



## **The GOTA Linda Stephens Scholarship for Occupational Therapy Students**

**Purpose:** The *Linda Stephens Scholarship* was established to provide assistance to students who are matriculating in an occupational therapy program and demonstrate a commitment to serving the profession of occupational therapy. The financial amount is variable depending upon the availability of funds, which will generally be ½ of the amount in the earmarked fund.

### **Background:**

Linda Stephens' clinical experience spanned 40 years as a practitioner and clinical educator with most of her experience in pediatrics. Linda earned her Occupational Therapy degree in 1965 from the University of Florida. In addition to owning her own pediatric practice, Linda's career highlights include tireless involvement in the Georgia Occupational Therapy Association as well as the American Occupational Therapy Association. She was a strong advocate for OT and was instrumental in the licensing of OT's in the State of Georgia. She also negotiated a compromise between physical and occupational therapists in the State of Georgia regarding the credentialing of occupational therapists to use physical agent modalities. She served GOTA in many capacities including district chair person, bylaws chair person and two terms as President. She served on various AOTA committees and served as an AOTA Regional Political Action Chairperson. Linda also served 8 years on the GA State Board of Occupational Therapy, and ran for the GA House of Representatives.

In each of her roles, Linda Stephens humbly assumed leadership where she willingly worked in the foreground as well as the background to do "what needed to be done" in the name of advancing the profession of OT. This scholarship is designed to support students who demonstrate commitment to the occupational therapy profession and potential to exemplify leadership and passion for the field. The applicant selected will articulate how s/he envisions enacting a lifelong plan of service and commitment to the field of occupational therapy.

### **Application/ Selection Process:**

- Nominations for this award can be submitted at any time during a calendar year.
- To insure that as many qualified applicants are nominated, the professional office will send this Scholarship application to all OT/OTA programs in GA at least 3 months prior to the annual GOTA conference each calendar year
- Students applying for the scholarship must meet the following requirements:
  - Submit a scholarship application, which includes two completed references from a GOTA member OT practitioner
  - Be a current member of GOTA
  - Submit a brief essay regarding their lifelong plan for service to the OT profession
  - Must not have been a previous recipient of the Linda Stephen's Scholarship
- Who (how) will make final determination?
  - Recognitions and Nominations Committee
  - Committee members will individually rank applicants according to criteria (see ranking form provided). These individual scores will be tallied and averaged to determine the applicant to receive the Linda Stephens scholarship.
- **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** September 5, 2025
- Confidentiality of application materials: all information submitted will be maintained on file by the committee for one (1) year.



**Georgia Occupational Therapy Association Linda Stephens Scholarship Application**

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Occupational Therapy Program:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Month/Year of Anticipated Graduation:** \_\_\_\_\_

*All parts of the application are to be submitted electronically (via e-mail [info@gaota.com](mailto:info@gaota.com)) The three parts of the application include: 1) essay; 2) resume that articulates service to OT as a student; and 3) two letters of reference*

<b>Award Criteria</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Essay</b> (in 500 typewritten words or less ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Much like Linda Stephens, describe how you plan on serving the OT profession in your future career</li><li>• Your essay should outline 5 and 10 year goals for your professional services</li><li>• Ways you might honor Linda Stephens willingness to assume leadership roles (serving in the background and foreground)</li><li>• Describe how your OT education has influenced your vision for service to your profession</li></ul>	20
<b>Service:</b> (typewritten resume (not more than 2 pages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate enthusiasm and passion for service:</li><li>• Involvement in extracurricular activities on and off campus<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ University or community organizations (specify roles)</li><li>○ Occupational Therapy Organizations:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Student OT organization; GOTA; AOTA</li><li>▪ Peer mentoring</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• Volunteer projects to serve others in the community</li></ul>	50
<b>References</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submit two references (see attached forms)</li><li>• References must be from a GOTA member</li></ul>	30

**GOTA Linda Stephens Scholarship Reference:**