

Sharon E. Parker Overseas Service Scholarship

Sharon Parker is a leader and educator who has inspired generations with her ceaseless commitment to Christian service and her sense of adventure. In her honor, the Sharon E. Parker Annual Overseas Service Scholarship was formed in 2017 to provide financial support to members of Overbrook Presbyterian Church to perform meaningful Christian service in communities abroad. Just as Sharon Parker herself served in Papua New Guinea in 2015 or as an earlier generation of Overbrook members served in Chang Rai, Thailand more than a century ago, we hope that today's Overbrook members will be moved by their Christian faith to serve those in need abroad. The Scholarship was approved by the Session of Overbrook Presbyterian Church on June 13, 2017.



The Scholarship will provide a single annual scholarship of \$2,500 to \$5,000 to an individual to provide seed money for a minimum one-month long Christian public service project in a needy part of the world. From disaster relief in Latin America, to serving refugees in Turkey, to teaching English in Africa, to sharing Christ's message in Polynesia, the Scholarship will support any worthy project. Any member or worshiper at OPC who shares Sharon's commitment to service and sense of adventure may apply. The applications will be evaluated based upon the clarity of the proposal (i.e., project objective, budget, feasibility), demonstrated support from a well-regarded institutional sponsor (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, Partners in Health, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hope International) and the potential for lasting relationships and measurable impact. Though service projects can be for as little as one month, the committee will give weight to projects of longer duration. Applications should be submitted to the committee as a single pdf file to Jason@arcadialand.com.

Our desire is for this scholarship to elevate Christian service abroad within the OPC community. We will require the scholars to return to Overbrook and make a presentation about their experiences with the aim of inspiring others to serve. Angela and Jason Duckworth have committed to provide a minimum of ten years of funding, so that the program has an initial foundation of support.

The Scholarship's funds will be held and controlled by Overbrook Presbyterian Church. Session will appoint a four-person committee (initially including Jason Duckworth, Jane Rozmiarek, Jason Sheau and one of our pastors) to oversee the establishment of the Scholarship and determine the initial scholar. Disbursements from the fund will be made to pay for particular project expenses (e.g., travel expenses, lodging, equipment, visa).

The annual application deadline is November 1. The committee will aim to make a decision by December 1. Scholars are expected to complete their project within one year of the award.

Last revised September 2, 2017