The Gail Burns-Smith “Dare to Dream” Fund

The Gail Burns-Smith “Dare to Dream” Fund was established in 2004 upon the retirement of the former Executive Director of CONNSACS, Gail Burns-Smith, who dedicated twenty-two years to ending and preventing sexual violence in the state of Connecticut. The Fund is composed of voluntary contributions received from supporters and donors who wish to honor Gail’s dedication to this cause. A scholarship or stipend is granted annually to an individual whose work or study in the field of sexual violence most exemplifies Gail’s commitment to anti-sexual assault awareness, policy, prevention and advocacy on behalf of victims of sexual violence.

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (formerly CONNSACS) is a statewide association of sexual assault crisis programs working to end sexual violence through victim assistance, community education, and public policy advocacy. The Alliance actively seeks and administers funds to develop and support its member organizations; participates in collaborative efforts to promote social change with national, state and local organizations; provides a forum for the exchange of skills and information regarding the response to and prevention of sexual assault; and serves as a mechanism for the development and maintenance of appropriate standards of services for sexual assault crisis centers.

Award Information
An award of $1,000 will be presented each year.

However, this amount along with the number of awardees may change at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

The requirements of this award may be amended by The Alliance prior to the annual announcement of its available applications.

Important Dates
Applications will be accepted through March 31, 2018. The awardee(s) will be contacted in mid-April of 2018.

Conditions of the Award
The recipient of the award must provide a report to Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence one year after receiving the award, indicating how the funding was used and its impact.

Eligibility Criteria
The applicant must be a resident of Connecticut or attend a school that is based in Connecticut.

The applicant must show paid or volunteer work experience in the field of women’s issues or sexual violence and be actively involved in sexual assault awareness activities.

Applicants may apply annually for this award.

Selection Criteria
The applicant must demonstrate leadership and display commitment in the fields of women’s issues or sexual violence prevention and/or advocacy. This work can be on behalf of individual victims or via public policy advocacy.
Instructions for Applying

Complete this application form. Attach your essay answering the application essay prompts. Attach two character references in the form of letters of recommendation. Email your application to gbsfund@endsexualviolencect.org with the subject line “GBS Fund Application.” You can also mail your application materials to:

GBS Fund Application
Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
96 Pitkin Street, East Hartford, CT 06108

Your application must be received by the end of the day on March 31, 2018. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. For more information, please contact Laura Cordes at laura@endsexualviolencect.org.

Application for the Gail Burns-Smith “Dare to Dream” Fund

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________

Street Address: ___________________________

City, State, Zip Code: ___________________________

Primary Phone: ___________________________ Secondary Phone: ___________________________

Email Address: ___________________________

Education

Are you currently attending school or have you graduated?  ○ Attending  ○ Graduated

Name of School: ___________________________

Degree Earned /Degree Being Pursued: ___________________________

Field of Study: ___________________________

Date of Graduation/Expected Date of Graduation: ___________________________
Employment or Internship Experience

Current Employer: ____________________________________________

Name of Organization: ________________________________________

Position Held: ______________________________________________

Length of Time in Position: __________________________________

Job Responsibilities: _________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Previous Employer: __________________________________________

Name of Organization: ________________________________________

Position Held: ______________________________________________

Length of Time in Position: __________________________________

Job Responsibilities: _________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Previous Employer: __________________________________________

Name of Organization: ________________________________________

Position Held: ______________________________________________

Length of Time in Position: __________________________________

Job Responsibilities: _________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Volunteer Experience

Please include volunteer experience related to sexual violence and/or women’s issues only.

Organization: 

Dates of Service: 

Length of Service: 

Responsibilities: 

Organization: 

Dates of Service: 

Length of Service: 

Responsibilities: 

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Essay Prompts

Please attach an essay that answers the following questions:

- What is your experience working in the field of sexual violence prevention and/or your experience advocating on behalf of sexual assault victims?
- How has this work impacted your life and your interest in this field?
- What are your plans for future work in this field?
- If awarded, how would you use this scholarship/stipend?