

The Swasey Children's Fund

Revised 11.9.22

What is the Swasey Children's Fund?

In 1911, Mr. William H. Swasey, a leading citizen of Newburyport with ties to the First Religious Society, Unitarian Universalist church, established a charitable fund for orphaned children without regard to color, nationality, or religion.

What are the stipulations for qualification of a candidate?

In 2022, the fund was modified. Now the stipulations are for children in need who have at least one deceased parent, or who are living in a household headed by a single parent, or who are under legal guardianship, or who are in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Families (or its successor in interest), without regard to color, nationality, or religion. Preferences for distributions in any given year shall be given to qualifying children residing in Newburyport; but if there are any excess funds in such year, such funds may be distributed to qualifying children in a city or town that borders Newburyport.

How does someone apply for an award?

The Fund is managed by the Community Outreach Group of the First Religious Society, UU in Newburyport. An application for a Swasey award may be obtained from an administrator of the Fund. The application's merit will be considered by FRS Fund Administrators appointed by the Community Outreach Group of the church.

What are the restrictions on how the award may be spent?

There are no specific restrictions on how the award may be spent. In the past, funds have been granted for scholarships, camperships, school trips, and orthodontics. The Group will also consider other requests. Funds are distributed directly to the organization named on the candidate's application, not to the parent of the candidate.

What other guidelines should be considered?

Awards are granted on a calendar year basis. Any candidate who has received an award during one calendar year must reapply for additional rewards in any following calendar year. The candidate must be under the age of 21 on September 1 of the year for which the application is submitted.

How do I reach an Administrator of the Fund?

Please contact Ann Power at amp486688@gmail.com or 603-520-1781, or contact the First Religious Society at 978-465-0602 or info@frsuu.org.