

SKYE'S THE LIMIT! FOUNDATION



August 11, 2020

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I cannot believe we are already in the middle of August. What a strange year it has been! But this time of social distancing and paused in-person programming has not slowed us down. In fact, it's been quite the opposite, and I am excited to share all that Skye's the Limit Foundation has accomplished so far this year. We have built new partnerships, submitted 12 grant proposals, and been awarded three grants. (We are hopeful the others will also be awarded soon!)



As you probably know, Skye's the Limit Foundation was founded to honor the life and legacy of, Skye Gina Pilato, whose 2014 trauma-related passing at the age of 19 inspires us to compassionately care for disadvantaged youth who have experienced traumatic events. In celebration of Skye's birthday, we held our annual "Get your heART on!" event on March 7th this year. It was so encouraging to see people from across the country creating masterpieces and sharing their creativity on this day.

At the end of April, thanks to a grant we received from the Arizona Community Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund, people from across the country joined us once again for a free, week-long webinar series entitled "Trauma-Informed Community, A Call for Action". This series was well-attended and explored what we as a community can do to be better informed and prepared to help those living with trauma. Then in July, through the generous support of the Arizona Community Foundation and The Signatry Mariner Foundation Fund, Skye's the Limit Foundation sponsored 42 non-clinical care professionals to attend the Arizona Trauma Institute's two-day, virtual Certified Trauma Support Specialist training and certification. Here's what one attendee had to say:

I work for Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (C.A.S.A.) as the Fostering Future Youth Program Supervisor and a Guardian ad Litem. I would like to say thank you, thank you, thank you, for allowing me (and my co-workers) the opportunity to participate in this very insightful and informative training. I gained a higher level of understanding when dealing with people who have experienced trauma, and I learned effective ways to maintain my own emotional and mental wellness. I would recommend this training to EVERYONE because of the valuable skills you gain that can be applied in both your professional and personal lives."

Lastly, Skye's the Limit Foundation was thrilled to award our first round of "Follow Skye's Dream Nursing Scholarships". This nationwide scholarship program is designed to encourage and support aspiring nurses who are dedicated to helping others overcome their illnesses, challenges, and adversities. Each of the following students received a \$500 scholarship to help with the cost of books and supplies:

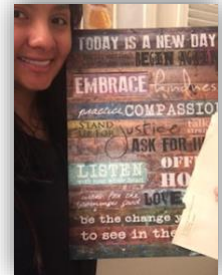
Sarah McClintic (right) of State College, PA

"Thank you so much to the Skye's the Limit Foundation for awarding me with the Follow Skye's Dream Scholarship! I truly appreciate this scholarship and it will be a great help towards this year's textbooks and nursing supplies. What you are doing to honor Skye's life and legacy is phenomenal and is already making such a difference. Thank you again for this opportunity, it means so much to me and my family. I am so passionate about trauma-informed care and hope to teach my patients about risk factors and long-lasting effects of trauma one day in order to prevent it from happening to other kids. Let's continue to help empower our youth!"



Cendy Coronado (left) of Phoenix, AZ

"I wanted to say thank you so much for the award you gave me. My family and I appreciate your help from the bottom of our hearts. I left my job to focus more on my nursing career, so this award will really help me buy the books for the nursing program."

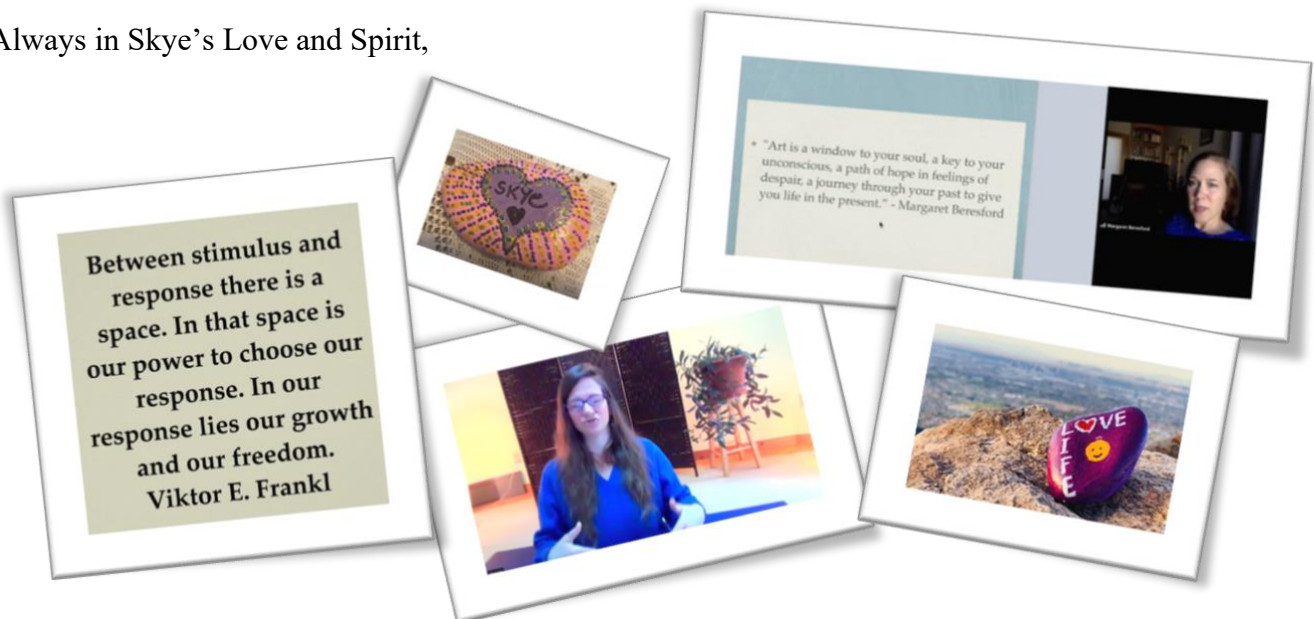


Utanaah (right) of Chandler, AZ

"Thank you so much! I was filled with hopefulness and gratitude."

If you would like to financially support our second round of "Follow Skye's Dream Nursing Scholarship", please visit our website at skiesthelimit.org. If you are interested in sitting on our scholarship committee in 2021, please email me at keiko@skiesthelimit.org. We cannot wait to see what the rest of 2020 holds! Thank you for having faith in our mission and spreading your wings and flying with us!

Always in Skye's Love and Spirit,



Screen shot images from our week-long "Trauma-Informed Community, A Call for Action" webinar series: **Right:** Margaret Beresford (Founder of Free Arts for Abused Children of Arizona) capturing the "INTERSECTION OF TRAUMA, MINDFULNESS AND ART THERAPY"; **Left:** Kerri Zelman (Founder of Roaring Run Studio of State College, PA) presenting: "BREATHING FOR RESILIENCE" including a quote from Viktor E. Frankl; "Get your heART on!" rock paintings: "Skye" by Katrina Benson Frederick, MD and "Love Life" by Quinten Brooks.