

THE SMITH CHARITIES Established 1848

WIDOW GIFT

Smith Charities Widows Beneficiary Program

The Smith Charities Trustees and Electors are pleased to let you know that the administration of the Will of Oliver Smith is active and has been thriving since his passing in 1845.

Oliver Smith's father tragically "dropped dead in the fields" at the early age of 52 in the small farming community of Hatfield, MA, according to Donald C. Ebbeling, the Northampton author of the *Courtroom Crucible: The Smith Charities* publication. Suddenly, his mother was left with the unimaginable challenge of raising a family of 6 boys, the oldest of whom was 15 and the youngest being Oliver, at just 18 months. As a result of witnessing the many challenges that his mother faced, Oliver felt the importance of establishing a Widow's Benefit in his will in order to provide some much needed monetary assistance to surviving widows with children, who live in several neighboring cities and towns.



Widows accepted into our program must have been legally married to the deceased, and have at least 1 child under the age of 18 years old. All children must have been shared biologically with the departed spouse, or have been legally adopted, and must live with and be fully dependent on the remaining widowed parent for support. The gift is \$300 for 1 child plus \$100 for each additional qualifying child under the age of 18. The benefit is paid annually in early July, and ceases when the youngest child becomes 18, or if the widow moves from an eligible community and/or remarries. A renewal application must be completed and returned each year to verify continued eligibility.

According to the Will, qualified widow applicants must:

- Reside and be a registered voter in either Amherst, Deerfield, Easthampton, Greenfield, Hadley, Hatfield, Northampton, Whately, or Williamsburg for at least 1 year immediately preceding her application.
- Be of good moral character.
- Be of moderate financial circumstances.

Initial applications can be printed from our website at www.thesmithcharities.org.

Along with the initial application, you may be requested to provide us with proof of your spouse's passing if we do not have an obituary from the local newspaper in-house. We will accept a recent obituary, or you can bring in the original death certificate for us to view and copy for our records. Upon receipt, we also require 2 written character references from non-family members, whose names and full mailing addresses you are requested to supply on the application. A reference request form is then promptly mailed out from our office to be filled out and sent back to us. **It is important that you notify your references right away that a Smith Charities correspondence will be sent to them in order to ensure a prompt written reply.** Once received, the application is presented to our Trustees for review. If approved, we will mail you the initial gift. This first beneficiary distribution may or may not be prorated as it depends on your spouse's passing and application receipt dates. Please feel free to call or e-mail with any questions or concerns.



THE TRUSTEES OF THE SMITH CHARITIES

51 Main Street | Northampton, MA 01060 | Hours: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Monday through Friday

Contact: Carla M. Kone | Treasurer and Will Administrator | (413) 584-0415 | trustees.smithcharities@gmail.com | thesmithcharities.org