

Elsie Shaw Scholarship Fund Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

The Elsie Shaw Parent scholarship fund was started in 1993 as a way to assist families who had children with disabilities to attend the annual Circles of Life Conference. The mission of the fund is to take away barriers from families who would otherwise not be able to attend the annual conference. When giving scholarships, we do not tell individuals we will pay for your room or registration, we ask, "what is preventing you from attending the conference?" We then try to remove those barriers. In the past we have paid for a farm family to hire someone to milk the cows so they could go to the conference, a family living on Washington Island could not afford the cost of the ferry to the main land, we have provided busses from Milwaukee for families who had no other transportation, or more typically registration, and hotel costs for the conference. Since becoming a 501(c)3 in 1999 the scholarship fund has provided over \$200,000 in funding to assist individuals in attending the annual conference. During the past 23 years we have funded 1100 families who have children with disabilities attend the conference. This includes over 300 individuals from the African American community in Milwaukee Wisconsin, SOD individuals from the Spanish speaking communities across the state, 14 individuals from various Native American tribes and 3 Hmong families. Our goal is to eliminate financial barriers for any families who have a desire to attend the conference and encourage family engagement in this annual opportunity for learning, and connecting with other families. In the last 23 years we have never turned anyone down who has applied in a timely manner.

Statement of Need

In the past the Elsie Shaw Parent Scholarship fund has been able to raise money through private donations and fund raisers. However, as the conference grows and more become aware of the conference, there are a greater number of individuals seeking assistance. We are anticipating a shortfall this year. The conference committee volunteers have put a tremendous effort into outreach throughout the state to create awareness of the conference and engage families in underserved populations, we anticipate this will increase our requests even more going forward. With the assistance of Wispact we will be able to provide scholarships to every family who desires to attend the conference but would otherwise not be able to afford to attend.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

The goals of the project would be to increase the numbers of families and children with disabilities supported by the scholarship fund by 25%. Secondary goals would be:

1. Increase the number of families who report a better knowledge of financial planning for the future of their children
2. Increase the number of families who report a better knowledge of the long term care system for both children and adults
3. Increase in the number of families who understand the special education system
4. Increase in the number of minority or under represented families attend the conference

Project Implementation Plan

September 1, 2022- Planning for upcoming conference will begin including the determination of the number of individuals receiving 1 scholarship to attend the conference. (conference committee)

October 31, 2022- Development of outreach plan including developing connections in under-represented communities, circulars, social media strategies, strategies to connect to local media sources about the conference and the availability of assistance for individuals to receive scholarships to attend the conference. (conference committee and director of scholarship fund)

November 15, 2022- Development of the 2023 evaluation tool for Individuals receiving scholarships, also development of application for scholarships (scholarship fund board of directors)

January 2, 2023-Dissemination of applications for scholarships (conference committee) February 28, 2023- Applications due for conference.

March 15, 2023- reservation of rooms at the hotel for scholarship recipients Director of scholarship fund)

April 1, 2023- Finalization of plans for transportation to the conference for Individuals who do not have transportation, including working with local organizations on bus rental. (director of scholarship fund)

April 7, 2023- completion of registration of all scholarship recipients (director of scholarship fund)

Evaluation Plan

Success will be measured by a mandatory evaluation of the conference developed by the Scholarship fund which will ask specific questions about what the families who have received scholarships have learned by attending the conference. The results of this survey will be reported in our final report to Wispact.

Budget

Expenses	
50roomsx2 nights (\$120 per night)	\$12,000 (Wispact Grant)
Transportation (2 busses)	\$ 2,500
Registration for 100 individuals (\$65 per registrant)	\$ 6,500
Total scholarship expenses	\$19,000.00
Revenue	
Wispact Grant	\$10,000
Private Donations	\$3,000
Porcupine Auction	\$1,900
Online Auction	\$1,100
Fundraisers	\$3,000
Total anticipated Revenue	\$19,000

Staff Recommendation

The grant application can be approved. The scholarship fund will provide a resource to allow more families to attend this educational conference and the benefits will have a direct positive impact on persons with disabilities.