

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

### **RR Coleman-Calahan Lodging Scholarship.**

#### **Short background information**

The scholarship was born out of a **consumer's need** for lodging back in 2007 or 2008. At that conference, there was a consumer attending the conference who did not have a place to stay. We, my wife and I, paid for a hotel stay so that she could enjoy the conference without the stress of lodging.

**The RR Coleman-Calahan Consumer Lodging Scholarship** which was inaugurated at the 7<sup>th</sup> CTAAFSC by The Calahan Family Trust in honor of Mrs. Roberta Calahan and her late twin brother Mr. Robert Coleman for their untiring commitment and support of **Consumers** in need with Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and other Health related disparities. Now the Award/Scholarship is given in **memory** of my wife and her twin brother since her death in 2017.

**Purpose:** to assist a consumer in need of lodging.

**Criteria to select:** demonstrated, or request need as determined by the CTAAFSC committee.

**You may also add information such as whether the award/scholarship is need-based or not, and an explanation on the form of application required (whether it is by nomination or individual application).**

I believe the CTAAFSC Committee nominated the recent recipients. I am unaware of whether or not there is a form. Have not been involved in that process.

#### **What should nominators/nominees/applicants provide to make a case for deserving the scholarship?**

Since there has been no cost to attend the conference to date, and there were consumers desiring to attend but no lodging, their need has been made known to the committee or center, and these funds were used to assist with their lodging.

**Do you prefer the applicants/nominees/nominators to answer a set of questions? If you do, please provide at least two such questions.**

I have no complaints about how the process has worked to date. Whatever process used to make the decisions have been fine with me in that the money is given directly to the center and not the consumer.

**Also, in case there are no nominations or applications for a particular year, what would you suggest we do?**

If there is not a nomination or application, then funds would not be given to the center and will be used the following year.

**Finally, can any individual win the scholarship/award consecutively year after year?**

This has not been the case over these 12 years. It depends on the CTAFFSC committee to determine if there are no other consumers with the need for lodging. I believe the Texas Mental Health Consumers are also awarding a similar award because of the need for more than one source. RR Coleman-Calahan pays for one night stay because of increase in hotel costs. Originally, the award could have provided two nights stay.

### **The Wood Group Educational Scholarship**

The Wood Group will provide (2) \$500.00 "The Wood Group Educational Scholarships" at next year's conference. The conference committee can set up the guidelines and qualifications for the scholarships. The term educational can be broad in its scope. When the committee has chosen to consumers for the awards, let us know their names for we can have a presentation plaque made for them.

### **MICHELE BIBBY PERSON IN MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY SCHOLARSHIP**

#### **Background:**

I created the "Michele Bibby Person in Mental Health Recovery" Scholarship two years ago. I created this scholarship to provide financial assistance to a person (with lived experience with mental health challenges) to further their education. I am a person who received a mental health diagnosis 35 years ago. Thirty-five years ago, it was quite common for clinicians to tell people with lived experience with mental health challenges that their life trajectory was limited, their options were few, and they needed to lower their expectations and relinquish their dreams. I was in law school when bipolar disorder showed up. I was fortunate in that I already had a college degree. My family told me to drop out of law school, and I complied. As a mental health advocate, I encounter so many people with lived experience in mental health challenges who could benefit from some financial assistance to help them get on a path towards improving their level of education. People with lived experience with mental health challenges quite often live in poverty. People with lived experience with mental health challenges have high rates of unemployment. People with lived experience with mental health challenges die on average 27 years earlier than their peers who do not have a mental health diagnosis. People with lived experience with mental health challenges face many disadvantages in society. I observe the abundance of programs, scholarships, and other assistance available to people in recovery from substance use as well as former incarceration. Educational, financial assistance for people with lived experience with mental health challenges is extremely limited. I personally know the many obstacles a person with lived experience with mental health challenges will face in attempting to further their education. Since I am financially able to donate the funds annually to provide this scholarship, it is my highest honor to do so.

#### **Criteria for selection of scholarship recipient:**

This scholarship should be given to a person with lived experience of mental health challenges OR a person who considers themselves in mental health recovery. The person should be enrolled in a formal program to further their education. Preference will be given to a person who is involved in helping others with mental health lived experience.

#### **Financial consideration as criteria for selection of scholarship recipient:**

The person should indicate financial need if applicable. Preference will be given to a person with a financial need who meets all other criteria.

#### **Applicants should provide the following information:**

- Name, Address, Phone
- Acknowledgment of mental health lived experience
- Brief summary of their mental health journey or story
- Name of the Education Program in which they are enrolled
- Description of the work they intend to do upon completion of this education program
- Description of any work they plan to do to assist other people with mental health lived experience
- Description of financial need
- A resume and or bio can be attached as an addendum to the application

**Applicants should answer the following questions:**

- What is your lived experience?
- What education program are you enrolled in?
- When do you plan to complete your education program?
- What assistance or service (including paid work or volunteer work) have you provided to people with mental health lived experience?
- What work do you intend to do upon completion of your education program?
- Please describe your need for financial assistance?

**In the case of no nominations or applications:**

If there are no nominations or nominations for the 2020 conference, that will allow for two \$500.00 scholarships to be distributed at the 2021 conference.

**Can any individual win the scholarship/award consecutively year after year?**

Yes, as long as they remain enrolled in an educational program, meet all other criteria and are the most competitive candidate.