

25th Anniversary

Charles H. Bassett Youth Foundation, Inc.
Bassett Ah-Wa-Ga Center
34 1/2 Lake Street Owego, New York 13827

The John Whitney Sears Family Memorial Scholarship

Honoring John Whitney Sears and his parents and grandparents while recognizing an outstanding Wichita East High School Graduating Senior Who Has Demonstrated Good Character, a High Concern For Others, an Ethic of Hard Work, a Record of Achievement and Community Service, the Ability and Determination to Overcome Obstacles and a Desire to Pursue Higher Education

Scholarship Background

The 2015 John Whitney Sears Family Memorial Scholarship is a \$ 500 educational award honoring a Wichita East High School graduating senior while recognizing the Wichita, Kansas history and contributions of the Sears Family beginning in 1895 and including the 70 years of pioneering efforts, struggles, contributions, achievements, accomplishments and community and business work in support of the development of Wichita, Kansas, and its citizenry. The Sears Family first came to Kansas in 1895 from Owego, New York. They were an early ranching family in Calista, Kansas. For close to 70 years, various members of the family across three generations called Wichita, Kansas their home and energetically participated in community life. The John G. Sears and his son, John G. Sears, Jr. were both attorneys and business people contributing to the prosperity and development of the region. Katherine Sears, John Sr.'s wife, and Elanor Harpur Sears, John Jr.'s wife, were both homemakers and lived in the family home in Wichita until 1962. John Whitney Sears, the only son of John G. and Elanor Sears, was raised in Wichita, attended local schools and graduated in 1939. He attended Kansas State University in 1940 and 1941 at which time he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He graduated from Victorville Pilot School in the summer of 1942 and was assigned to be the bombardier in a B17E Flying Fortress named the "Nightmare". After flying a number of successful missions in the Pacific Islands, the Nightmare was shot down in October 1942 with all lives lost. John Whitney Sears was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross posthumously and he is remembered as an extraordinary young person with great personality, potential and promise, who gave his life for his country.

Student Application (Due No Later Than April 1 to the School Counseling Office)

1. Student Name _____

2. Address _____

3. Contact Phone Number _____

4. Email Address _____

5. School _____ Grade _____

6. Grade Point Average _____ 7. Class Rank _____

A. Record of School Extracurricular Activities :

B. Record of Volunteer Community Service :

C. Employment Record :

D. Record of Awards, Recognition, and Honors :

E. Overcoming Obstacles :

F. Future Plans, Goals and Aspirations :

G. If selected for this Scholarship, are you willing to perform 2-3 hours of volunteer service as A Senior Give Back to your community ? Yes No

Signature of Applicant

(attach additional material if desired)

Date