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**You Make a Difference Scholarship**

The You Make a Difference Scholarship would like to honor a BPRO member that encompasses the essence of a well-rounded Social Services’ Benefit Programs’ employee. This scholarship will be available for fall conference. This scholarship is to be given to a BPRO member who has not only been an outstanding worker in their agency; but has a heart for the community in which they live or work. Their actions and service reflect that of someone who has had an impact and continues to make a difference. This scholarship application must be completed by someone other than the person being nominated for the award.

This scholarship was originally created in memory of Betty Richardson. Betty served as an eligibility supervisor in the state of Virginia for 34 years. She was one of seven victims of the catastrophic flooding which occurred in and around Richmond as a result of Hurricane Gaston in September 2004. Betty’s co-workers described her as a nurturing, compassionate, understanding, and dedicated person in all areas of her life.

Provisions

This scholarship will provide the full cost of conference registration for the yearly Fall Conference. Additionally, the scholarship will provide the cost of lodging for the duration of the conference. This shall include the initial night of the conference and any additional nights until the closing session of the conference. Lodging will not be provided the night prior to the opening session, or the night of the closing session. These costs will be incurred by the recipient of the scholarship. This scholarship may only be received once per individual per lifetime.

Funding

This scholarship shall be funded from the administrative costs received from scholarship recipients, board members, and committee chairs at the spring conference.

Criteria

1. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding customer service to internal and external customers which shows understanding and compassion for the individual.

2. Applicants must demonstrate the spirit of social services and how it carries over into the applicant’s personal life not just as a job.

3. Applicant must describe a situation which demonstrates how they have had to persevere in the face of adversity.

4. Applicants must show at least one initiative in which they participated, that improved program delivery in their locality.

5. Applicant must have at least 2 years’ experience in Benefit Programs.

6. Must have an active BPRO membership for the membership year which began July 1 of the year of the fall conference for which the scholarship is being requested.

Application procedure:

After payment of the membership dues beginning 7/1 of each year, paid members will receive a confirmation of payment email and information about the You Make a Difference Award. Applications can be found in the BPRO Policy and Procedures manual and on our website. All applications for the scholarship must be submitted by 5 p.m. on 8/31 of the scholarship award year. All scholarship applications will be sent to the BPRO Ambassador Chair. They will then be reviewed for initial selection by the BPRO Ambassador Chair and BPRO 3rd Vice President. The top three candidates for the scholarship will be forwarded to the BPRO executive board by the regularly scheduled 3rd quarter executive board meeting for final award recipient selection.

The winner shall be notified by the BPRO President by the 15th of September, they have been awarded the scholarship. The scholarship recipient will be given the name of the conference planner for further instruction concerning registration and hotel bill.

The scholarship is not subject to the administrative fee which is charged to the spring conference scholarship recipients. If the scholarship is not able to be given the same year as awarded, the funds designated for the scholarship shall return to the BPRO administrative fee line item until the scholarship may be utilized.

The scholarship recipient will be notified, and the winner will be recognized at the fall business meeting of the full membership. They shall also have recognition on our social media platforms including our BPRO website.

Disclaimer

Members of the Executive Board and scholarship committee are not eligible for the scholarship.

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**You Make a Difference Scholarship Application**

**Name of Nominated recipient:**

**Agency and PD of Nominated recipient:**

**Nominated by:**

Please Note:

* The application for this scholarship must be completed by someone other than the nominated recipient.
* Application must be received by our BPRO Ambassador Chair by 5 PM on August 31st.
  + Current BPRO Ambassador Chair information can be found in the BPRO Directory at mybpro.org.

The following questions must be answered before submitting the application for review by the scholarship committee:

1. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding customer service to internal and external customers which shows understanding and compassion for the individual.

2. Applicants must demonstrate the spirit of social services and how it carries over into the applicant’s personal life not just as a job.

3. Applicant must describe a situation which demonstrates how they have had to persevere in the face of adversity.

4. Applicants must show at least one initiative in which they participated, that improved program delivery in their locality.

5. Applicant must have at least 2 years’ experience in Benefit Programs.

Years worked in Benefit Programs:

Years of Service:

Area of Benefit Programs Experience:  Auxiliary Grant  Energy Assis.  Foster Care & Adoption Assis.  Fraud  General Relief  Medicaid  SNAP  TANF  VIEW  Child Care

6. Must have an active BPRO membership for the membership year which began July 1 of the year of the fall conference for which the scholarship is being requested.

Current BPRO Membership: YES  NO

*Scholarship Committee Only:*

*Membership Verified by BPRO Executive Board*:

*Scoring:*

*Additional Comments:*