. In such a case, financial assistance may also be considered.

If you have read through these principles and feel that you, someone in your family, or someone you have been ministering to is a candidate for scholarship assistance, then the financially responsible party should complete the confidential Scholarship Request Form. Please turn the completed form into the church office to the attention of the Children's Ministries.

CONFIDENTIAL

Date Submitted _____

Event: _____

Amount Requested: _____

**Scholarship Application
Friends Community Church Student Ministries**

Name of Financially Responsible Party:

Contact Information:

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Name of person receiving assistance: (i.e. camper, conference attendee)

TO BE COMPLETED BY FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Please indicate briefly why a scholarship is necessary.

TO BE COMPLETED BY PERSON BENEFITTING FROM SCHOLARSHIP

(i.e. camper, conference attendee)

Please indicate briefly why you would like to participate in this program, event, etc.

Student Signature (if applicable) _____

Responsible Party Signature _____

Office Use Only

Scholarship amount granted _____ Contacted? _____ Date? _____