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## NEED Scholarship Established in Honor of Gwendolyn J. Elliott



On Thursday, March 19, NEED will award the inaugural “Gwendolyn J. Elliott Scholarship” award at its annual scholarship dinner. This scholarship has been established by Kathi Elliott in honor of her mother, the late Gwendolyn J. Elliott (pictured). Through this scholarship, Elliott is able to support the missions of two organizations that she holds dear—NEED, which is the oldest community-based, nonprofit, minority, higher education assistance program in Pennsylvania and Gwen’s Girls, which her mother established in 2002 to provide gender-specific services that would empower girls and young women to live productive lives.

“Gwen was a mentor to me and I know that she would be pleased about this collaboration to benefit local students,” said Dr. Marcia Sturdivant, president and CEO of NEED.

Since 1963, NEED has supported over 20,000 deserving young people by providing nearly \$24.5 million in grants and offering related programming such as educational tours of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, career exploration, access to internships and mentoring.



The newly-formed scholarship is designated primarily for current and past Gwen's Girls participants and children of Gwen's Girls staff. The scholarship's first recipient, Shenoa Evans, will attend California University of PA this fall. A scholarship will also be granted to Alexis Simone Young, who will be attending the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. She is the daughter of Lea Thomas, a dedicated staff member who has been employed at Gwen's Girls since its inception.

#### **About NEED**

*NEED's vision is to unlock the power of education by helping youth meet their highest potential and enhance their quality of life, thereby strengthening the Pittsburgh regional economy. NEED provides career and college access services which empower youth from the Pittsburgh region to aspire*

*to, learn about, prepare for, and complete higher education. Since its founding in 1963, NEED has supported over 20,000 deserving young people by providing nearly \$24.5 million in Scholarships.*

#### **About Gwen's Girls**

*Founded in 2002 by the late Gwen Elliott, Gwen's Girls empowers young girls to lead productive lives by providing them with holistic, gender-specific programs, education and experiences. As one of the few agencies in the nation focused on gender-specific programming for girls, Gwen's Girls provides a continuum of programs specifically designed to address the "whole" girl, including prevention, residential, foster care, and school-based and community-based programs and services. Gwen's Girls' programs have impacted the lives of*



*more than 2,500 girls in the past 13 years, helping girls to achieve a new destiny for themselves and maximizing the potential of our communities. Learn more about Gwen's Girls at [www.gwensgirls.org](http://www.gwensgirls.org).*