

**The Second Annual Working Group on Girls of Schenectady, Inc.
Helga Schroeter Memorial Scholarship
Application 2021**



The Helga Schroeter Memorial Scholarship was established by the Working Group on Girls of Schenectady, Inc. in September 2019 to honor Helga, one of their founding mothers, and to keep alive her passion for social justice, diversity and inclusion, and nurturing the youth of our community. This scholarship is intended to **further girls' education or training after high school.**

Helga was born in Germany, in 1942 during the turmoil of World War II. She moved to the United States in 1963 where her husband completed his education at Notre Dame and Yale Universities. They settled in Schenectady, NY in 1966 when he started working at the General Electrical Research and Development Center. They adopted three African American children, Martin, Katharina, and Cora. Helga then gave birth to a son, Frank. Helga became a U.S. citizen in 1973.

Shaped by her experiences growing up in post-war Germany and coming to the U.S. during the Civil Rights and Anti-War Movements, including the assassinations of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, Helga was a lifelong crusader for social justice.

She volunteered her time to serve numerous organizations: the Schenectady Inner City Ministry, the League of Women Voters, Girls, Inc. and the Schenectady Interfaith Committee. Helga was a Commissioner of the Schenectady County Human Rights Commission. She was a trained facilitator for "Schenectady County Embraces Diversity" and served on the Civilian Police Review Board. She was a trained Study Circles facilitator and facilitated Study Circles on Race and Race Relations, on Police Community Relations and on Diversity. Over the years, Helga was also active in the Schenectady Public Schools volunteering with after-school programs, mentoring, and a founding mother of the Working Group on Girls.

It is our hope that through this scholarship fund, her legacy will continue to impact the lives of many in our community, and especially the youth that she valued so highly.

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Instructions for Applicants:

This scholarship is intended to **further girls' education or training after high school**. The Scholarship Committee will be looking at academic performance, community activities, future plans and other factors referencing Helga's ideals, values, and passions. This scholarship is being given to a student to memorialize Helga's life of good will towards others. Please include your latest school transcript, a recommendation letter, and completed application to be in the running for this **award of \$500**.

All correspondence concerning this scholarship should be sent to:

Working Group on Girls of Schenectady, Inc. Scholarship
PO Box 9407
Schenectady, NY 12309

OR

Email: Laura LaFontaine, LaLaFontaine13@gmail.com

AWARD AMOUNT: \$500

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2021

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED: Beginning of AUGUST 2021.
Accepted applicant will be notified by mail.

CHECKLIST:

- Completed application form.
- Completed questions.
- At least 1 recommendation from a teacher or leader.
- Recent school transcript.

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Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Grade Level: _____

Name of School: _____

**** PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE EXTRA PAPER OR THE BACK OF THE APPLICATION FOR
ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR YOUR ANSWERS. ****

1. Have you ever attended "Girls' Circles" by the Working Group on Girls of Schenectady, Inc.?

Circle one: Yes No

If "Yes", write what grades you attended: _____

2. Do you feel Girls' Circles helped you? In what way?

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3. Please list and describe (up to 3) community activities you were involved in outside of school during your high school years. State whether they were **required** (by school or church, for example) or if they were **voluntary**. Note how many hours per week, months or years that you participated in them. Use the back side of this sheet or an additional sheet of paper.

Example:

A. Read to an elderly neighbor through a church program. 1 hour per week. Voluntary.

B. Donated time to hand out free lunches through school, 2 hours per month. Required by school.

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4. How did your involvement help the community?

5. Did you enjoy doing your community service project? Why or why not?

6. What are your future plans after graduating high school?

7. Please describe a barrier or difficulty you have had to overcome and how.

8. Why do you feel you deserve this scholarship?