

Giving for Learning.

Scholarship Funds at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation



Grand Rapids

community foundation

For good. For ever.

Your dreams, your name, your standards for achievement are acknowledged with a scholarship fund that the Community Foundation manages for you.

Most parents and students agree a post-secondary education is a sound investment. Business, economic and community leaders acknowledge that college or vocational training is necessary for young people to compete in the global knowledge economy. For families whose incomes preclude such an investment, you can help bright and ambitious students achieve the dream of higher education with a scholarship through the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

Our History with Scholarships

Since 1945 when the Community Foundation established a fund to help provide postgraduate education to nurses at area hospitals, we have been growing the number and types of scholarships available to students. Today, the Foundation awards over half a million dollars each year.

A Flexible and Exciting Way to Help

Your scholarship fund can help a student realize a college education and the lifelong benefits that higher education brings. When establishing a scholarship fund you can choose the name of the fund—it can honor you, your family or a loved one. You may choose the major or field of study, the county the recipient resides in, a specific college, an academic standard or status as a non-traditional student—someone with a lower grade point average or an adult returning to college. You can determine the dollar amount that you wish to award each year and the Community Foundation will calculate the amount needed for the endowment.

The list below illustrates the diversity and uniqueness of several Grand Rapids Community Foundation scholarships.

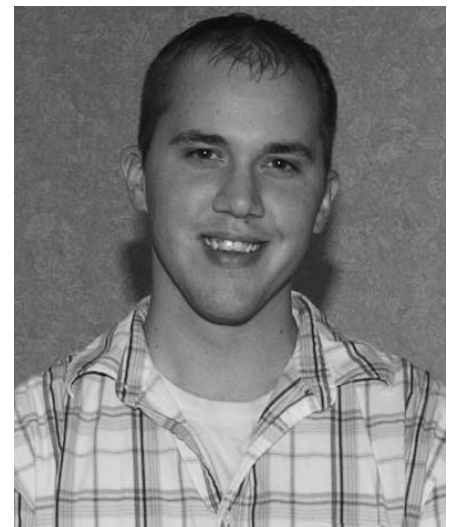
- ***Joshua Esch Mitchell Aviation Scholarship***—designed to help students pursue studies in the field of general aviation, professional pilot, flight engineer or airway science at an accredited college or university.
- ***Patricia P. and Armen G. Oumedian Scholarship Fund***—for students of Kent, Muskegon or Ottawa counties to pursue studies in the field of engineering at Kettering University.
- ***Dorothy J. Thurston Scholarship Fund***—for full or part-time students pursuing graduate level study at an accredited college or university of their choice in Michigan.
- ***Walter C. Winchester Scholarship Fund***—for students graduating from a Grand Rapids Public Schools high school and pursuing an undergraduate degree at an accredited college or university of their choice.
- ***Elmo Wierenga Ottawa Hills Alumni Scholarship***—donor Jack Clifford honored his high school principal, mentor and friend Elmo Wierenga with a scholarship fund in his name. Each year Ottawa Hills alumni and friends support the fund with additional gifts.

Creating a Scholarship Fund is Easy!

Your fund begins with a gift of at least \$50,000 to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation—it can be in cash, appreciated stock, real estate or any of a number of other assets.

With Community Foundation assistance, you determine the name of the fund, the selection criteria for the scholarship and the amount you wish students to receive with each award.

You receive a tax benefit in the year you establish the fund and for subsequent gifts you might make to the fund.



Ben Saxbee, a Patricia P. and Armen G. Oumedian Scholarship recipient

Giving for Learning—Scholarship Fund Opportunities



Dorothy Thurston



Don DeYoung



Dr. Patricia Newby



Roger and Jakki Vander Laan

Partnering with the Grand Rapids Community Foundation

- Scholarship funds at the Community Foundation are endowed and therefore are perpetual—students will benefit from your generous gift for many generations.
- The Grand Rapids Community Foundation’s staff will help you establish the eligibility requirements and will recruit the selection committee for your scholarship. You, a family member or trusted advisor may also serve on the committee. However, related parties cannot comprise the majority of the committee. Whoever serves on the selection committee will help ensure that your intentions are carried out in perpetuity.
- The Community Foundation staff, Board of Trustees and Investment Review Committee provide legal administration and oversight ensuring that your fund will be managed effectively, grow over time and meet required reporting and regulatory requirements.
- Administrative fees are one to two percent of the market value of the fund, depending on the complexity of the scholarship. An additional fee is assessed for money management.

More Worthy Students than Scholarship Funds Available

In the last few years, we have seen an increased need for scholarships in the fields of business, law and social sciences, healthcare and science. Each year the total need exceeds the number of available awards.

In a typical year, only 50 percent of those who apply receive scholarships.

“My goals are large and the hurdles to achieve them are great, but I have the determination and the desire to do all I can to reach them. Being awarded a scholarship only pushes me harder because I am not fighting the battle alone, but with the support of family, friends and now the legacy of your family.”

— Joshua
Jack Family Scholarship

Student Recipients Say Thanks

“The scholarship is much more than money—it is a gift of time. It allows me to spend extra time collaborating with other students, working with professors on projects and mentoring students in an elementary classroom. The scholarship makes a difference in my life and allows me to make a difference in many other people’s lives.”

—Andrew

Virginia Valk Fehsenfeld Scholarship

“I believe that expressing my gratitude in words is not enough. Therefore I would like to thank you through my dedication and commitment to my education, at the completion of which will I be able to practice the same generosity that you are modeling by caring for my patients passionately.”

—Mien

Dorothy J. Thurston Graduate Scholarship

“With the scholarship you provided I have been able to and will continue to attend U of M. Most importantly, I have been able to transform my undergraduate education into the experience of a lifetime.”

—Devon

Meijer Family Educational Scholarship

Scholarship Facts at a Glance (2009-2010)

- 539 scholarships awarded, totaling \$574,275 from 68 funds.
- Graduating high school seniors received 26 percent of Grand Rapids Community Foundation's scholarships; undergraduates received 64 percent; graduate students received 9 percent.
- Awards to diverse populations represented 27 percent of Community Foundation scholarships. This includes African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American and multi racial students.
- Students attending Michigan colleges received 91 percent of all awards.



First Row: Lavina Liable, Joshua Esch Mitchell, Black Men Building Resources
 Second Row: Armen and Patricia Oumedian, Odilia Garcia, Joe Gallagher, William Jack
 Third Row: Mildred Troske, Susie Jang, Elizabeth Harvey, Virginia Valk Fehsenfeld
 Forth Row: Mathilda Gallmeyer, Noyes Avery, Jr. and Ann Avery, Keith VanderHyde, Lewellyn Cayvan.

Top Schools that Grand Rapids Community Foundation scholars attend are:

- Grand Valley State University
- Michigan State University
- University of Michigan
- Grand Rapids Community College
- Calvin College
- Davenport University
- Cornerstone University
- Central Michigan University
- Western Michigan University
- Aquinas College
- Ferris State University
- Kettering University
- Kendall College of Art and Design

For more information, contact Grand Rapids Community Foundation

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