THE JULIE’S HELPERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Julie’s Helpers Memorial Scholarship, in memory of Julie Elizabeth Meadows (May 6, 1973 – December 13, 2009), was established in February 2011, under the co-sponsorship of White Rock Presbyterian Church (of Los Alamos, New Mexico) and the House of Fellowship Church (of Vanderwagen, New Mexico). The purpose of the scholarship is to provide an annual grant of $2500 to one capable Navajo woman who might not otherwise be able pursue a college degree for the purpose of serving her community.

BACKGROUND
The Labor Day weekend of 2008, a week before she was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor (a metastasis of which, ostensibly, finally took her life some fifteen months later), Julie Meadows was engaged in a short-term mission experience that profoundly touched her. Along with her husband and her two sons and a cadre of her fellow members and friends in White Rock Presbyterian Church, Julie made the trip from Los Alamos to the House of Fellowship Church, near Vanderwagen, New Mexico, just south of Gallup, on the Navajo Reservation. There she worked alongside a number of Navajo people in service to that community.

Julie was particularly intrigued by several young Navajo girls she met there – who seemed to be even more intrigued by her. Real attachments began to be formed; and one can only speculate about how those nascent relationships might have unfolded, and about what sort of impact Julie might have had in the lives of these, and conceivably many other, young Navajo girls, had she lived.

Although Julie was never able to return to House of Fellowship Church, the Navajo saints there faithfully joined – with many in Los Alamos and around the country – in praying for Julie’s healing. These, along with a great many others among Julie’s friends and Beta Sigma Phi sorority sisters, also collaborated as they were able in “Julie’s Helpers,” a web-based network of support for Julie and her family, providing meals, rides, childcare, companionship, and the like, for the duration of Julie’s struggle with her disease.

After Julie’s death, a number of those close to Julie began to imagine a continued existence for “Julie’s Helpers” – only not any longer as a network of support for and assistance to Julie herself, but rather as a network of friends and fellow saints who would, as a portion of her legacy, extend the work of compassionate partnership, of “help,” to those to whom Julie might have extended it herself had she survived her disease. Quickly, too, the idea of focusing that “help” on young Navajo women and girls, like those with whom Julie had just begun to establish
relationship before the onset of her disease, was joined to this vision. Julie’s own extensive education (a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from New Mexico Tech and subsequent MBA from UNM), her attention to professional and personal development (not only her own, but of others), her history of involvement in “labors of love” through her sorority and in the community, and especially in recent years her renewed commitment to being a faithful disciple of Jesus engaged in her church’s mission – in particular, perhaps, its mission to and with Navajos through the House of Fellowship – all lent additional excitement to the prospect. The Julie’s Helpers Memorial Scholarship represents the logical fusion of all these elements of Julie’s character, personality, faith, and legacy.

AWARD
$2,500 to be payable to recipient and her New Mexico college or university. Notification of award will be made by June 30, 2014 with formal presentation of the award (attendance optional) to be made in July in Los Alamos. The scholarship is awarded for one academic year only. Re-application is required for each academic year which financial assistance is sought.

ELIGIBILITY
All applicants must be Navajo females between the ages of 17 and 30, of at least one-fourth degree Navajo Indian blood, be full-time students pursuing an undergraduate degree at a New Mexico College or University in the Business, Education, Engineering or Science field, and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 (see Application Checklist for details).