

CMMS Deshae Lott Ministries Outreach Program

CMMS Deshae Lott Ministries Inc, a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 2007 by teacher and minister Deshae E. Lott, Ph.D., who has Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy (LGMD) requiring her to use a wheelchair and a ventilator, is awarding scholarships to people with physical disabilities pursuing education beyond bachelor's degrees. Few scholarships offer financial support for people with disabilities in their pursuit for certification and degrees beyond the bachelor's level. Since students with disabilities face extra expenses related to personal care that other students do not, the scholarships can help severely disabled scholars defray such costs.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The first three scholarship winners are Jeff Lester, who is pursuing his master's degree in business and finance and has ALS; Tess Hazenberg, who is pursuing her master's degree in social work and has SMA; and Park McArthur, who has a master's degree and is studying art at a famous NYC art institute and has LGMD. The three winners received scholarships between \$500 and \$1,000. CMMS Deshae Lott Ministries Inc hopes to increase the amount of future scholarships and/or to award more scholarships next year (and future years) by expanding its donor base.

QUALITY-OF-LIFE GRANTS

Lott's nonprofit also offers quality-of-life grants to help people with disabilities stay in or return to their homes, avoiding institutionalization. The amounts offered for grants often will be smaller — \$250 to \$300 — unless funds can go directly to medical providers or to a special needs trusts existing on behalf of the applicant; such limits are otherwise necessary to avoid jeopardizing benefits and services, especially health insurance, that people currently receive or are on wait-lists to receive. The first grant recipient, Philip Soen who has CMT, was announced in December 2010; he was awarded \$500.

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DEADLINES

The deadline for scholarship applications is July 1, and the winners are announced around Labor Day.

Applications for quality-of-life grants are accepted on an ongoing basis. Barring issues beyond the board's control, grant applicants are contacted within 6-8 weeks, and awards are announced each December.

FUNDING

So far, the scholarships and grants have been funded by donations Lott's nonprofit receives for her work conducting weekly study groups on spiritual topics and offering prayer and counseling support to participants. The organization's participants come from various faith backgrounds, and the Outreach Program awards are accordingly nondenominational and nonsectarian.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, including Outreach Program application forms, details about the 2010 recipients, and how to make tax-deductible contributions to the scholarship and grant outreach programs, visit www.deshae.org/cmms, visit <http://www.facebook.com/?page=1&sk=updates&tid=1593159119698#!/pages/CMMS-Deshae-Lott-Ministries-Inc-Outreach-Program-Scholarships-and-Grants/109628669068487>, or e-mail Deshae at deshaelott@hotmail.com.

Please share this information with anyone you know who might benefit from either aspect of the CMMS Deshae Lott Ministries Inc Outreach Program. And please consider making a donation to CMMS Deshae Lott Ministries Inc in order to help our Outreach Program expand and further the good, the help and hope, it can promote in the world!