THE WARREN "BILLY" CHERRY SCHOLARSHIP FACT SHEET--2024

The mission of the Warren "Billy" Cherry Scholarship, named in memory of a much loved and respected Evanston educator, is to perpetuate his total acceptance of all people, his commitment to the highest standards of educational excellence, and his energetic dedication to enriching the children and institutions of Evanston. The scholarship was established soon after Warren Cherry's untimely death in 1990. Warren was a charismatic educator and community leader. He lived the Golden Rule and worked relentlessly to create equity and balance in services and access. He was widely known and respected; his impact was extraordinary. It is less widely known that "Billy" (as he was known by his ETHS classmates, friends, and family), though popular and active in high school, was not a serious student. Few recognized then his tremendous potential to lead and to help others realize *their* potential.

"Billy" Cherry went to barber school after graduation and had a brief career as a barber before enrolling at Trinidad Junior College in Trinidad, Colorado. His education culminated with completion of coursework toward a Ph.D. at Northwestern University. Warren's service to the Evanston/Skokie community included teaching at Timber Ridge School and serving as Associate Principal of Skiles Middle School (now Martin Luther King Lab School) and Principal of Central and Lincoln Schools. He served on the boards of the ETHS Boosters Club, the Girl Scouts, the Justin Wynn Memorial Fund, the Mental Health Association, the United Way, and the McGaw YMCA and was a tutor for the Salvation Army.

Founded in 1992, the Warren "Billy" Cherry Scholarship Fund has provided over $1.2 million in financial assistance to graduates of Evanston Township High School pursuing associates, bachelors and graduate degrees in education or in a field that involves working with youth. We strive to identify and award individuals whose circumstances would otherwise make it difficult to realize their dream to serve others. If you know someone who qualifies, please urge him or her to apply. For further information, please e-mail Bill Speth (bill.cherryscholarship@gmail.com) or call Robert Reece, President, (847-612-7767).

Qualifications

- Graduating senior or graduate of Evanston Township High School; ETHS student with G.E.D.
- Pursuing associates, bachelors or graduate degree in education or in a field that involves working with youth
- Enrolled as a full-time (at least 12 credit hrs. per term) or part-time (at least 6 credit hrs. per term) student

Selection criteria

- Success in overcoming poor academic achievement, lack of focus, or other personal challenges
- Interest in working with young people
- Community involvement
- Leadership, sensitivity, compassion, commitment, and love of children
- Demonstrated need for financial assistance

Candidates must submit all application materials by March 8, 2024:

- Cherry Scholarship Application Form
- A **complete** set of official transcripts from ETHS and other institutions, if applicable, even if you are re-applying.
- Recommendations from **two** adults with whom they have had a professional relationship in the past five years (teacher, counselor, coach, sponsor of an extra-curricular activity, job supervisor, clergy). Those who write these recommendations should not be related to the candidate.

Important Dates

- Application materials available: December 1, 2023 Application deadline: **March 8, 2024**
- Interviews of finalists: April 14, 2024 -- AN IN-PERSON INTERVIEW IS REQUIRED FOR ALL FINALISTS
- Awards Presentation: April 28, 2024

Awards

- $6,000 tuition grant for full-time students; $3,000 tuition grant for part-time students
- Other finalists receive a $2,000 (full-time) or $1,000 (part-time) grant for textbooks and other education expenses
- Winners are encouraged to apply more than once; subject to a lifetime maximum award of $24,000