



**PRESS RELEASE (August 14, 2023)**  
**Rebuilding Their Future Foundation, Inc.**  
**Notice of 2023 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 Caitlyn McGhee of Methuen MA (photos and bio sketches of the scholarship award winners follow below). The value of each scholarship is \$2,000. RTFF Board President Michael Trevits said that the RTFF Board is “pleased to make RTFF scholarship awards to both Larkin (her second RTFF scholarship award) and Caitlyn and wish them success.” He also said that the “Foundation Board is thankful for the receipt of donations to the scholarship fund.”

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](http://rebuildingtheirfuturefoundationinc.org)

**2023 RTFF Scholarship Award Winners**



**Larkin Garden** is a 2022 graduate of the 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 attends Catawba College where she is enrolled in courses related to environmental science in anticipation of developing an outdoor career requiring hands-on research.



**Caitlyn McGhee** is a 2023 graduate of Methuen High School in Methuen, Massachusetts, where she excelled academically and was accepted into the Early College Program through Northern Essex Community College during her junior year. She completed 27 college credits prior to graduating. Caitlyn was also actively involved with extracurricular activities both at the high school and in her community. She began participation on the wrestling team in her freshman year and is the first female Methuen student to make it to the state competition and won first place in her weight class at the Phillips Academy Girls Wrestling Tournament in January 2022. Caitlyn volunteers for the local animal shelter and works at the YMCA as an assistant preschool teacher for the early education and care program. In 2012 her father, a now retired EMT and firefighter, was injured and permanently disabled during a line of duty trauma-response call. Her father's example of public service and perseverance through adversity has inspired Caitlyn to serve others and make a difference in her community. She is attending Southern New Hampshire University to study early childhood and special education with the objective of helping to shape the lives of future generations as a kindergarten teacher.