

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION PROGRAM

George & Mollie (Jones) Hicks Scholarship

Scholarship Description

"Let the wise hear and increase in knowledge, and the one who understands obtain guidance." – Proverbs 1:5

"When I think about people who have faced challenges and have overcome them, I think of my parents (George and Mollie Hicks). I am providing this scholarship on a yearly basis, for at least the next four years, as a remembrance and a way of honoring these two very special parents. Were it not for their love, support and encouragement, I would not be able, financially, to honor them in this manner.

When I think about my father, I think of how he set aside the completion of his education, only completing the sixth grade, to help his father farm their family's land in order to provide a livelihood for them. I think of how he chose to serve his country by joining the United States Army at the tender age of 17-years-old. I think of how he utilized the benefits awarded him from his military service to garner employment in order to provide for his bride, my mother, and their future family. He also utilized the benefits to purchase their first home.

I think of how he provided for his children, a good role model as a caring and loving father. I think of how he taught us about the Muscogee (Creek) way of life, how he taught us to be involved in sports, church and to love the Lord.

When I think about my mother, I think of a strong Christian woman. I think about her story of having been brought up in wealth in her early years and then losing that wealth. I think about her simple story of experiencing boarding school, although short-lived, and the major negative impact it had on her life and how that impact would reverberate among her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

I think about the seven children she bore out of love for my father. I think about how she respected her own mother's Creek ways and teachings so much so that she traveled hundreds of miles to be with her mother and having her first three children birthed by her mother's chosen mid-wife.

I think about all the cooking, the daily house cleaning, the weekly clothes washing/drying, and ironing that she performed for her husband and children. I also think about all the sleepless nights she had because she would be up caring for her babies and her other children. I think about all the concern she showed when her children were ill and the care she provided at those times. I think about all the obstacles she faced in life due to her own ill health.

I think about the beautiful life she developed with my father. I think about all the fun family times we had with her and my father. I think of the many times I listened to her conversing with my

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father, her mother-in-law, my aunts, and many other Muscogee (Creek) people in the Creek language. I think of how she loved singing the old Creek hymns and teaching my father the hymns.

I think about how she encouraged her children in both their athletic and academic pursuits. I think about her as a beautiful woman with words of encouragement from the Bible.

When I think of both my parents, I think about how their decisions in raising their children were made together and carried out as one. I think about their strong leadership in the churches they helped establish. I think about my father's strong leadership as an ordained deacon and my mother's quiet but strong leadership as a deacon's wife. I think of the four very important elements of life they taught to me and my siblings: (1) Respect for all mankind (and our animal friends as well); (2) Trust in your family, fellowman, and God; (3) Inclusiveness, meaning we should never think or act as though we are better than anyone else and we should include all people as our friends; and (4) Reciprocity, meaning, we should be good to all and return a favor as best you can. They, of course, taught us to follow many other teachings from the Bible and their own life experiences. I will be forever grateful for their teachings."

Amount of Scholarship Award **\$500.00**

Purpose and Application of Funds

The purpose of this scholarship is to financially assist Muscogee (Creek) students who might not otherwise have the financial means to further their education and to encourage Muscogee (Creek) citizens to further their education at an institution of higher education. This scholarship will be awarded to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen from the general pool of candidates. This scholarship award can be utilized to pay for the *required* cost of tuition, fees, books, tools, supplies, testing or examination fees, transportation, or other incidental required cost related to the cost of the post-secondary education institution.

Eligibility Guidelines

1. Must be an enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
2. Must be currently attending an institution of higher education or enrolled as a first-time entering student.
3. Must demonstrate financial need.
4. Must agree to authorize the Scholarship Foundation Program to publicize the scholarship award if selected.

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