

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF DIRECTORY

This Directory is intended primarily to assist New Hampshire residents and organizations to locate and utilize the charitable funds established for their benefit by fellow citizens, corporations and benefactors. It is in essence a roadmap to available funding sources for our citizens who are in need, or wish to better themselves through further education or seek to improve the community in which they live. Users should keep in mind that the Directory does not presume to be a complete catalogue of funds available to the public or to contain all sources from which they can obtain financial aid. It remains, however, the only widely available and easily accessible means to locate charitable funds established for the benefit of New Hampshire residents and organizations.

In preparing the Directory, special efforts have been made to state the purpose of each fund, the person or place to which application should be made, any restriction or special purpose for the use of the funds distributed, the distribution policies of the trustees, and the geographic area to which a fund may be limited.

Many of the larger charities maintain their own web sites, and further information can be found on the Internet.

In addition, www.guidestar.org scans in all 990s (the financial reports filed by charities with the Internal Revenue Service) onto its web site and that financial information is available to all web users.

The Directory is intended to provide a central source of information relative to charitable funds. It is hoped also that it will serve to avoid unnecessary inquiries to the trustees where a fund is not devoted to the purpose for which aid is sought.

In determining which public charities should be listed in the Directory, the principal test used was whether the publication of the fund would be useful to those in search of charitable monies. Trusts for the benefit of specified charitable organizations are omitted because of this test. For example, operating charities using their funds to provide services directly to the purpose are not included. Our second test is the charity's asset base: if their financial report shows a balance of over \$25,000, the charity may be included in the Directory.

HOW TO USE THE DIRECTORY

Charitable funds frequently contain provisions which allow their trustees to make distributions only for the benefit of residents or projects in a defined geographical area, or for specific purposes or, in the case of scholarship aid funds, for specified courses of study. The indexes have been prepared to direct the user's attention to those funds most likely to be responsible to the particular need. For example, one seeking scholarship aid or seed money for a local project should first consult the geographic index for the town, city or country in which one resides and for funds which benefit citizens and activities in that area. The user should then look for the appropriate subsection in the purpose index (e.g., "scholarships,"

“needy”). Not to be overlooked by all who make use of the Directory are the “broad” and “charitable” purpose funds, bearing in mind that the stated distribution policies are controlling.

SCHOLARSHIP AID FUNDS OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

The Directory does not list all scholarship aid funds held by New Hampshire colleges and schools, since they are normally administered by the student aid offices of these institutions. Nor does it list all scholarship aid funds held by the Trustees of Trust Funds of each town and city in the State of New Hampshire, although some are included if the geographic area is not limited in the trust instrument.

Scholarship funds for graduates of particular high schools or for students from designated areas are included not only to inform the public of their existence, but to assist future donors in evaluating the needs of the community.

The student should have in mind that there are many additional sources of aid being administered by the various colleges and schools. One should inquire of the Financial Aid Officer of the education institution in question where this information may best be obtained. This will include such information as:

- (1) General scholarship funds held for the benefit of all students
- (2) Tuition grant programs
- (3) Federal education opportunity grant programs
- (4) Granite State Merit Scholarships
- (5) Part-time employment available
- (6) College work-study programs
- (7) Loan funds

DISTRIBUTION OF DIRECTORY

The Directory is available on the Attorney General’s web site at www.nh.gov/nhdoj/charitable. We would appreciate being advised of any errors, omissions, suggestions or criticisms so that future editions of the Directory can be improved.