



Lillie's Gift
A Living Legacy • EST 2024

Lillie's Gift Scholarship Program, HWS Best Health

PROGRAM DEADLINE: Application process will close on November 14, 2025, at 11:59 PM EDT (Midnight)

Description:

To complete and submit the online application visit www.hwsbesthealth.com, click on the Lillie's Gift Scholarship Program icon to submit the online application.

About HWS Best Health Counseling

At HWS (Health and Wellness Services) Best Health Counseling & Psychiatry, we are committed to providing exceptional mental health care to individuals and families. Our goal is to empower our clients through compassionate and evidence-based services, promoting wellness of the mind, body, and spirit.

Our Founders

Lauri Pierce, Chief Executive Office and Founder of HWS Best Health, holds a Master of Social Service Administration (MSSA) from Case Western Reserve University and is a Licensed Independent Social Worker with Supervisory Designation (LISW-S). Co-Founder, Jeffrey Bonchek, brings a wealth of business and operations knowledge that has aided in the success and growth of HWS. Lauri and Jeffrey's passion for mental health care and Lauri's extensive clinical experience drive our commitment to excellence.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to reduce barriers to mental health services by offering comprehensive and innovative care. We strive to instill hope and facilitate goal achievement through personalized treatment plans.

Vision Statement

We envision a world where every individual receives high-quality, cost-effective mental health care. We value honesty, integrity, and fairness in all aspects of our practice.

Who Is Lillie?

Lillie is our beautiful sister who, although she left us far too soon, continues to inspire us every day. She passed away 10 years ago at the age of 44, but her spirit lives on in the memories we share. Lillie was smart, beautiful, and loving, always willing to go above and beyond to help those around her. With a heart of gold, she had an innate ability to connect with others and bring light into their lives.

Throughout her life, Lillie faced significant challenges, battling mental health issues and addiction. Despite these struggles, she maintained a deep desire to support and uplift others. Lillie's compassion and willingness to help, even during her own difficult times, were her greatest gifts.

Sadly, Lillie passed away due to cirrhosis of the liver and other complications, a reflection of the struggles she faced. However, her legacy is one of resilience, kindness, and selflessness.



Why Lillie's Gift?

This scholarship program is dedicated to honoring Lillie's memory by supporting individuals who wish to pursue their education and make a positive impact in the lives of others. We aim to create opportunities for those who demonstrate the same spirit of giving that Lillie exemplified, ensuring that her light continues to shine through the support we offer.

Application Benefit

HWS Best Health is providing one scholarship opportunity to company employees and contractors who are pursuing an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, graduate level degree, or who are pursuing additional industry-related coursework/training/certification(s) in a related counseling or mental health field.

Renewable Scholarship. This scholarship may be renewed for up to a total of eight (8) semesters, or until recipient completes their degree/advanced certification or training, whichever comes first. Recipients must maintain minimum requirements (see list below) to receive the renewable benefit.

The annual award total is \$10,000 per year, for a total maximum benefit of \$40,000. Recipient will provide the invoice(s) to HWS Best Health who will provide direct payment to the applicable university/vendor etc.

Minimum Requirements:

- (1) As of January 1, 2026, must have graduated from high school or GED equivalent.
- (2) As of January 1, 2026, be associated with HWS as either an employee or independent contractor for a minimum of six (6) months.
- (3) Recipient must pursue a degree, including associate's degree, bachelor's degree or graduate level studies in an accredited two- or four-year program. Alternatively, recipient may pursue industry-related coursework, training or advanced certification(s) in a related field. The related field must be directly connected with the services provided by HWS to its demographic population included, but not limited to, mental health services, substance abuse and recovery services.
- (4) Recipient must earn a minimum 2.75 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) while receiving the scholarship. Should the 2.75 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) not be attained, HWS Best Health has the right to revoke the scholarship at any time.
- (5) Recipient must be actively working with HWS Best Health Counseling to receive the scholarship (at inception and as a renewable benefit).

Application Questions:

Submit with three (3) 300 – 500 word each essays:

- (1) Essay One: In 300 to 500 words, if awarded this scholarship, describe how you will use the award (degree, training etc). In what ways will you personally and professionally develop as a result of this benefit? In what ways will others be served through this benefit (in your company, community, network etc.)
- (2) Essay Two: In 300 to 500 words, share a story of an obstacle you overcame (or didn't). What did you learn from this experience? How has it molded you to become the person you are today?
- (3) Essay Three: In 300 to 500 words, provide examples that demonstrate your commitment to the mental health field, and to HWS Best Health Counseling. Describe how you will advance HWS Best Health's mission by receiving this award in the loving memory of Lillie.

Application Process and Timeline:

The application process opens on November 1, 2025, at 12:00 am EDT (midnight) and will close on November 14, 2025, at 11:59 pm EDT (midnight).

Applications will be anonymized to remove applicant's name and contact information and sent to an independent team of non HWS Best Health Counseling employees for review and selection.

All applicants will be notified of the status of their application on the week of December 5, 2025.

All award decisions are final.

If you have any questions on the application process, essay questions or timelines contact luciworlman@lilliesgift.com.

DISCLAIMER

The Lillie's Gift Scholarship for Continuing Education ("Scholarship") is intended to support the professional and personal development of eligible applicants. By applying for this Scholarship, applicants agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. **Eligibility:** Scholarship eligibility criteria are determined by HWS and are subject to change at the company's discretion. Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee selection.
2. **Ineligibility for Certain Individuals:** Immediate family members (spouse, children, parents, and siblings) of current members of the executive leadership team (C-suite) are not eligible to apply for the Scholarship. Additionally, current members of the C-suite are not eligible to apply.
3. **Award Decision:** The Scholarship selection process is based on a thorough review of applications and supporting materials. All decisions made by the scholarship committee are final and cannot be appealed.
4. **No Discrimination:** HWS and Lillie's Gift are committed to providing equal opportunity and do not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law in the awarding and/or administration of this Scholarship program.
5. **Use of Funds:** Scholarship funds must be used solely for the approved educational expenses, including tuition, books, or other fees directly associated with and/or related to the applicant's continuing education. Misuse of funds may result in forfeiture of the award and requirement of repayment of disbursed funds. The scholarship committee has oversight as to whether or not disbursed funds have been misused.
6. **Tax Implications:** Scholarship recipient is responsible for understanding and complying with any tax obligations related to receiving the Scholarship. HWS and Lillie's Gift do not provide tax advice and are not responsible for tax reporting or liabilities incurred by recipient.
7. **Publicity Release:** By accepting the Scholarship, recipient agrees that HWS and Lillie's Gift may use their name, likeness, and general information about their educational goals for promotional purposes, unless expressly prohibited by law.
8. **Program Changes:** HWS and Lillie's Gift reserve the right to modify, suspend, or terminate the scholarship program at any time, without prior notice.
9. **No Employment Guarantee:** Receiving the Scholarship does not imply or guarantee continued employment or independent contractor status with HWS or Lillie's Gift.

For questions or concerns regarding the Scholarship, please contact luciworkman@lilliesgift.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: By submitting an application, applicants acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to the terms and conditions outlined in this disclaimer.