

# PETERSBURGH FIRE DEPARTMENT CINDY HARRISON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

## Basic Criteria:

Awarded to a current-or-former Berlin High School graduate who has overcome obstacles and/or struggled through adversity and who exemplifies the interests and values of former firefighter Cindy Harrison as evidenced by a caring nature, active involvement, and concern for others. (Refer to attached bio.)

## Additional Applicant and Eligibility Criteria and Considerations:

- While aptitude is important, eligibility will not necessarily be based on scholastic ranking.
- Persons who attend Berlin High School for a minimum of two (2) years and have earned a GED will also be eligible to apply.
- Previous successful recipients of this award may apply.
- In the event that two (2) or more candidates are serious contenders, current class graduates will be given priority over previous graduates or GED recipients.
- The selection committee reserves the right to request personal interviews with applicants.

## Application Requirements:

- A completed Petersburg Fire Department/Cindy Harrison Memorial Scholarship application must be submitted. DEADLINE (postmarked): June 1, 2021.
- Applicant must write and submit a brief essay summarizing how he/she meets the basic criteria.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation from non-relatives must be submitted.
- Applicant must be planning to attend college or vocational training and be fully matriculated prior to receiving the award/grant.

## Additional Information:

- The amount of this award may vary from year to year based on investment and/or other variables.
- The award may be divided between two (2) recipients.
- Applicants may apply for this scholarship every year, but awards may not necessarily be given each year.
- All determinations relative to above – as well as selection of the scholarship winner(s)-will be made by a designated committee.

*Petersburgh Fire Department/Cindy Harrison Memorial Scholarship*

Please submit this completed application form, required essay, and references to:

Cindy Harrison Memorial Scholarship Committee

C/O Bill Seel

19 Broken Wheel Road

Petersburg, NY 12138

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Names of parent/s:

Father \_\_\_\_\_

\

Mother \_\_\_\_\_

List Siblings: (names, Ages, and indicate if they are presently in college)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of high school diploma or GED \_\_\_\_\_

Future plans:

What is your proposed course of study? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you plan to pursue your education? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is this located? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received acceptance there? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan to finance your education? (Indicate sources not dollar amounts)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Cindy Harrison-An Inspiration to All

The Petersburg Fire Department/Cindy Harrison Memorial Scholarship has been established to honor the memory of Petersburg fire fighter, Cindy Harrison, who after a two-year fight with breast cancer died in 1999 at the age of 40.

Cindy was an active member of the Petersburg Fire Department for 11 years, serving as a captain for six of those years. She was the first female line officer in the department's history and was best known for being an aggressive fire fighter who would do as much as her male fire fighting counterparts. She also brought a softer, more caring side to fire fighting such as giving a toy to a child who had just lost his/her home, providing a ride home to Cohoes for a fire victim on Easter, or vacuuming the floor of a house that had had a chimney fire and apologizing for the mess that the "guys" had made!

Whether it was while answering fire alarms or at her job, Cindy dedicated her life to helping others. She worked as a home health aide for 16 years and was always known to take on the cases in which the patients would need extra care. Many of them were terminally ill Hospice patients. There were many holidays Cindy brought patients to her own home to spend the day and have dinner so they would not be alone. She treated the people in her care as if they were members of her family! Cindy continued her work until just a few weeks before her death, stating that her patients shouldn't suffer just because *she* was sick.

Fighting to survive and caring for others, was nothing new to Cindy; she did it most of her life. As a child, she grew up on a farm near the Petersburg Pass. When she was 15, her father was killed in a fire that destroyed the family home. Her mother was left to raise six children on her own. Cindy, being one of the oldest, helped raise her younger siblings. After such an emotional and personal encounter with a fire tragedy, one can only imagine what courage it took for her to become an aggressive interior fire fighter herself!

While continuing to help out at home, Cindy also managed to raise a daughter. For many years she was a single parent, during which time she finished school and worked to support her child with no assistance.

Cindy Harrison was indeed a woman who overcame adversity to accomplish much before her life was cut so short! Her strength and perseverance were an inspiration to all who knew her. She maintained the attitude that there was always someone worse off than she, and, until the end, it was her mission to locate and help such persons! Cindy's concern was for others until the day she died.