

January 2009

Dear Earlham Applicant,

I am excited to learn that you have applied to Earlham College and want to inform you about the scholarships available through Earlham's Bonner Scholars Program. Earlham has a rich history of engaging students in service and social issues. The Bonner Scholars Program is a vehicle by which students continue that legacy and dedicate themselves not only to service but also to making connections between their community experiences and their academic pursuits. On behalf of the Bonner Scholars Program, I would like to invite you to consider applying for this exceptional service learning scholarship.

Bonner Scholars will receive a total of \$2500 during each academic year contingent upon successful completion of school-year community service requirements as described below. Bonner Scholars also participate in two summer service placements at nonprofit organizations of their choice anywhere in the U.S. or abroad. During each summer, Scholars receive up to \$1000 for summer living expenses and an earnings stipend of \$1500 upon completion of 280 hours of summer service. Upon four years of successful completion of the Bonner Program, the Bonner Foundation awards \$2000 toward student loan reduction or graduate school tuition.

The Bonner Scholarship provides financial support for those admitted students who demonstrate financial need and a commitment to service. Eligible candidates must have an estimated family contribution (EFC) on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) of \$9,500 or less in order to be considered. This year's Bonner Scholars had an average estimated family contribution of \$2789.

Earlham College is one of more than two dozen colleges and universities nation-wide honored to host a Bonner Scholars Program. Each year, 15 first-year students are selected to participate in the four-year scholarship program.

Bonner Scholars commit to complete an average of 10 hours of service a week (140 hours per semester) during the academic year. These hours are made up mainly of time spent serving at a community agency chosen by the Scholar from among dozens of possible service sites. Bonner Scholars are also required to devote some of their hours to activities such as in-service workshops, training sessions, and retreats that address pertinent issues and teach valuable, transferable skills. First year Bonner Scholars participate in a special orientation just prior to Earlham's new student orientation and a weekly seminar during the fall semester. They subsequently participate in regularly scheduled Bonner meetings and activities which are designed to equip students to assume increasing levels of responsibility and leadership within their service. Participation in the Bonner Scholars program is much more than simply completing the required number of service hours. Bonner Scholars commit to become part of a community and to strive to develop expertise during their four years of participation in the program.

As you consider whether or not you wish to apply to the Bonner Scholars Program, keep in mind that there are several other avenues open to Earlham students with a passion for service. Students who receive a work study award as part of their financial aid package can choose to work at one of a number of community agencies without the additional training and development requirements of the Bonner program. In addition, the Earlham Volunteer Exchange is a student-run program which will assist any Earlham student to find service opportunities that match his or her interests and availability.

I have enclosed a program brochure, an application for the scholarship, and a recommendation form. The application deadline is March 15. In order to expedite the process, you may e-mail your application materials to the Bonner office at bonner@earlham.edu. **See the application and recommendation forms for information on how to submit materials via regular mail or fax.**

We will notify students who have been selected for the scholarship in early April. Recipients will receive a financial aid package reflecting the Bonner Scholarship shortly thereafter.

If you have any questions or concerns, call Jana Schroeder at (765) 983-1276 or toll free at **800-EARLHAM** and visit Earlham's Bonner Scholar Web site at www.earlham.edu/bonner for more information on local service opportunities, student profiles, and activities, as well as downloadable copies of the application and recommendation form. I hope you will consider joining us as we work together, **"Changing the World through Service."**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jana Schroeder".

Jana Schroeder
Bonner Scholars Program Coordinator