

**Charles H. Bassett Youth Foundation, Inc.
Bassett Ah-Wa-Ga Center
34 ½ Lake Street
Owego, New York 13827**

Welcome to The Seetomona Family Scholarship Application!

The Charles H. Bassett Youth Foundation Inc. is sponsoring a new scholarship entitled: The Seetomona Family Scholarship. This scholarship was created for a graduating Alaska Native or American Indian student in the Anchorage School District in Anchorage, Alaska.

The Seetomona Family Scholarship is a one-time \$500 educational award which recognizes Alaska Native/ American Indian people, their culture and history.

Family History

The Seetomona Family members are from an Inupiaq tribe, originating from Shishmaref, Alaska, traditionally known as *Kigiqtaq*. Our *Amauq*, great-grandparents, Jimmy Seetomona and his wife Mary were born in the late 1800's. They had several children, Tommy, Loretta, Jane, Willa, and Rod.

They were hardworking, god-fearing people. They lived a traditional Inupiaq subsistence lifestyle and followed the Native values of the Inupiaq people, passing them on to their children and grandchildren. Most of their descendants continue to live in Shishmaref.

Tommy Seetomona married Glenna Avessuk in 1936. In addition to being a hunter, Tommy was a scout for Alaska Territorial Guard and Glenna was an expert fur and skin sewer, making clothing to keep her family warm. Tommy and Glenna moved their family to Anchorage, AK in 1965. Although they moved to the city, the Seetomona family still maintained their Inupiaq identity, continuing to hunt, fish and gathering from the land.

Several of their children and grandchildren attended high school in Anchorage, including Shawn and Sheila Seetomona. They graduated from *East Anchorage High School* in the 1980s. While at East High, they met Beau Bassett, a social studies teacher and son of Charles H. Bassett. Beau taught many Native students at East and became involved with the *Alaska Native Culture Club*. He encouraged many Native students to join *The Alaska Wilderness School* and would take them outdoors, camping and teaching them wilderness skills. Beau became life-long friends with many of his Native students, including the Seetomona family.

Today

The Seetomona descendants are very proud of their Inupiaq identity. Many are well known for their fine artwork. Several Seetomona grandchildren continue singing and dancing in Inupiaq with the Shishmaref Dance Group. Many have participated in traditional Native games. The Seetomona family encourages academic success, and many have gone to college and received various degrees.

Native Identity

The Seetomona Family Scholarship is unique because it focuses on both academic and cultural knowledge. Applicants need to demonstrate a dedication to higher learning and to preserving their cultural heritage. It is very important for Native youth to "know who they are," as a Native person. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who best exhibits both academic and cultural identity. It has been shown that Native people who are confident in their Native identity tend to be more holistic healthy.

Quyanaqpaq! (Big Thank You!).

This scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who has demonstrated good character, a high concern for others, an ethic of hard work, a positive Native identity and a desire to seek higher education.

Eligibility Requirements

- High school senior in the Anchorage School District.
- Graduate with high school diploma or a GED certificate (ages 17-20 years).
- Applying to a college or vocational program.
- Applying for additional financial aid from other sources.
- Practicing traditional Native culture (examples may include: language, traditional artwork, song and dance, games, subsistence, Native values).

Application Information

This is a **one-time scholarship of \$500.**

- Complete each of the sections of the Scholarship Application. Each will be short, and simple.
- Provide your high school or GED transcripts.
- Provide the acceptance letter from your college or vocational program.
- Application period will be **April 1-June 1** each year.
- Scholarship recipient will be announced on **July 1** each summer.
- Scholarships will be mailed to the financial aid office.

Application Process

For each of the steps below students must include a written statement no more than 250 words. Students can include photos (up to 2), and/or a short video (up to 1 minute).

Step 1: Demographics

Name:

Date of Birth:

Home Address:

Phone #:

Email:

High School name & address:

Cumulative GPA:

Step 2: Who Am I?

Tell us about yourself and your family history including: Native tribe, Native names, stories, dates, and places. Feel free to include facts that are important to you regarding your family history.

Step 3: Traditional Knowledge

Share with us Native Knowledge you have learned that may include: Native language, subsistence activities, song and dance, games, artwork, and more. (In addition, include 1 Alaska Native value that you have learned in your life and why it's important.)

Step 4: Accomplishments

Share any accomplishments and awards you received or you can share a personal goal that you achieved and are proud of.

Step 5: Plans and Goals

Share your plans and goals that may include: educational, career path, life goals and more.

Step 6: Financial Resources

Financial Aid Office: Educational institution you will be attending.

Name, address and phone number:

Other Financial Aid sources you have applied for?

Name of Scholarship/Loan:

Amount anticipated:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Scholarship Applications are due by June 1st: (submit by email preferred)

To: Sheila (Seetomona) Randazzo
Email: chb.seetomona.scholar@gmail.com
8650 Pioneer Drive, Anchorage Alaska 99504
Phone: 907-338-2812

(Please contact us if you have questions or need help with additional financial aid applications)