

Irving T. and Katherine Borris-Hansen Scholarship Fund

General Information

The Irving T. and Katherine Borris Hansen Scholarship is awarded annually, late each fall, to a number of student applicants. You are encouraged to read the application and apply for one of the scholarships. If you are an Orthodox Christian and fall under one of the following areas, you are eligible to apply for a scholarship.

- High school graduate going into a college or university
- Current college or university student
- High school student going into a vocational or technical school
- Vocational or technical school student
- Adult education
- Other graduate school or professional school student (e.g. law or medicine)

Your application will be considered with respect to others in the same category and points will be awarded based on merit. Major criteria that will be used to evaluate each application include:

- Orthodox Church Membership
- Stewardship
- Desire to learn
- Secular accomplishments
- Academic achievement

Scholarships awarded in 2023 are intended to apply toward tuition, books, and student fees for the 2023-2024 school year. Our most recent scholarships awards ranged from \$500.00 to \$1,500.00. All applications must be in final and completed form, **sent by mail**, and **postmarked by Monday June 5, 2023**.

****The Church office staff will NOT accept completed applications in person.****

Applications will be accepted only through the mail and should be addressed to:

Hansen Scholarship
c/o St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral
1701 5th Street NE
Minneapolis MN 55413

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the scholarship committee:
Walter Grivna - Chair, Julie Moricz - Secretary, Jo Anne Korluka, Nina Stenach,
Karen Schwebach, or Father Andrew Morbey.

2023 Irving T. and Katherine Borris-Hansen Scholarship

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History of our Generous Donors

In 1995 an announcement was made to the St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral community that a very substantial testamentary bequest had been given to the Cathedral in the Last Will and Testament of Irving T. Hansen, surviving husband of Katherine Borris-Hansen. The purpose of the bequest was to establish "The Irving T. and Katherine Borris-Hansen Scholarship Fund".

Irving and Katherine were married in Mandan, North Dakota. No children were born to this marriage. Katherine's parents were members of St. Mary's. Katherine was baptized into the faith as an infant. Irving was a non-Orthodox at the time of his marriage to Katherine. Shortly after their marriage, Irving was chrismated and received into the Church as an Orthodox Christian. Irving often referred to St. Mary's as Katherine's "Russian Church." Through his acceptance of the Orthodox faith and his great generosity to the church, he has made known to all that St. Mary's was also "his" church.

Irving and Katherine loved St. Mary's and were faithful and devout members. They were a quiet couple not inclined to join church organizations or to take an active part in church functions. Although not visibly active, they regularly attended church services, enjoyed the choir and its occasional concerts, shopped the Christmas Fair, and enjoyed other activities at the church. They looked forward to and enjoyed the fellowship they could share with relatives and friends at Sunday coffee hours.

Katherine was a high school graduate. She continued with her education by attending business school where she studied bookkeeping and accounting procedures. She worked full-time as a bookkeeper/accountant for various local businesses until she retired.

Irving was born in Rice Lake, Wisconsin to Danish parents. He had seven brothers and sisters. His parents had a small farm in that community where they raised food for the family and farmed some cash crops for market. They also maintained a small dairy herd. Economic times were difficult as Irving was growing up. The family farm was not capable of providing enough food or income to support this large family. At age 15, Irving left school and the farm to begin work as a lumberjack in northern Wisconsin. By this time in his life, he had grown to be a physically strong and powerful young man. He enjoyed the hard work logging trees. He commented, "the work was hard, the hours were long, the pay was poor, but the eats were great."

From his experiences on the farm and in the forest, he earned what some might consider to be the equivalent of a doctorate degree in nature and wildlife. Irving loved God's creation and willingly shared his love and knowledge with any one who showed interest in these areas. If complimented about his vast knowledge, his humble or sometime gruff response was, "I ain't educated with schooling, but I did learn some 'ting' about life and nature." Irving's love of nature and wildlife was reflected in the generous bequest he made to the National Wildlife Foundation to financially assist that organization in carrying out its work.

Following his lumberjacking experience, Irving moved to the Twin Cities to seek work in a trade. He found work as an apprentice machinist. He labored in that trade until his retirement. At retirement his position was that of shop foreman in charge of 15-20 apprentices and skilled machinists.

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Like their contemporaries, Irving and Katherine realized they must try to save from their meager earnings and start a long-term investment program to enable them to improve their economic status and secure their future. They learned about investing and then entered the stock market with caution, investing very minimal amounts. All profits were reinvested and not used for living expenses. Their plan for investing was becoming successful. Their net worth grew and their financial future became secure, and their scholarship fund has become a reality for St. Mary's.

When Irving and Katherine first created their scholarship fund, they funded it with a \$50,000 testamentary bequest. After Katherine's death Irving took it upon himself to amend his Will to increase the gift to the fund. In his amended Will, he provided that in addition to the original \$50,000 bequest he and Katherine had made, any funds remaining in his estate after distribution of other testamentary bequests made to relatives, friends and charities would go into the Fund. This most thoughtful and generous decision increased the money available to the fund from \$50,000 to where it now totals nearly \$600,000.

During their lifetimes, Irving and Katherine did make known some of their reasons for establishing the Fund. There were three categories of individuals they wanted to help. First, Irving, as a blue collar worker and a skilled tradesman, wanted *individuals with similar vocational interests to have the ability to learn the trade, or advance their skills by attending a trade or vocational school* (i.e., Dunwoody). They knew not everyone was a candidate for a college or university degree and did not feel these individuals should be barred from acquiring additional training in their field of interest. Their second interest was *for those interested in attending a college or university of their choice to obtain an undergraduate or post graduate degree*. Personal financial inability to attend a school should not prevent a person from reaching their goals in education. Third, realizing that in our present economic change where corporate mergers and consolidations (and failures) were causing unemployment among many long tenured employees, they wanted to assist these *persons in re-training to continue in the work force*. Employees who wanted to upgrade or acquire new skills should be given that opportunity to keep pace with the demand in the marketplace.

In regard to seminary scholarships, Irving and Katherine were fully aware of the various funds and other financial assistance available to men seeking the priesthood. They felt seminary assistance should come from the church and the funds already established for that purpose.

The generous gift establishing this fund was given by Irving and Katherine with love and affection for the community of St. Mary's Cathedral. Their generosity and great vision will provide many benefits to us and future generations. We pray that the faithful of St. Mary's and future recipients will continually remember Irving and Katherine in their prayers. Although not visibly active in church functions during their lifetime, they have made a tremendous impact on this and future generations by their thoughtful act. May all recipients use their award to acquire the knowledge they seek to aid them in becoming productive citizens of our community and faithful Orthodox Christians.

Memory Eternal to Irving T. and Katherine Borris-Hansen.

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Scholarship Application

1. Scholarship Category

Check the scholarship category for which you are applying.

- High school graduate going into college or university
- Current college or university student
- High school graduate going into vocational or technical school
- Current vocational or technical school student
- Adult education
- Other (graduate or professional school student, e.g. medicine or law)

Note: It is important to check the correct box as you will be considered with respect to your peers. If uncertain about your status, check with a member of the committee.

Name _____
first middle last

Permanent residence _____
number and street

city state zip code

Current or campus residence _____
number and street

city state zip code

Cellphone () _____ Work/Campus telephone () _____

Email Address _____

Date of birth _____ Gender: Female Male
month/day/year (circle one)

Have you been accepted to a post secondary institution? yes no
(circle one)

If so, name of the institution where you will study _____

License, certificate, degree, or trade vocation sought _____

Graduate or professional degree sought _____

Will you be attending full-time or part-time? _____

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2. Name of your parish church _____

Church address _____

number and street

city

state

zip code

3. Was a church school program available to you? yes no

(circle one)

Did you attend? yes no

(circle one)

Number of years attended _____

4. Please submit a copy of your most recent transcript (*a photocopy is sufficient*).

This application includes two essay questions. Please limit your answer for each essay to one 8 ½ X 11 sheet of paper, typewritten in no smaller than 10-point font, or neatly handwritten.

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Essay #1: In the space provided, describe yourself as others have or would describe your participation in your: A) church community and B) the community in which you live. Please include specific examples.

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Essay #2: What motivates you to continue your education? How will you use your education to contribute to: A) society and B) to the Orthodox Church community?