



Matt Schekel Memorial Scholarship

The Matt Schekel Memorial Scholarship Fund was created early in 2002 by Marcia and Kurt Schekel in memory of their son Matthew. Seeds of Learning, with Matt's family and friends, wishes to bestow this memorial scholarship on youth who have financial need and who exhibit compassion, kindness and a strong commitment to serve their global community as Seeds of Learning work group volunteers.

Matthew Schekel was born in Colorado in 1970. He grew up in Washington State. When he was in the second grade, a 7-year-old Vietnamese girl was added to his class after the start of the school year. She spoke no English. Matt befriended her. He introduced her to others and made sure she was not left alone on the playground.

This was the way Matt continued to live his life – with kindness, openness and curiosity for the world. He was a reader, a big movie and TV fan, and a music lover. He had a great sense of humor and an open heart. He accepted all people and was especially interested in those who struggled in our society.



Matt Schekel in December of 1997

Matt died in 1998 when his bicycle and a truck met at an intersection in Portland, Oregon. He was 27 and a student at the Northwest Film School in Portland.

If Matt were here today, he would support Seeds of Learning programs enthusiastically. We would like to affirm his participation through this scholarship, enabling others to be as active as Matt might have been in building schools and relationships in Central America.

- Marcia and Kurt Schekel



Matt Schekel Memorial Scholarship Application

This application should be completed and sent directly to Seeds of Learning.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Age _____

School (if applicable) _____

Work Group Dates _____

Country of Service _____

Seeds of Learning actively recruits and supports volunteers from all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. All youth volunteers (under 30) who have been accepted into the work group program may apply for this scholarship. The average scholarship amount is approximately \$250.00, but varies based on funds available and proven financial need.

To apply:

- Complete the information on this page (including your signature below).
- Write a 1 - 2 page application letter addressing each of the points listed in the guidelines on the following page.
- If you are under 18 years of age, include an accompanying letter from a parent describing the financial need for the scholarship.
- Optional: include up to two letters of recommendations from family members, friends, or coworkers.

Completed applications and letters must be received by the SOL office no later than **March 10, 2012** for groups traveling January - April and no later than **May 20, 2012** for group traveling June - August.

Please read and sign below:

If I am chosen to receive a Matt Schekel Memorial Scholarship, I agree to:

- Provide a service to SOL in the year following the completion of my work group experience (e.g. write an article, make a presentation, participate in local SOL programs and events, develop a SOL awareness activity with other youth).
- Write a one-page reflection on my trip, outlining how the experience affected me, and what I learned from it *within 21 days* of my return

I have read and agree to the two points listed above: _____(signature)



Scholarship Application Letter Requirements

In the Application Letter, *all* applicants must:

1. Describe a significant financial need for a scholarship, including (for those under 18 years of age) a supporting statement from a parent or guardian.
2. Explain your reasons for wanting to become a SOL work group volunteer, your goals as you see them now, and benefits you feel you will derive from this experience.
3. Explain what you feel you may offer to the SOL work group and the community where you will be volunteering (in terms of Spanish language proficiency, work and building experience, working with children, and any other skills).
4. Contact family, friends, churches, schools, and others who may be able to provide some financial support. Attached to this application form is a sample SOL letter that can be used to help you solicit additional funding support from family and friends. Indicate in your letter of application how you plan to use this SOL funding request letter.
5. Include in your letter of application a statement of ways you think you could provide a service to SOL upon the completion of your work group (see previous page for examples).

Criteria for selection are:

- Demonstration of financial need
- Demonstration (in the written letter) of skills or experiences that would be highly beneficial to the SOL workgroup service project.
- Commitment to community service

Note: Preference will be given to youth volunteers who have not formerly applied for SOL scholarship assistance.