**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**Gathered 1639**

**2301 MAIN STREET**

**STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT 06615**

**THE KATE STERLING BUNNELL**

**SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND**

**Scholarship Committee of**

**The Board of Trustees**

April 1, 2024

To: Applicants for Kate Sterling Bunnell Scholarships:

Through the generosity of Catherine T. Mitchell, the Kate Sterling Bunnell Scholarship Endowment Fund, established in her memory, offers financial assistance for college expenses to Stratford- resident students, based on financial need, without regard to academic achievement, sex, race or creed. A copy of the applicable article in Mrs. Mitchell’s will is enclosed for reference. If you feel that you qualify under the conditions set forth therein, we welcome your application. It may be of interest to note that our awards have generally ranged from $1,500 to $3,000. Applicants can re-apply each year they are a full-time undergraduate not to exceed their first (4) years of study. (Full-Time is a minimum 12 credit hours/semester)

The following forms and documents must be completed, enclosed and returned to the Church office or emailed to me at KateSterlingBunnell@gmail.com **not later than May 24, 2024** (Applications postmarked or received after May 24th will not be considered.)

* **Application** - The scholarshipapplication filled out completely.
* **Autobiographical essay and photograph**.
* **Activity List** – Please list all school & extracurricular activities
* **Student Aid Report (SAR)** – This is the report that was sent to you in response to the information you gave in the FAFSA. Please send a copy of the **report**; not the worksheet. YOUR APPLICATION CAN NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT IT.
* **Transcript** - Unofficial copy of your high school transcript including courses/grades in progress (or a copy of your last semester’s grade report if you are already in college).
* **Scholarships, awards and other financial aid letters** - copies of all awards you have received. (If you have not yet heard, please so state and send a copy when such a letter is received.)

Any financial assistance awarded by us will be on the basis of need only. In evaluating need for financial aid, we will consider your parent’(s) or guardians’ potential financial support, financial aid offered by your college, and your own ability to pay a portion of your educational costs through summer employment and/or employment during the school year.

Colleges offer financial aid based on information furnished to them. An outside scholarship, such as ours, offered to the student subsequent to their aid package is considered additional funding and, when Federal funds are used, the college is required to take back an equivalent amount of aid since it is considered additional funding. To preclude this, any financial aid from us will be in the form of a monetary award to your parents to increase their ability to support your education.

If owing to unforeseen circumstances more time is needed to complete the submittal,

please email me at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline to negotiate a reasonable extension of time.

After an initial screening of all applications, you and your parent(s) may be asked to meet with the Scholarship Committee for an interview during the latter part of June. After an

analysis of all submitted information , our letter advising you or your parent(s) of the Committee’s action will be sent during the third week of August. You may find it helpful to open a file to retain copies of all relevant materials, particularly this letter, and any other correspondence we may exchange.

Thank you for your cooperation in our efforts to support you.

Sincerely,

Carol Haberlin, Scholarship Officer

Phone: (203) 258-7031

Email: KateSterlingBunnell@gmail.com

APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP AID 2024-2025

THE KATE STERLING BUNNELL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

# Administered by the Scholarship Committee of the First Congregational Church

# 2301 Main St., Stratford, CT 06615

(Email : KateSterlingBunnell@gmail.com)

## **This is a WORD document. Please complete by computer. Leave no blank spaces.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date:  | Age: | Home Phone: | Cell Phone: |

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name: |  | Email:  |

 ( Last name) (First name )

|  |
| --- |
| Home Address: |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Your marital status:  | Dependent/Independent: Dep\_\_ Indep\_\_\_ |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Father’s Name:  | Mother’s Name: |

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| --- |
| Parent’s marital status: Married \_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_ Widow/Widower\_\_\_ Never Married \_\_\_If parents are deceased, name of guardian: |
|  |
| College or school you will attend:  |
| Location: | Class (Freshman,etc): | Major:  |
|  |
| Your high school: Graduation Date: |
| If in college, Name of college: Semesters completed:  |

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| **FINANCIAL AID EXPECTED** |
| a. Scholarships and grants from your college –please list  | Amount $ |
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|  |
| b. Work/Study or campus employment: | Amount $ |
| c.Authorized Loans (Stafford,Perkins, or other) – please list | Amount $ |
|  |
|  |
| d. Other aid, not including parents: | Amount $ |
| **(Please enclose copies of award letter for above)** |

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| **YOUR ASSETS (as of May 1)** |
| Cash (savings & checking: $  | + Securities, CD’s: $ | Total: $ |

|  |
| --- |
| **Summer Employment (if none, so state and explain)** |
| Employer : |
| Type of Work: | Hrs/week: | Wage/salary per week: $  |
| Start Date: | Last Day of Work: | # of weeks working: |
| Gross wages: $ | Net after all deductions: $ |
| Amount you will save and contribute toward your college expenses: $ |
| What non-college expenses will be paid from your earnings this summer?  |
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|  |
| **MISCELLANEOUS OTHER INFORMATION** |
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| DEPENDENT family members – all – regardless of age: |
|  |
| Name | Age | College/University | Yearly Cost | Fin. Aid (2024/25) |
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| **MORTGAGE / RENT INFORMATION** |
| Unpaid mortgage balance: $ | **OR** | Monthly rent: $ |

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| **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES** |
| Please describe any special circumstances such as unemployment, disabilities, major medical expenses, etc. affecting the family financial condition. |
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| **EXPENSES** |
| Please show yours costs for the **ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR (2024-2025)** under the appropriate heading (**pick one only):** |
|  |
| **RESIDENT** | **OR** | **COMMUTER** |
| Tuition and Fees:  | $ |  |  | $ |
| Books:  | $ |  |  | $ |
| Room expenses while in school:  | $ |  |  | N/A |
| Board and other meal expenses:  | $ |  | Meal expenses: | $ |
| Other special expenses, such as computer: Explain | $ |  |  | $ |
| Commuting – resident students are allowed 2 round trips/year with car allowance of $.55/mile. Show miles:  | $ |  | Commuting expense with car allowance of $.55/mile : Show days/yr & miles for commute: | $ |
| **TOTAL SCHOOL YR BUDGET :** | **$** |  | **TOTAL SCHOOL YR BUDGET:**  | **$** |

|  |
| --- |
| I certify that the foregoing information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I agree that I will send a copy of my grade report at the end of each semester, if an award is made, to the Scholarship Officer. I believe that I qualify as to the moral and civic standards as set forth in the Will of Mrs. Mitchell.**Signature of Student Applicant:** |

**CHECKLIST OF REQUIRED ITEMS – FIRST TIME APPLICANTS**

**( ) Application** - The scholarshipapplication filled out completely.

**( ) Autobiographical essay**

**( ) Activity List** – List of all school and extracurricular activities

**( ) Photograph**

**( ) Student Aid Report (SAR)** – This is the report that was sent to you in response to

 the information you gave in the FAFSA. Please send a copy of the **report**; not the

 worksheet. YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT IT.

**( ) Transcript** - Unofficial copy of your high school transcript including

 courses/grades in progress (or a copy of your last semester’s grade report if you

 are already in college).

**( ) Scholarships, awards and other financial aid letters** - copies of all awards you

 have received. (If you have not yet heard, please so state and send a copy when

 such a letter is received.)

**Application Deadline: May 24, 2024**

(**Note:** Applications which are incomplete or lacking supporting material will not be considered. If owing to unforeseen circumstances more time is needed to complete the submittal, please email me at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline to negotiate a reasonable extension of time. Email: KateSterlingBunnell@gmail.com

Also, in the common concern for privacy, please remove all Social Security numbers from submittals, either by obliteration or by cutting off from forms.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY

Please tell us about yourself; your interests and activities including those in high school, your career goals, experiences or travel which have influenced your life, employment you have had, etc. Please give us an insight into your life and motivation.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN

OF THE

**Last Will and Testament**

OF

CATHERINE T. MITCHELL

FOURTEENTH: It being my wish and desire to make some contribution to my Country and to my beloved Town of Stratford and to effect that end, I create the trust hereinafter contained. All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, of every nature and wherever situated of which I may die seized or possessed, and all property herein attempted to be disposed of, the disposition whereof by reason of lapse or other cause shall fail to take effect, I give, devise and bequeath to my Trustees hereinafter named and their successors who shall retain said property in their hands, and manage, control and invest the same and any increments to said corpus, in Trust nevertheless, for the following uses and purposes:

1. To pay all the income, commencing one year after the establishment of said fund, and thereafter,

quarterly, to the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STRATFORD, INCORPORATED, for the purposes and uses hereinafter provided, after first paying out of said income the lawful taxes, charges, and expenses of said trust.

1. Said Trustees are also authorized and directed to pay over to the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

CHURCH OF STRATFORD, INCORPORATED, part of said principal or corpus as hereinafter provided.

1. The Board of Trustees or the Governing Board, whatever be its name, of the FIRST CONGRE-

GATIONAL CHURCH OF STRATFORD, INCORPORATED, shall create an endowment fund, which fund shall remain apart from all other Church funds or endowments and shall be named in honor of my mother, THE KATE STERLING BUNNELL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND.

1. Such fund, and such part of the principal as hereinafter provided, shall be expended by said

Board of Trustees of said Church from time to time in paying the college expenses, in whole or in part of deserving Stratford students who are in need of financial need of financial assistance. Said fund shall be available to all Stratford students, male or female, regardless of race, creed or color. After said scholarship fund has been established, the Board of said Church shall annually notify the Principal of Stratford High School and the Superintendent of the Stratford Schools of the existence of the fund, which notice will briefly state its availability to Stratford students and the purpose and conditions based upon the terms of this Will. The Board of said Church shall also give public notice in a Stratford newspaper, if there be one, and in a newspaper having a circulation in the Town of Stratford at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in each year, stating the existence of the fund, and briefly stating to whom the fund is available by the terms of this Will. Selection of the students shall be made by a vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees or Governing Board of said Church, whose decision shall be final. It is my desire that the Board of said Church shall establish proper regulations and conditions for the expenditure of said fund, which regulations shall embrace and contain my wishes and directions as herein provided.

1. It is my desire that in making such selections, the Board, in its discretion, will choose persons who are

pecuniary unable to pay their tuition and expenses, and who are morally and mentally worthy and competent. However, this wish and direction shall not foreclose or prevent the Board of Trustees of said Church from giving financial assistance by gift to deserving Stratford students who are in a position to pay part of their expenses in college.

1. Our Country in recent years has seen men of great mental and scientific achievements take refuge in our

Constitution when asked if they belonged to organizations dedicated to the overthrow of our American form of self-government. To help worthy Stratford to become equipped for leadership in our America, this fund is created. Accordingly, it is my desire that in making such selections, the governing board of said Church shall give more weight to character, quality of leadership, moral worth, and a deep and true understanding of the American ideals as embraced by our United States Constitution and Connecticut Constitution than to the scholarly attainments of the students.

1. I am mindful that the qualities of the Stratford students may vary from year to year. Accordingly, the

governing board of said Church is not required to use all or any part of said income in any one year, if, in its sole discretion, there are no Stratford students deserving of the aid of said fund. Any unused portion of said income received by the Church from the Trustees shall remain in the endowment fund for use in the following year or years for the purposes herein provided.

1. I authorize the governing board of said Church, in its sole discretion, to use part of the principal or

corpus of said trust if the income in any given year in inadequate, but, I suggest and desire that such authorization be sparingly exercised.

1. If the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHRUCH OF STRATFORD, INCORPORATTED, should

ever cease to exist and function as an ecclesiastical institution and should have no lawful successor functioning as an ecclesiastical organization, or, if it should appear at any time that said Scholarship Endowment Fund is not being administered by the governing board of said Church in accordance with my wishes and desires, and in conformity with the conditions specified in this Will, or if it should appear that said Scholarship Endowment Fund is being mal-administered by the Board of said Church, then in any case, it is my will, direction and desire that the said Trust shall end, and I give, devise and bequeath all said property and income in the hands of the Trustees at that time to the STERLING HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER located in Stratford, Connecticut, to be its absolutely and forever, and I direct said Trustees to turn over all such property in their hands at said time to said STERLING HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER and said Trust shall be at an end. Said Trust and said Scholarship Endowment fund shall be terminated only by a judgment of the Superior Court of this State upon a complaint brought by any party in interest, which complaint shall fully state the reason or reasons as provided in this paragraph.