

# Middle Tennessee Ohio State Club Scholarship Program

June 30, 2011

## General

Since 1992, the Middle Tennessee Ohio State Club has awarded scholarship assistance to Ohio State freshmen from Middle Tennessee. The first awards were quite modest and provided a first-year payment of \$300 to one entering freshman each fall. We since have worked with the Alumni Association and the University Development Office to greatly expand the club's scholarship program. We have made much progress since those early days and for the 2011-12 academic year the Club's Scholarship Committee has authorized \$6,800 in scholarship awards to students from Middle Tennessee.

## Scholarship Award Procedures and Administration

In January, the University sends us a list of Middle Tennessee kids who have been accepted by The Ohio State University Admissions office. Our Scholarship Committee then invites those prospective Buckeyes to apply for the Middle Tennessee Club Scholarships. Their applications are returned with High School grade transcripts and letters of commendation from guidance counselors and teachers. Each applicant is then interviewed by phone, and the scholarship committee meets to discuss and rank the applications. This ranked list is returned to the Ohio State Alumni Association in Columbus who makes the final awards and notifies the kids.

The Stockwell Endowed Scholarship is awarded to the first applicant on the list, and one or more club Scarlet and Gray Scholarships are awarded to the following ranked applicants in sequence. If an applicant later decides to not attend Ohio State, the scholarships are cascaded to the following applicant(s) on the list. The final award determination is made by the University in combination with other financial awards the student may receive. All disbursement of funds to the student's account and monitoring of satisfactory academic progress are administered by the University as well.

## The Scarlet and Gray Middle Tennessee Ohio State Club Scholarship

Scarlet and Gray Awards are made to one or more entering freshmen from Middle Tennessee each fall. Each award is funded by the Endowment income. Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year, the Scarlet and Gray Award has been increased from \$600 to \$1,000 for the freshman year.

## The Lynne Murray Stockwell Memorial Scholarship

This Endowed Fund was established by Lynne's family at The Ohio State University Development Office in May 2004 with gifts from family members and friends of Lynne Murray Stockwell, and from the Middle Tennessee Ohio State Club. The sole purpose of this fund is to provide merit-based scholarships to deserving freshmen students from Tennessee high schools who are in the top 25% of their class. The \$1,200 per-year scholarship is awarded annually and is renewable for three additional years.

The first Stockwell award was made for Fall 2004. The endowment grew to support additional awards for 2005, 2006, and 2007. By the Fall of 2008, four revolving Scholarships were funded by the endowment income. When first established, the Stockwell Scholarship provided \$1,000 per student per year. Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year, the annual award was increased to \$1,200 per year.

## Scholarship Funding Sources

The Middle Tennessee Club scholarship program is funded by:

- member tax-exempt donations to the club for one or both scholarships
- donations directly to the Ohio State Development Office designated for the Stockwell Fund #646980 or the Freshman Fund #246980
- club member annual dues received (80-90% of dues each year go to the scholarship funds)
- weekly sale or drawings during game watches for the club's two season football tickets. Past club donations to Ohio State has accredited the club as a **President Club Member** eligible to **buy two season tickets each year**
- other silent auctions and sale of donated items (including Buckeye seedlings) during game watches

**Scholarship Funding Status.....**

When established in May 2004, the goal for the Lynn Murray Stockwell Endowment was to reach a \$100,000 donated balance by June 2009. That was the estimated balance needed to generate the \$4,000 in annual income necessary to fund a rolling series of four \$1,000 scholarships. We reached our \$100K goal 6 months early in December 2008 and never looked back.

During 2011 at the University's suggestion, we combined the Stockwell Endowed Scholarship and Scarlet and Gray Freshmen Scholarship programs. Both are now funded from the Endowment income. Over time, and as increased endowment income permits, the Club's Board of Governors plans to increase the amounts of the awards and the number of awards made each year to new Buckeyes from Middle Tennessee.

### .....and Challenges

As many of you know, the University has restructured the requirements necessary to be a qualified member of The Ohio State University Presidents Club. In order to maintain our Presidents Club membership, and eligibility to buy two season tickets for fundraising, the Middle Tennessee Ohio State Alumni club committed to raising \$5,350 per year through 2012 for our scholarship program. We have donated the first three installments and are busy at work on fund raising plans for 2011 and 2012. The 2012 installment will put our club on the \$50,000 plateau of total donations to the University.

### How you can help.....

To meet the 2011 club goal of \$5,350 in Endowment donations, **we need a few more scholarship donations** to the club, and **another 50 dues-paying members to join up**. Jump in and help us find those 50 new Buckeyes and have them come be part of the group each Saturday. Remember that the Middle Tennessee club is **IRS Tax-Exempt** and your donations to the club and to the University Development Office are deductible to the full extent of the tax code.

Also, at the suggestion of several members last year, we asked the general membership to donate **Buckeye items in new condition they can't use** – wrong-sized apparel, football tickets, Buckeye memorabilia – for our silent auction and door prize drawings. We only do fund raising at two or three game watches, but accept items for future events at every game. This group effort to support our fund raising events was very successful last fall and a **huge boost** to the club's reaching the \$5,350 goal last year. If you can help us with donated items, it will be greatly appreciated.

Plus, remember to use your employer's Matching Grant Program if one is available. Many employers will match your gift dollar-for-dollar (some donate two-to-one) which adds greatly to the effect of your gift. Check your HR department. They will have the forms and instructions for you.

Pay to – Mail to:

Ohio State Development Office  
1480 West Lane Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43221

or

Ohio State Club  
8212 Wikle Road East  
Brentwood, TN 37027

### Grow A Buckeye in Tennessee

When you support the club's scholarship program, you are helping to create new Ohio State graduates who will one day grow into lifelong Buckeyes. But our slogan has dual meaning. The Club has also made it possible for you to also **grow a Buckeye tree right here in Tennessee**.

Club leader and perennial Buckeye cheerleader Jeff Linkinhoker is a graduate and licensed Landscape Architect from Ohio State, and is a 30 year resident of Tennessee. Using seed from the main campus, he has planted and cultivated a small plot of Buckeye trees at his home and frequently provides a few saplings for club door prizes at our game watches.

If you don't want to wait for the law of averages to win you a tree, he has offered to provide them to all club members who want to **Grow A Buckeye in Tennessee** with a \$50 or more scholarship donation to the Middle Tennessee Ohio State Club. Some are 6-10 feet and produce nuts. You can have any size you want but you have to (arrange to) move them yourself. Contact Jeff for details.

**GO BUCKS !!!**

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