

Leona Givhan Davis Memorial Scholarship

LIVE

On June 13, 1919, a beautiful baby girl was born to Willie Givhan and Lula Wade. They called her Leona Givhan. Unlike many of us, she was not fortunate enough to be raised by her mother. While she was only 5 months old, her mother became very ill and passed away, leaving 3 young girls to be raised by their maternal grandparents. At the tender age of 2, her grandmother passed away, leaving her grandfather, William Wade, to raise the girls. He did an outstanding job teaching them to cook and clean, but most importantly, how to be decent young women. They had to work and help take care of their home so there was little or no time for school. With merely a grade school education, Leona possessed wisdom that was incomparable. Despite everything she went through and lacked, she turned out to be one of the wisest women that ever lived. She was a phenomenal woman; the Proverbs 31 woman. Although her early life was no fairytale, she chose to be content in whatever state she was in and was one you never heard complain.

LOVE

Leona married the man of her dreams, the one she called the love of her life, Bill Ivy Davis. They raised 10 children which included 3 boys and 7 girls. She also raised many of her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. On many occasions, she took in non-family members to live in her home as well. She was so gentle, loving and kind that most of them never wanted to leave. She cooked and fed those in her household and many in the neighborhood daily. Leona was one who gave unconditional love to everyone she met. She cared for the sick regardless if she was paid or if it was free. She was a natural born servant and taught her family to do the same; not to always have a hand out, but to willingly give someone else a hand up. On one occasion, her grandson, Orlando Pannell, cried uncontrollably when his parents came to pick him up. He shouted, "I don't want that Mama! I want my Old Mama, who was in her early fifties at the time. The name had a perfect ring to it and she was known as Old Mama from that day forward.

LAUGH

In the presence of this beautiful jewel, there was never a dull moment. Her joy was magnified by the surrounding of her family and friends. She truly lived as if every day with Jesus was sweeter than the day before. She taught her family to love Jesus more and more and to rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. Her Laughter was contagious. She was indeed the "original" Queen of Comedy.

LEARN

As a young girl, Leona joined Green Liberty Missionary Baptist Church and attended faithfully. She was one who was said to have divine wisdom. This does not come from books, but it comes from God. In 1956, she received the Holy Ghost and united with Chapel Grove Holiness Church, under the leadership of Bishop George T. Howell. She was a hard worker in the church and very dedicated to her duties, such as working on the Mother's Board and ushering. She was also a great missionary and a prayer warrior, who prayed for her entire family every night. She had persistent faith like the woman with the issue of blood and was always compelling others to come to Christ. She also accompanied her daughters "The Evangelist Davis Sisters" as they traveled the world preaching the gospel for many years. Mother Davis worked with Bishop George T. Howell at Chapel Grove Holiness Church for over forty years. In 1993, Mother Leona Davis joined Davis Temple Church of the Living God, under the leadership of her daughter, Bishop Levora Davis, where she served on the Mother's Board. Her grandson, Elder Orlando Pannell took great pleasure in being her Pastor at her final hour. Leona could truly say, "I learned how to live holy. I learned how to live right." It showed in her everyday life.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Leona passed from this life on April 30, 2013. Her Legacy will prevail through her five generations whom she taught to Love, Laugh and Learn but most importantly, LIVE a life that is pleasing to God. She was the epitome of what it means to be a servant, expecting nothing in return. The torch will be carried on by her family.

This scholarship is made possible by The Davis Family and Wear It Well Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing dignity, education, inspiration and motivation to those facing cancer or life changing experiences. This includes men, women and children regardless of race, color or creed. It was founded in memory and honor of Leona Givhan Davis.

To love like Leona means to display the qualities of one who serves others in many capacities for no recognition or compensation. If you feel you fit the criteria, please continue by reading the application instructions and completing the application by the set deadline.

Application Instructions

The Leona Givhan Davis Memorial Scholarship is dedicated to recognizing and providing financial assistance to a high school senior or non-traditional student in Lee, Pontotoc or Union counties who exemplify selflessness. The student should be committed to servant leadership, community service, and academic success. The ultimate goal of the Leona Givhan Davis Memorial Scholarship is to provide financial assistance to a humble high school senior or non-traditional student who has the will to serve.

Eligibility

- Candidates must be a high school senior or non-traditional student and a resident of Lee, Pontotoc or Union County.
- Candidates **must** follow Wear It Well Inc. on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@wearitwellinc).
- Candidates must submit a one-page essay describing your servant characteristics and community service, listing all organizations.
- Candidates must have applied to an accredited institution of secondary education at the time of application. This includes colleges and universities, as well as technical and vocational schools.
- Candidates must include a copy of their acceptance letter.
- Only one entry allowed per high school senior.

Application

- The application is attached. Candidates are encouraged to include a current resume along with your one-page essay.
- Completed application, acceptance letter and essay must be submitted to: info@wearitwell.org with "Leona Givhan Davis Memorial Scholarship" in the subject line by May 31, 2023 at midnight CST.
- Scholarship recipient will be announced and awarded on June 13, 2023.

The Leona Givhan Davis Memorial Scholarship can be used to cover any expense. The amount of the scholarship could be \$500 or more.

Date of Application:

Please **type** your answers. If application is illegible it will be returned to you.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Mailing Address:
Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date of Birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Current High School: _____ Email Address: _____

I will be attending the following school Fall of 2021: _____

Proof of acceptance or current student enrollment from the above school is **required prior to funds being released**

Name & address of parent(s) or legal guardian(s):
Name (s) _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home phone of parents or legal guardians: _____

What specialty/major do you plan to major in as you continue your education?

List your academic honors, awards and membership activities while in high school:

List your community service activities, hobbies, outside interests, and extracurricular activities:

Personal Essay

Please answer the following question:

What are your educational and professional goals and objectives? Describe how you "Love like Leona."

This question must be at least 1-2 pages, typed, double-spaced, and 12 pt /Time New Roman font. Please ensure your essay contains no grammatical errors.

- A. The following items must be attached to this application in order for the application to qualify to be reviewed by the scholarship committee.
 B. Your application will not be considered if these items are not attached to this application. (No exceptions.)
 C. Check "YES" or "NO" to be sure you have attached each item as required.

YES	NO	Completed application. Everything answered completely.
YES	NO	Proof of college acceptance or current student enrollment. A <u>copy</u> of your of college acceptance letter is required for receipt of funds.
YES	NO	Personal Essay. Must be at least one page, typed, double-spaced, and 12 pt. / Times New Roman font. Please ensure your essay contains no grammatical errors.

STATEMENT OF ACCURACY

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship recipient, according to Leona Givhan Davis Memorial Scholarship policy, I must provide evidence of enrollment/registration at the post-secondary institution of my choice before scholarship funds can be awarded.

Signature of scholarship applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of applicant's guardian/parent: _____ Date: _____

My signature certifies that all information provided is correct. I hereby grant permission for the use of my name and/or likeness in future publicity for the promotion of scholarship funds.

You can sign manually, scan and email back or fill in all info and sign electronically.

*By signing electronically (typing your name on the applicant signature line, you agree that your electronic signature is equivalent to your manual signature.)

"Live, Laugh, Love, Learn and Leave a Legacy."