



**PRESS RELEASE (September 26, 2022)
Rebuilding Their Future Foundation, Inc.
Notice of Inaugural Scholarship Awards**

The Board of Directors of the Rebuilding Their Future Foundation (RTFF) announced that they have awarded inaugural RTFF scholarships to Larkin Garden of Weaverville, NC and Frank Fouts VI of Bourbonnais, IL (photos and bio sketches of the scholarship award winners follow below). The value of each scholarship is \$2,500. RTFF Board President Michael Trevits said “that the Board is pleased to make the first RTFF scholarship awards to both Larkin and Frank and wished them success in their scholastic endeavors.”

The nonprofit Rebuilding Their Future Foundation (RTFF) was established in 2018. The mission of the Foundation is to provide scholarships to surviving family members of mine rescue team members, fire fighters, or other emergency first responders who perished or became severely disabled and are unable to execute their job duties. The Board of Directors believe that providing opportunities to reach an educational goal could change the future of a family or family members recovering from the devastating loss or disabling injury of a loved one who was working to save the lives of others. Our focus is to award scholarships for all levels of secondary and post-secondary education to individuals with the desire and intention to earn a high school diploma, complete an approved program of vocational education or training, or acquire a degree from an approved four-year college or university. More information about the Foundation can be found at their website: rebuildingtheirfuturefoundationinc.org

2022 RTFF Scholarship Award Winners



Larkin Garden is a 2022 graduate of The Martin L. Nesbitt, Jr. Discovery Academy in Ashville, NC near her hometown of Weaverville, NC. Larkin excelled in school while engaging in a rigorous science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum, working part time, and participating in many volunteer activities in her community. Notable among her many accomplishments to date is Larkin’s development of a successful on-line small business to design, make, photograph, and sell high-end dresses and other garments. While her business employs her creative and artistic skills, Larkin is inspired and motivated by her love of nature and the outdoors. After her father, a former firefighter, was recently disabled by a life-threatening medical condition, Larkin has also assumed additional family-related

responsibilities. Larkin will attend Catawba College where she intends to take courses related to environmental science in anticipation of developing an outdoor career requiring hands-on research.



Frank Fouts VI (a.k.a. “Grant”) of Bourbonnais, IL has been guided by the examples of dedication, industry, and sacrifice maintained by his parents. His fireman father suffered a line-of-duty death in 2010. His mother is a nurse who then had work long hours while raising Frank and a younger sibling with a disability as a single parent. Frank has done exceedingly well academically, athletically, and socially in high school maintaining a high grade point average, competing at the conference level in basketball and state level in both track and cross-country, and serving as his class president for three consecutive years. Frank’s inherited passion to serve others has been exhibited through his past volunteer assistance for youth sports camps and his desire to pursue a career in a medical-related field. To that end, he has enrolled at the University of Iowa beginning in fall semester of 2022 to major in biology with a possible minor in business.