



A Pathway to Opportunity through Education

Scholars First is a 501(c)(3) public charity that provides scholarships and student support to students from primary school through college. Whether you are an individual or represent a corporation, club or foundation, we can design a scholarship program that meets your specific goals.

We know that the joy of philanthropy is often dampened by the necessary administrative burden. That's why we've built a program that takes care of all of the administrative requirements behind scholarship funding – so you can enjoy watching your scholars grow and thrive.

Fulfilling Your Philanthropic Goals. Uniquely.

At the core of it, we help you connect with students who share your passions, values and vision for the future.

We provide an end-to-end solution that connects donors and scholarship recipients in a unique and fulfilling way that often far exceeds simple financial support. In particular, a *Scholars First* endowed scholarship gives donors the ability to really connect to, and remain engaged with, their scholarship recipients. Here are some of the ways we can help fulfill your philanthropic goals:

- **Save Time.** *Scholars First* does the initial leg-work for you. Once you determine the criteria for your scholarships, we conduct any outreach necessary to source potential scholarship candidates, review all candidates and then help identify those that best meet your objectives.
- **Complete Back-Office Administration.** *Scholars First* provides comprehensive strategic planning, back office administration and student services so donors can do what they enjoy – help young people transform their lives.

- **Unique Application Possibilities.** You can be as involved in the application process as you wish, while still leaving all the details to us. You can use our standard application, or a custom approach such as including unique questions or requesting specific application types (videos, in-person meetings, etc.). One of our most popular options is having potential recipients personally tell you their stories through YouTube videos.
- **Personal Connections.** Scholarships are personal gifts that change lives. One of the things we do differently is give you the opportunity to stay engaged and see first-hand how that gift impacts your scholars over time. In addition to being able to meet, interview and help select applicants, you can stay as involved throughout the term of the scholarship as you wish. By mentoring, coaching or just staying connected with your scholarship recipients, you have the opportunity to form fulfilling and lasting relationships.

Scholarship Programs. Designed by You.

Scholars First offers a variety of scholarship programs that are designed to meet the needs of different donors. Programs can be developed to provide financial assistance in primary and middle school, through high school, to college and graduate school – and even in trade and vocational schools. And, the best part is, the professional team at *Scholars First* handles all administrative requirements for each of these programs so you can focus on giving.

Endowed Scholarships!

Our most comprehensive and flexible scholarship funding opportunity. By endowing a scholarship in your name, you gain maximum control over the design, execution and future evolution of your scholarships. You may establish the criteria for the scholarship, participate on the selection committee, and determine the level and type of ongoing personal interaction you have with scholars.

Corporate and Social Club Scholarshipsⁱⁱ

Companies and clubs understand that the well-prepared workforce of tomorrow depends on accessible education today. Scholarships can be developed by for-profit businesses, clubs or associations for employees and/or their children. These scholarships can be needs- or merit-based as desired.

General Scholarship Fund

For those donors who wish to provide scholarship opportunities, but do not wish to endow a scholarship at this time, *Scholars First* has created a General Scholarship fund. The general fund allows you to become a part of a community of people who believe in the power of scholarships. While the development of programs and selection of recipients is handled by the *Scholars First* Scholarship Selection Committee, you will have the opportunity to learn about, follow and even potentially meet the recipients of these scholarships.

About Scholars First

Scholars First is a 501(c)3 public charity, established in 2013. The charity is hosted by First Foundation Incⁱⁱⁱ. *Scholars First* was created to address the growing philanthropic needs of for-profit companies, associations, independent foundations, high net worth individuals and their families and family foundations. For more information, visit www.scholarsfirst.org.

Comprehensive Administrative Services

Our professional staff has years of experience managing the intricate administrative details required to properly execute scholarship programs. Some of the duties we would handle for an endowed fund include:

- Design a Unique Scholarship Program
 - Design, implement, manage and administer a scholarship program that supports your vision – including timeline and calendar
 - Create scholarship program
 - Assist in creation of Scholar Recognition Events
- Host a Custom-Designed Website
 - Design a user-friendly online application process
 - Store and preserve program data and history
- Administer the Program
 - Build a custom application, evaluation and selection process
 - Assemble a program guideline manual
 - Facilitate review and document decisions
 - Draft communication templates
 - Answer phone, mail and email inquiries
 - Receive, verify and acknowledge receipt of applications
 - Obtain enrollment verifications
 - Provide renewal award processing, verification, collection of transcripts
 - Prepare detailed program reports
- Manage the Review and Selection Process
 - Coordinate and facilitate meetings with Scholarship Selection Committee
 - Create minutes, distribute and obtain approvals, as appropriate
- Decision Notification and Awards
 - Draft and send award letter and agreement or declinations
 - Collect signed agreements and payee information
 - Distribute scholarship stipends
- Student Relationship Management
 - Plan and execute Meet & Greet Events
 - Facilitate mentoring opportunities
 - Provide regular Student Updates

ⁱ Endowed Scholarships require a minimum permanent endowment of \$250,000. Such endowment may be funded over a maximum of five years. The annual cumulative scholarship distribution may not exceed 4% of the annual value of the endowed scholarship fund.

ⁱⁱ Company Scholarships require a minimum of \$10,000 annual distribution for five years.

First Foundation Inc. is the host of Scholars First, and, directly or through its subsidiaries, provides all administration, facilities, office equipment and supplies. First Foundation Inc. receives compensation in the form of administrative fees charged to the scholarship funds, investment advisory fees, and standard banking fees charged to its public charity customers and clients which may present a conflict of interest. The assets of Scholars First are managed by First Foundation Advisors, a subsidiary of First Foundation Inc. and a registered investment advisor, based on its standard fee for investment advisory services. First Foundation Bank is a subsidiary of First Foundation Inc. and provides Scholars First with complete banking and cash management services. The Scholars First Board of Directors is comprised of independent members and First Foundation employees.