



**SOUTHSIDE HEALTH  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

## **Special Gifts Scholarship**

Formed in 2006, the Southside Health Education Foundation (SHEF) is a 501(c)3 charitable organization serving Petersburg and the surrounding region. SHEF's mission is to advance educational opportunities for students pursuing a career in the healthcare industry through the receipt and distribution of educational scholarships and funds to be used for tuition and other related educational expenses. By supporting the region in this way, SHEF plays a critical role in improving the lives of residents through access to education; improving the overall health and quality of life for the region by expanding the number of health care employees; and improving the economic vitality and future of the region by developing a skilled workforce.

SHEF utilizes its Special Gifts Scholarships Endowment to fund annual scholarships for residents of SHEF's service area (1) who will soon graduate or have recently graduated from an accredited secondary school curriculum and (2) who intend to pursue a degree in a health profession. Students will have one year from the date of the granting of the annual scholarship to matriculate into a post-secondary program.

*Approved by the Board of Directors, January 21, 2015.*

### Implementation:

- SHEF Scholarship Committee and/or Board will meet to determine the number of scholarships to distribute annually based on the fund's performance.
- SHEF will promote the availability of the scholarship to the 11 public high schools and 3 institutions of higher education physically located in its region. SHEF will also promote the scholarship to participants in its Health Careers Exploring Program. Candidates who demonstrate high attendance in Explorers will be given priority consideration.
- Interested students must complete and submit the SHEF scholarship application, available at [www.shefva.org](http://www.shefva.org), by April 15.
- SHEF Scholarship Committee will review the applications and recommend candidates to the SHEF Board of Directors.
- Award recipients will be notified by May 15.
- Prior to the release of funds, students must participate in a one-hour counselling session with SHEF.