The Eight and Forty Story

La Boutique des Huit
Chapeaux et Quarante Femmes
(The shop of eight hats and forty women)

Organized in June 1922 as a Fun and Fellowship group while their husbands attended meetings of the 40/8 Veterans group, the Eight and Forty held their first convention in New Orleans. It was agreed to adopt a ‘public service’ program concerned with child welfare.

Since tuberculosis was rampant at that time The American Legion (whom they were then associated with) assigned them the preventive tuberculosis service along educational lines with, when possible, financial assistance providing for care and treatment of child in cooperation with recognized agencies and methods.

The mission expanded over the years as tuberculosis was almost eradicated. Now all lung and respiratory diseases in children is the mission statement. It started with Cystic Fibrosis and expanded from there.

The scholarship program was added in 1957, and more than $1.4 million have been awarded.

The original scholarships were for Registered Nurses to advance their training in caring for ‘our Special Children.’ In 2014 respiratory therapists were added as eligible to apply.

Also it was voted to include all students attending accredited nursing schools and respiratory therapists attending accredited programs.

Although work in a pediatric practice requires many things including patience, there is no specialized training to prepare for this field in today’s schools.

The aims and purposes are to help students with the hope that they will seek and find the means to help our special children, be it through practicing their career or in a research field related to lung and respiratory diseases.

Eight and Forty Nursing and Respiratory Therapist Scholarships are now available for both professions

Request an application today!
Announcement of Awards: Announcement of awards will be made by July 1st every year. All applicants will be notified in writing.

An applicant may apply once each year provided she/he maintains a 3.0 GPA or above.

The Eight and Forty has been helping children with lung and respiratory disease for over 90 years. Will you help us help them?

The Eight and Forty scholarship applicant must attend an accredited school of nursing or a accredited respiratory therapist program.

The scholarship amount is $3,000 annually which shall be administered by the college/university or therapist program financial office.

While our organization’s main mission is caring for children with lung and respiratory diseases we recognize that such specialization is not practical in today’s medical world.

However, those striving to specialize in pediatrics will be given preference.

Applications must be submitted by May 15th. Not postmarked but into National Office by that date.

When awarded, the student may draw on the account for books and lab fees as well as tuition.

Include with the application:

- Brief essay on why you are pursuing this career and your future goals;
- Three non-relative letters of recommendations which may include clergy, charity groups, school counselors, etc.;
- Transcript of previous school grades which may be high school records if no college classes to date; and
- Proof of class registration.

Review application for other requirements.

The Selection Committee is selected by the year’s Le Chapeau Nationale. (President) Some of them are/were nurses or respiratory therapists.

They are responsible for reviewing all applications received and making the selection, which is final.

Any incomplete application or ones that lack required documentation will not be considered.

Applications may be obtained from the organization’s website:

www.8and40.org

or you may write to our headquarters office:

PO Box 1108
Lake Dallas TX 75065-1108

Partnership in the organization is limited to women who have a veteran’s affiliation within her family.

In 2014, we formed the 8 & 40 Foundation and once financially able, will give grants and scholarships to other medical fields and practices assisting children with catastrophic illnesses.

If interested in joining us, visit our website or write to the address above for further information.