

**Angel of God Resource Center, Inc.
Emma Johnson Conner**



(EJC) Annual Scholarship 2026

In Memory of Emma Johnson Conner

Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2026 no later than 5:00 pm.

College Textbook and School Supplies Grant

All applicants are required to attend the Scholarship Gala on Friday, July 10, 2026

TRIBUTE TO OUR SISTER, EMMA JOHNSON CONNER

Emma Johnson-Conner was born in Shaw, Mississippi, on May 21, 1931. She was a faithful wife and sharecropper, working alongside her husband, Eddie Conner Sr., during her early years in Shelby, Mississippi. Married for over 30 years, Emma was the mother of six beautiful children.

Emma was passionate and a hard worker, always taking care of her family and giving back to the community. Her home became a local hub where families gathered for food, medical assistance, celebrations, and other community services. One of her major passions was helping the sick and people with disabilities.

In 1966, Emma moved to Chicago, where she continued her mission of assisting families, cleaning for individuals with disabilities, and preparing gourmet meals. Her culinary skills included dishes like greens, hot water cornbread, sweet potato pies, cakes, and lemon pies-delicious soul food that brought comfort to many.

Despite lacking formal nursing credentials, Emma assisted doctors and nurses and provided nurturing care for the sick and elderly. Her words of encouragement and comfort were a solace to those around her. Emma's dedication extended to her church services, where she served as a dedicated usher, church mother, and food pantry worker.

Emma valued education, although she was unable to finish high school due to her responsibilities after her mother's passing. She spent many years caring for her younger siblings, family members, friends, and the broader community.

Emma Johnson Conner's legacy lives on through her selflessness, compassion, and unwavering commitment to others.

Emma's life story is truly inspiring, and her impact on her community is immeasurable.

When I think about our sister Emma, I am reminded of George Gershwin's masterpiece, "Porgy and Bess." Not so much of Catfish Row, Porgy, or even Bess-but when I think of her, it's because of the song "**Summertime**." You know the part of the song that says, "Fish are jumping, and the cotton is high. Your Daddy's rich, and your Mama's good-looking"? Well, Gershwin got it.kind of wrong-because our Daddy, Albert Johnson, was not rich...unless you talk about being "rich with having us children." But he sure got it right about our Mama being good-looking...and our Daddy was too.

Therefore, it was no surprise when I saw this sister of ours when I was eight or nine. She was not just good-looking-no, she was beautiful, inside and out. She was like summertime calm and slow-moving. And anyone who has ever known her knows that our sister Emma talked slowly. There was not another person in the world whom I have ever heard talk as slowly as our sister, except for our daddy. And he always swore that Emma talked slower than him. To hear them talking together...well, let's just leave that to your imagination. Just think about a train stopped at the railroad crossing with the rail down, and all the lights are blinking...and you are late for work! And the police are sitting there.

One summer, our daddy took me and a childhood friend to see Emma in a place called Deeson, Mississippi. She was smiling like a sunbeam, so warm and nice. And the first thing she said after hugging me was, "Come on in, baby, and have something to eat! I just cooked!" And cook, she had. Any and every good thing that you could ever imagine eating was on that kitchen table! I learned that day that Emma was taking care of her younger sisters and brothers. I also learned that her unique ability to nurture and love us would be her lifelong mission!

Emma was like Mary Poppins-she came in on the east wind, and she kind of left on the West.

Emma Johnson, a remarkable woman, left an indelible mark on all of us. As a young woman, she cared for her sisters and brothers, and later, her children. But Emma's nurturing spirit extended far beyond her immediate family. When the young Johnson Boys arrived in Arkansas, just as we Girlies-Dorothy, Emma, Marlene, and me-assumed it would always be a GIRL'S CLUB, Emma seamlessly welcomed them into the fold.

Now, let me share a little context. Growing up, I was our Daddy's Baby for 23 years, and my older sisters and I believed it would be a girls-only affair. However, when our young brothers entered the picture, Emma adapted effortlessly. She packed her bags and headed to Arkansas.

Everyone rejoiced at Emma's arrival. Her presence guaranteed two things: "Down Home" Soul cooking and a sparkling-clean house. Emma was nothing short of amazing. And it wasn't just us who were thrilled to see her-our husbands eagerly anticipated her visits too!

Emma's culinary prowess knew no bounds. She whipped up Chicken and Dumplings, Chicken and Dressing, and those unforgettable Greens. And let's not forget her Hot Water Cornbread-

a delicacy that only a skilled cook can master. Emma's version was so good that all you needed was a pat of butter to savor its perfection.

She made the best caramel cake you could ever hope to taste. Those were some of the pluses when Emma showed up. She nurtured all her family in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Arkansas, and me and my family in St. Louis, Missouri. She was like a traveling package of goodness. And Emma was funny too. My mother nicknamed her "Lasses" - short for molasses because her voice was so warm and slow. She was always smiling, and that slow voice could convince you to give up something that at the start of the conversation you had no thoughts about giving up.

Our sister was first in birth rank as our father's eldest child. And she let you know that in a very kind way. She was close, in particular, to our sister Dorothy. They shared many "good fish stories" together. Dorothy told me once about how she and Emma, along with another fishing buddy, went out on the water in Dorothy's boat - and Emma stood up, and then fell overboard into the water! Dorothy says that Emma was hollering "help!" and she was hollering at the fishing buddy that he had "better save her sister...and not let her drown." Dot says that the brother was trying to tell them something... except they could not hear him because she and Emma were carrying on so loudly. As she stood up to jump in the water to save her sister...because she didn't think that the man was moving fast enough - he out-hollered them...and said to Emma "stand up"! Then to Dorothy, he said, "Sit down in the boat before you tip it over!" Fortunately, they both heard him that time. Emma stopped fighting in the water and stood up! That's when both Dorothy and Emma discovered that the water only came up to Emma's knees! That was a good thing too - because Dorothy cannot swim!

Every one of us has a good "Emma" story to tell. And all of us brothers and sisters knew that every time Emma came to stay, we were in for a good time. It was grand to see her, and a joy to have her come because she might be at our home for several months. So, special thanks to our nieces and nephews, and other relatives for letting us have more than our share of loving time to spend with her, Our Big Sister. No disrespect to anyone... but us Johnson's siblings had two Mamas that were good-looking... our birth Mamas. And Emma. And like the song "Summertime" says... fish were jumping. And the cotton was high. And just for a moment in time... our sister Emma was a gift to all of us who made living life easy. For that, we are eternally grateful. We will always remember that smile, and no one will ever forget that warm, slow, molasses voice. **On behalf of Albert Johnson Clan... we thank you, Emma... Our Big Sister!**

And... **Hush, hush, Little Baby, Don't you cry!**

Author: Margie Johnson-Hollins

Scholarship Overview

The **EJC Scholarship Program** awards financial assistance to graduating high school seniors and first-year college students who demonstrate:

- Academic achievement
- Community service
- Leadership potential
- Commitment to personal and professional growth

This scholarship is made possible through the **Angel of God Resource Center, Inc. (AOGRC)** and is **non-renewable**.

Scholarship Awards

A total of **eight (8)** scholarships will be awarded:

- 1 Award – **\$3,000**
- 1 Award – **\$2,000**
- 1 Award – **\$1,500**
- 1 Award – **\$1,000**
- 4 Awards – **\$500 each**



Scholarship Gala (Mandatory Attendance):

Friday, July 10, 2026



Award Distribution:

July 13–17, 2026

10810 S. Halsted Street, Chicago, IL

Application Deadline



Friday, May 15, 2026, by 5:00 PM (No Exceptions)

Submission Instructions

Submit completed applications with all required documents to:

Angel of God Resource Center, Inc.

Attn: EJC Scholarship Committee

Contact: **Cecilia Horn**

✉ cecilia.horn@aogrc.org

📍 10824 S. Halsted Street, Chicago, IL 60628

☎ 773-941-4691

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be a graduating high school senior OR first-year college student
- Plan to attend or currently attend a public college/university
- Demonstrate community involvement and leadership
- Submit all required documentation by the deadline
- Attend the Scholarship Gala (mandatory for award recipients)

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and scored based on:

- Completed application
- Academic transcript
- One letter of recommendation
- Community service involvement
- Essay and biographical statement

Incomplete applications will be penalized, and late applications passed the deadline will not be accepted.

APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: General Information (Typed Only)

- Full Name:

- Address:

- City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

- Phone Number:

- Email Address:

- Date of Birth:

- Gender: _____

Section 2: Education Information

High School Information

- School Name:

- Graduation Date:

- GPA:

College Information

- College/University:

- Intended Major:

Please type Section 3, Section 4 and Section 5 on separate pages and title each.

Section 3: Community Service & Leadership

Please describe your community service experience, including:

- Organization(s) served
- Type of service
- Dates of involvement
- Leadership roles (if applicable)

Section 4: Essay Requirement

 **Essay Theme: "Investing in the Future: Celebrating Tomorrow's Leaders"**

In **500 words or less**, describe:

- Your personal journey and challenges
- Your educational and career goals
- How you plan to make an impact in your community

Section 5: Biographical Profile (250 Words Max)

Please respond to the following:

- How did you learn about the EJC Scholarship?
- Why is higher education important to you?
- What college and major have you chosen?
- What are your career goals?
- Who has influenced your journey most?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- Describe any adversity you have overcome

Required Documents Checklist

- ✓ Completed Application
- ✓ Essay (500 words max)
- ✓ Biographical Profile (250 words max)
- ✓ Most Recent Transcript
- ✓ One Letter of Recommendation
(*No family member recommendations accepted*)

Applicant Certification

I certify that all information provided is accurate and complete.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Important Notes

- Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Gala
- Attendance is required to receive the award
- Guest tickets: **\$50 per person**
- Only recipients may pick up their award (valid ID required)

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