

The First of Twelve 2016 Steinbeck Scholarship Recipients

Dear LWML CNH,

I am very happy to learn that I have been chosen as a recipient of the 2016 Steinbeck Scholarship. I am writing to thank you for your generous financial support toward my higher education. Because of this scholarship, I am able to concentrate on my education without worrying about finances. This gift takes me one step closer to graduation and the work God has planned for me afterward. Your financial generosity truly reflects Christ's love and grace. Thank you for thinking of missionary families and for supporting us as fellow members of the body of Christ. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

God's richest blessings,

Ariana Schulte

I was born in Lome, Togo as the child of two missionaries. Shortly after I was born, my parents, 3 older brothers, and I moved to a small town in northern Togo called Dapaong. We lived in Dapaong until I was 5 years old. In 2000, my family moved to Abidjan, Ivory Coast to continue mission work in another area of West Africa. We lived in Abidjan for 2 years until we were evacuated from the country due to a civil war. In 2002, our family returned to the States when I was 7 years old. My parents' first stint as missionaries to West Africa lasted 15 years, from 1987 to 2002. During this time, my father was a layman who served as the business manager for LCMS mission work in West Africa. My mother had the fulltime job of raising us 4 kids on the mission field.

After returning to live in the States in 2002, my family resettled in St. Louis, MO. At this time, my father went to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to become an LCMS pastor. His first and only stateside call was to Zion Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, MO. This was only about a 45-minute drive south from where we had been living in St. Louis. Our family lived in Hillsboro for 10 years while my dad served as pastor at Zion. During our time in Hillsboro, my mom went back to school to become a nurse. She now has her BSN, and she spent several years commuting from Hillsboro to St. Louis to work at Barnes Jewish Hospital.

Recently, my parents have returned to serve on the foreign mission field again. During their time in the States, my father retooled to become a pastor and my mother retooled to become a nurse. As they head back to the mission field now, my father is serving the LCMS Office of International Mission as the West Africa Area Director. My mother is serving as the West Africa Regional Coordinator for Mercy Medical Work. They are returning to live in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. However, they will spend a lot of their time travelling around West Africa to supervise and aid the LCMS mission work that is happening in the region. My father's role will be to supervise, facilitate, and provide vision for the work the LCMS does in assisting its four West African partner churches with their seminaries and in serving in seven mission field locations (including Benin, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and the Congo). My mother's role will be to envision, facilitate, and coordinate Community Health Education (CHE) initiatives, health clinics, and the deployment of Mercy Medical Teams (MMTs) to this part of Africa. My entire family is very excited to see my parents back in West Africa serving God as missionaries to His children in this area of the world.

I hope to use my Linguistics and French studies to work as a French/English translator or interpreter. I am interested in possibly working for Lutheran Bible Translators as a foreign missionary someday. In some way or another, I hope to return to live in Africa after graduating from college

