



## **Powers Catholic High School Sonya Carson Scholarship**

The Sonya Carson Scholarship was established in 2014 by the Rachor Family Foundation, Ltd. in recognition of Sonya Carson. Sonya is a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and was one of 24 children. She was married at age 13 and moved to Detroit, only to discover that her husband had another family. This resulted in a divorce after having two young sons. She worked two and sometimes three jobs at a time to support her family.

Sonya dedicated her life to giving her sons opportunity. Because her sons struggled academically, Sonya required that they watch no more than two or three television programs a week. Sonya expected them to read books from the public library and submit written book reports to her. They didn't know that she could not read. Both of her sons went on to become very successful. Her oldest son, Curtis, is a senior engineer with Honeywell, and her young son, Benjamin, is Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins medical institutions in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1989, he was named one of 89 Living Legends on the occasion of the 200th birthday celebration of the Library of Congress.

Once her sons were in college, Sonya taught herself to read, earned her GED, went on to college, and in 1994 received an honorary doctorate degree from Spalding University in Kentucky, becoming Dr. Sonya Carson. Sonya is very active in interior design and furniture remodeling and also enjoys gardening. She travels frequently and enjoys her five grandchildren. Thanks to Sonya's influence, all of her grandchildren are in college or graduate school at prestigious institutions across the county.

The Sonya Carson Scholarship has been established to honor Sonya's influence and support students attending Powers Catholic.

### **SONYA CARSON ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Financial need or one of multiple students in household attending Powers Catholic

Applicants may be Catholic or of a non-Catholic faith

Student must demonstrate high levels of integrity and honesty while participating in extracurricular activities

Recipient has met all financial obligations to their Powers Catholic High School, if applicable.

## **SONYA CARSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

If selected as a recipient, the student will receive an award of \$1,000 for the upcoming academic school year at Powers Catholic High School.

The award is to be used during the traditional academic year (fall through spring) for tuition. The award is paid by reducing the total amount of tuition by the award at receipt of the scholarship. The scholarship amount is pro-rated over a 12 month period.

## **SONYA CARSON APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Applicants are asked to submit the following documents for eligibility:**

1. A completed Student Data Sheet
2. One letter of recommendation from a principal, pastor, teacher, scout leader, coach or other community leader. The letter of recommendation should confirm the student and family's service to the respective parish, school or community. Students should allow at least two weeks for the letter of recommendation.
3. Completed essay explaining why Sonya Carson stands out to you and why a Powers Catholic education is important.

\*Please do not staple application materials.

**Completed applications should be sent to the following address by May 1st:**

**Powers Catholic High School  
Advancement Office  
c/o Sonya Carson Scholarship  
1505 W. Court St.  
Flint, MI 48503**

## **SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS**

Selection of the scholarship recipient is based upon academic record, demonstrated leadership and participation in school, parish and community activities, statement of goals and aspirations, family circumstances, and the appraisal by a teacher, counselor, principal, priest, scout leader, or other community leader contained in the letter of recommendation.

Scholarship recipients are made solely by the Sonya Carson scholarship committee at Powers Catholic High School. All applicants agree to accept the decision of Powers Catholic High School as final. Not all applicants to the program will be selected as recipients.

Selection(s) will be made without regard to race or gender.

## **OBLIGATION OF RECIPIENTS**

Except as previously outlined, no obligations are to be imposed upon the student(s) as a scholarship recipient. Students are to notify the Sonya Carson scholarship committee of any changes in address, school enrollment or other relevant information. The scholarship committee reserves the right to review GPA and/or service projects to determine if the award will be renewed.

A thank you letter to the Rachor family is requested within two weeks of your notification as the recipient.

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