

# MCPHEARSON FOUNDATION, INC.

3310 Harbor Ridge Way

Tuscaloosa, AL 35406

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February 20, 2025

RE: 2025 McPhearson Foundation Scholarship

Dear Director of Gifts or Student Services:

The McPhearson Foundation was formed in 1994 by the family of the late Richard E. "Dickie" McPhearson, Jr. to provide financial assistance to spinal cord injured people to improve their quality of life. Pursuant to this goal, the McPhearson Foundation plans to award a yearly academic scholarship to an eligible spinal cord injured person to assist him/her in pursuing their educational goals. Several scholarships have been awarded in the past several school years.

Please find enclosed an information package that gives you more information about this scholarship. Please inform all eligible students at your school of this scholarship and encourage them to apply. We anticipate the scholarships to be awarded for the 2025 fall semester to be in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

Thank you in advance for your assistance and support.

Sincerely Yours,

Virginia L. McPhearson

VLM/lt  
Enclosures

## **MCPHEARSON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

The McPhearson Foundation was formed in 1994, under the Alabama Non-Profit Corporation Act and was subsequently granted Section 501 (c) (3) status from the Internal Revenue Service. Among other things, The McPhearson Foundation was organized to provide funds for research, development cure and treatment of spinal cord injuries. It was also organized to provide assistance to handicapped and/or disabled people in locating, purchasing, renting, leasing and acquiring transportation, automobiles, wheelchairs, ramps, lifts and any other equipment used to assist in the transportation of spinal cord injured people. It is also allowed to do all things necessary and incident to promote the general social, benevolent and charitable works of the corporation.

Pursuant to the purpose of the McPhearson Foundation, the Board of Directors have elected to provide an annual scholarship to assist spinal cord injured people in continuing their education whether it be at a university, four (4) year college, Jr. College, or vocational school. The scholarship may be awarded to a graduating senior or a deserving student already enrolled in a post-secondary school. More specific information concerning eligibility and criteria for this scholarship are attached in the document entitled "Criteria for Receiving The McPhearson Foundation, Inc.'s Annual Scholarship."

Any interested student seeking this scholarship shall complete and return to The McPhearson Foundation, Inc. the application that is attached, hereto. The student will be required to submit two (2) individual scholarship recommendations that are also attached to this letter. The application requires you to develop a personal essay. It will help the scholarship committee gain a complete picture of the candidate. It will also be necessary for a spinal cord injured student to submit a brief letter from their primary treating physician providing a diagnosis of the student that sets out and describes the extent of the spinal cord injury of the applicant.

The application, along with supporting letters of recommendation, personal essay and the treating physician's diagnosis must be returned no later than April 1st of each year to the address listed below. The scholarship to be awarded will pay to the student's educational institution by crediting the institutions student account to offset expenses reflected on the recipient's university billing statement. The scholarship is for one (1) academic year and may be applied to tuition, books, fees, and room and board, if any. If you have questions concerning The McPhearson Foundation, Inc. Scholarship, feel free to contact me at my address or phone number listed below.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virginia L. McPhearson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Virginia L. McPhearson, President  
McPhearson Foundation, Inc.  
3310 Harbor Ridge Way  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35406

## MCPHEARSON FOUNDATION INC. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Student's Last Name                      First Name                      Middle name

Birth Date    Student ID Number, if applicable

Permanent Address                      City                      State                      Zip                      County

E-Mail Address                      Telephone Number                      Name of High School

Have you applied for admission to a College/ University, Jr. College, Vocational School?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If so, have you been accepted? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Are you currently enrolled in College/University, Jr. College, Vocational School? If so, where?

What is your classification? \_\_\_\_\_

College in which you plan to enroll or College in which you are currently enrolled:

\_\_\_\_ College or Liberal Arts                      \_\_\_\_ College of Business  
\_\_\_\_ College of Education                      \_\_\_\_ College of Nursing  
\_\_\_\_ College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics  
\_\_\_\_ Vocational School  
\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are a High School Senior this section MUST be completed by your Principal or Counselor PRIOR to sending in:**

Cumulative high school GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

ACT or SAT Score: Composite score \_\_\_\_\_ Test Date \_\_\_\_\_

Verification of Applicant's Information: I verify that the above information is accurate.

Date    Principal or Counselor signature

### Authorization to Release Scholarship Information

I give the McPhearson Foundation, Inc., permission to verify the above information for the sole purpose of scholarship consideration. If selected as a McPhearson Foundation, Inc., scholarship recipient, I grant permission to verify my high school academic record. In addition, I give the McPhearson Foundation Inc., permission to release scholarship information to the news media.

Applicant's Signature    Date

## **MCPHEARSON FOUNDATION INC. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

### **Personal Essay:**

The application requires you to develop a personal essay. The personal essay is one of the most important parts of your application. It will help the Foundation's Board of Directors gain a complete picture of you. This is your chance to let the Scholarship committee know why you feel you should receive the McPhearson Foundation Inc., Scholarship.

Be sure to include your name and student ID Number (if enrolled in a post-secondary school) and/or Social Security Number in the heading. **Your essay should be 1 page, 12 point Times New Roman font, one inch margins, and double -spaced.** Some items you may want to include in your essay are as follows:

- \* Your educational and career goals
- \* Why you have selected your stated major and career goal
- \* Any life experiences which have influenced this decision
- \* How the scholarship will help you or any unusual circumstances which may affect your current financial situation
- \* Any extra-curricular activities and accomplishments (e.g. honors, accolades, awards, community involvement, services and volunteer actions, student activities, school and club involvement, sports participation, hobbies, etc.)
- \* Anything else you feel the Scholarship Committee needs to know about you in order To present yourself as the best candidate for the scholarship

### **Recommendation letters:**

You are required to ask two individuals to complete the attached Scholarship Recommendation Letter Form. These letters need to be completed by individuals who can attest to your current academic strengths and potential for success.

Recommended sources include: Teachers, academic advisors, counselors, employers, clergy, or other known members of your community. A parent, relative, or other students are poor sources for scholarship recommendation letters and will not be considered as valid references.

The individual you ask to complete recommendation letters **should use the attached** Recommendation Letter Form. Your Recommendation letters are to be submitted at the same times as you submit your scholarship application packet. **Failure to comply will result in a rejected application.** Please allow your references plenty of time for the letters to be completed and returned to you in time to submit with your scholarship application.



**How would you rate the applicant's motivation and initiative in pursuing academic goals, as well as his/her potential for future success?**

**Do you have any basis on which to judge the applicant's independence ability? If so, please provide specific examples.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation from: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Ext: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.

## **MCPHEARSON FOUNDATION, INC. Scholarship Criteria**

The McPhearson Foundation, Inc. accepts complete scholarship packets up to the scheduled deadline of April 8th annually. This application is for the combined fall and spring semesters that follow the April 8th deadline. The scholarship shall be awarded under the policies and procedures of the McPhearson Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors. The following guidelines and conditions apply.

1. The applicant must be a Spinal Cord injured person pursuing their education, whether it is a four-year college/university, junior college or vocational school.

2. If the applicant plans to attend a university or four year college, and the applicant is a graduating senior from a high school, the applicant must have a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.75 or higher.

3. If the applicant is a graduating senior from a high school, the applicant must have a composite ACT Score of 19 or a SAT Score of 900-940 (w/ a writing score of 1350).

4. All Scholarships are awarded for the academic year, consisting of the fall and spring semesters.

5. Payments shall be made to the recipient(s) university/school by crediting the school's student account to offset expenses reflected on the recipient's school billing statement.

6. The scholarship is for one academic year only.

7. All applicants must meet the general requirements to be considered a student in good standing at their college and/or university, junior college or vocational school.

8. The number of scholarships awarded and the amount of each scholarship are at the discretion of the McPhearson Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors on a year-to-year basis and dependent upon the amount of earnings available to the Foundation.

9. Priority of consideration shall be given to entering freshman who will graduate from a high school located in Choctaw County, Alabama; Lamar Academy in Meridian, Mississippi; and Tuscaloosa Academy in Tuscaloosa, Alabama or, if the applicant is currently enrolled in a post secondary school, graduated from these same schools. Any spinal cord injured person, regardless of the location of their high school, is nevertheless eligible.

10. The applicant must complete and return the Application Form.

11. The applicant must complete and return a Personal Essay.

12. The applicant must have two (2) Individual Scholarship Recommendations completed, signed and returned.

13. The applicant's Primary Physician must provide a diagnosis describing the extent of the applicant's spinal cord injury.

### **Mail completed application packet to:**

Virginia L. McPhearson  
3310 Harbor Ridge way  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35406