

Philipsburg Area Education Foundation (PAEF) was founded on December 7, 1999 by charter board members to provide and expand education opportunities for the residents of Granite County. Since its inception, PAEF has awarded over \$480,000 in scholarships and grants through direct donations and interest earned on our endowment fund. Our donor list continues to grow, providing a variety of scholarships, grants and awards to Granite County residents from the 4th grade through adulthood. We greatly appreciate every contribution, and thank you for your confidence in us to administer all donations.

2025: Year in Review

The PAEF gave out awards over \$62,000 in 2024, a sincere thank you is extended to all our donors across this country for their generous support of the community and our students!

In August, the PAEF held its annual fundraiser at the Philipsburg Rotary Club’s Annual Music Concert at Winninghoff Park in Philipsburg. By selling fry bread tacos, PAEF raised around \$3000 for our programs. Thanks to all those who volunteered and supported this fundraiser which is emerging as an annual event.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS – WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



PAEF’s continued mission focuses on assisting local students, helping them succeed in life with a quality education. Annually, we highlight a graduate of a high school in the County, who has received scholarship assistance through PAEF. We proudly highlight, Kade Cutler, a 2021 graduate of Granite High School. Kade is the son of Mike and Jody Cutler. Kade Cutler is currently attending the University of Montana and is playing safety for the Montana Grizzlies football team. He is a sophomore eligibility-wise. Kade is a tough-nosed football player, but also a great mentor and friend to his younger peers. He plans to attend law school after graduation with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Montana. We wish him well in athletics, schooling and his future career.



Kade Cutler #30, Montana Grizzlies Football (2024)
#3, Flint Creek Titans (2018)

PAEF BOARD of DIRECTORS MEMBERS EXPAND

Our Board of Directors are community volunteers, all of which have jobs, families and community responsibilities. We share the chores required by every organization: communications, finance and taxes, fundraisers, and working to make our county a great place to live and raise children. No one who participates in the governance of PAEF receives remuneration of any kind, but many THANKS are given! This year, we expanded to ten members as we strive to represent all of Granite County and Helmsville, a feeder school into our school district. Some of our newest members are highlighted here.



Joining our Board of Directors in 2023, one of our tireless volunteers is Mrs. Holly Graybeal. Mrs. Graybeal is currently a teacher in the Drummond Elementary School. She previously taught in Philipsburg Elementary School. She lives in the Drummond area with her supportive husband, Brett, and their three energetic and fun-loving boys. Holly graduated from Drummond High School and enjoys giving back to the community. Mrs. Graybeal is a friend to all students and has a very positive teaching style. The young students in our County have been and will continue to be nurtured by this fantastic teacher. Holly makes presentations to middle and high school students about PAEF opportunities for writing contests and scholarships. Thank you for your dedicated service to our community!

Mrs. Holly Graybeal & her boys

Also joining our Board of Directors in 2023, Mrs. Janet Hauptman, who was raised on a ranch outside of Miles City and boarded out to attend a one-room school. She graduated from Montana State University and has served as teacher for 37 years. She lives near Drummond and “retired” from Drummond Elementary School, but retirement didn’t last long as she currently teaches at Hall School. As a beloved educator, Janet serves as the PAEF Grade School Coordinator encouraging students to write for our 4th through 6th grade writing contests. She’s a treasure!

Mrs. Janet Hauptman



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sabrina Shows
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Ms. Audrey Radtke is a new PAEF Board member, joining us just in time to work at our annual fundraiser selling tacos. Ms. Radtke graduated from Granite High School in 2020. She is the daughter of Jo and Brad Radtke of Drummond, Montana. She graduated from the University of Montana in music education and was recently hired as the music teacher (choir and band) at Granite High School, her alma mater. Various schools recruited her to teach and the community is excited to have her teaching here—the music program at Granite High is in good hands! The PAEF Board is also excited about her being a new member as she will be a tremendous asset.

Ms. Audrey Radtke

Our newest Board member is Ms. Sabina Shows who lives in Helmsville where she was raised on a ranch by her parents, “Tater” and Debbie Shows. Sabrina graduated from Drummond High School, and then received her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education at Rocky Mountain College and a master’s degree from Montana State University Billings. She has taught for four years and is the Special Ed teacher at Drummond for grades K-12. Sabrina, along with her Special Ed team, was awarded the Special Education Teacher and Para Team of the year for Region IV in March 2024. PAEF welcomes Sabrina as we expand our Board to represent all of Granite County and Helmsville, a feeder school into our school system.



Ms. Sabina Shows

LEGACY GIVING—PHILIPSBURG AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

PAEF is looking to secure educational scholarships for Granite County for the long-haul. Our endowment fund has been administered by the Montana Community Foundation (MCF) since 2004. Each year, we are able to give several thousand dollars in scholarships for vocational training and college based upon a 4-5% interest distribution on the endowment. Investment into our endowment enables donors to invest funds now for scholarships to use in perpetuity – a lasting legacy of contribution. With an investment of \$25,000, PAEF can then guarantee a \$1,000 scholarship shall be awarded in perpetuity. This investment can be made over a period of time, allowing donors to investigate and take advantage of The Montana Charitable Endowment Tax Credit through 2025. Planned or outright gifts allow a tax credit to be taken against Montana state income tax from 20% to 40% depending on the type of gift up to \$10,000 per year per individual taxpayer. This tax credit for endowed philanthropy was designed to encourage broader charitable giving to qualified endowments, such as PAEF. For more information, see: www.mtnonprofit.org/endow-montana/about-endow-montana/

Currently, our endowment value is over \$200,000 ensuring program viability for many years to come. We endeavor to increase our endowment fund so we may offer educational scholarships long into the future. Our goal is to add \$2000 each year to the endowment through fundraisers and small donations accumulated throughout the year.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



In 2019, Flint Creek Childcare (FCC) came to our County as a result of the Philipsburg Rotary Club fundraising and organization efforts. We welcomed Executive Director Mary Hager with open arms as she opened a facility in Philipsburg and recruited professionals to provide the crucial service of caring for our youngest members of the community. FCC has expanded to Drummond and is now providing childcare and early education services for dozens of families. In 2023, FCC wrote a grant to include a scholarship for students pursuing education and training in childcare, early childhood development or education. Starting in 2024, we awarded the first \$500 scholarship and will continue through 2028, thereby educating professionals for the future. Thank you for partnering with PAEF to provide educational opportunity for Granite County residents!

Mary Hager, Executive Director

WRITING CONTESTS

Each year, PAEF facilitates 4th through 10th grade writing contests. Each winner receives a monetary award. For elementary contests, our PAEF Grade School Coordinator works with teachers to help students write essays and enter competition with others in their grade level. Grade school contests are sponsored by Flint Creek Free & Ancient Masons Lodge 11. All four elementary schools are invited to participate and awards are made by grade level. Their topics are community, patriotism and philanthropy. At the middle school level, students are invited to write essays about the benefits of living in a rural community. This contest is sponsored by the Keith and Ken Graybeal Family. The 9/10th grades compare and contrast vocational and traditional education with emphasis on a particular industry. This contest is sponsored by Blackfoot Communications and PAEF Board of Directors. All contest criteria are evaluated in accordance with Montana Standards for Language Arts at grade levels. Participation is voluntary for teachers to include in their regular class activities. If teachers choose not to participate, students are welcome to compete on their own by sending their essay to PAEF directly. Information and forms are available on our website at paefmt.com.



7th Grade Winner, Tristan Graybeal with teacher, Mrs. Jodi Oberweiser

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2024 Writing Contest Award Recipients:

4th Grade Contest – What is Community?

Audelynn Heinz, Philipsburg
Aida Ladd, Philipsburg
Jersi Kruger, Drummond
Jayden Weaver, Drummond
Calvyn Cleaveland, Hall
June Dunkerson, Hall

5th Grade Contest – What is Patriotism?

Andrea Buche, Drummond
Presley Legg, Drummond

6th Grade Contest – What is Philanthropy?

Taylee Johnson, Drummond
Gavin Bryant, Drummond
Piper Funkhouser, Philipsburg

7/8th Grade Contest

Tristan Graybeal, Drummond
Jayla Pfendler, Drummond
Ashleigh Seekell, Philipsburg

9/10th Grade Contest

Robin Walden, Philipsburg

2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Terese Buhr: \$500 Flint Creek Childcare Scholarship and \$2000 Statler Family Scholarship in Memory of Theo Statler

Holly Hauptman: \$1000 Granite County Medical Foundation

Megan Hicks: \$5000 Marletto Family Scholarship, \$3000 KPK Trust and \$500 Bales Good Samaritan Award

Susanna Kielley: \$1000 Tom Hood Leadership Scholarship

Lexi Nelson: \$1100 Munis Family Ranchers' Memorial Scholarship and \$5000 The Ranch at Rock Creek

Bailey Parke: \$500 Jon Manke Memorial Scholarship and \$500 Richard and Joyce Molteni Scholarship

Scott Parke: \$1000 PAEF Board of Directors Scholarship

Caden Patterson: \$5000 Marletto Family Scholarship and \$5000 The Ranch at Rock Creek

Elizabeth Perry: \$2500 Rose and Thomas Brogan Scholarship

Trey Phillips: \$500 Vern and Anne Steffan Scholarship, \$550 Ezra R. Gentry Memorial Scholarship, \$2500 Russel B. Smith Memorial Scholarship and \$5000 The Ranch at Rock Creek

Kyla Reisenauer: \$500 Eik Family Scholarship and The Philipsburg Rotary Club Scholarship \$1500

Trevor Rouse: \$1100 Myrna and Ed Leipheimer Scholarship and \$1000 Commander Bernard J O'Rourke Scholarship

Mia Sowders: \$500 Bales Good Samaritan Award

Jessie Struna: \$1500 Rose and Thomas Brogan Scholarship

Haddie Tallon: \$1000 Granite County Medical Foundation

Kadance Watkins: \$500 Granite Alumni Scholarship, \$500 David M. Rouse Memorial Scholarship, \$1500 The Philipsburg Rotary Scholarship and \$5000 The Ranch at Rock Creek

Laterio White: \$500 Jon Manke Memorial Scholarship

HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

Marletto Family Trust	Sue & Leonard (Pinky) Eik	Jon Statler	Betty Munis
Tom & Barbara Hood	KPK Trust	Myrna & Ed Leipheimer	Carol Billadeau
Spencer & Sue Huffman	Helen & David Rouse	Bill & Dawn Dee	Patrick & Renee Cloney
Brooke Billadeau Miller	Charlene Bucha	Mannix Brothers Ranch	Dr. Thomas Bales
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Philipsburg Rotary Club	John Spaeth	Eric & Bonnie Sue Nord	Charles Johnson
Sue Sweeney	John & Theresa Gentry	John & Kathleen McBride	Eric and Sue Nord
Bonita Smith	Susan McGraw	Rachael Hohl	Patricia McDonald
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Granite County Medical Foundation		Granite County Medical Center	
Flint Creek Childcare		The Ranch at Rock Creek	
Blackfoot Telecommunications		Helmville School District	
Flint Creek Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Lodge #11			

Donations made after October 1 will be reflected in the next year's newsletter. Please forgive any omissions.

Expected 2025 Scholarships and Writing Contests

All Granite County residents are eligible to apply for scholarships each year through an application process. Generally, a scholarship committee assesses the applications and then funds are awarded based on established criteria. Some essays are evaluated by the donor and then PAEF facilitates the award. Some awards are made based on financial need; some are based on career interests, and all consider good character and potential for academic success. Residents can download application forms or check with high school counselors for forms. Please note some scholarships are for Granite COUNTY students and some are for Granite HIGH SCHOOL students. Some scholarships give preference to a certain type of training. Some scholarships are for all Granite County residents or students; some are for current graduates only. Visit www.paefmt.com for applications and requirements. **Do not use an old application form. Check the date on the top of the application! Scholarships may be added, changed or deleted throughout the year. Current year application will be available February 1.**

Commander Bernard J. O'Rourke Scholarship: \$1000 for a current-year graduate of Granite High School to engage in post-secondary education. Applicants should read Commander O'Rourke's biography at PAEFMT.com. An extra essay is required for this scholarship – it should state how the Commander's life and achievements influences your life goals and career choices.

David M. Rouse Memorial Scholarship: \$500 for a Granite High School graduate (current or past) to engage in post-secondary education with preference given to a current-year graduate.

Eik Family Scholarship: a \$500 scholarship for a Granite County student to engage in post-secondary education with preference given to current seniors pursuing vocational training.

Ezra R. Gentry Memorial Scholarship: \$500 scholarship for a graduate from Granite High School, current year or within two years of graduation, with preference for those pursuing trades or vocational training, OR union apprenticeship whereby funds will be awarded for tools and equipment. Applicants must submit a letter of interest along with two letters of recommendation in addition to the regular PAEF application. Financial need is a contributing factor.

Flint Creek Childcare Scholarship: a \$500 scholarship will be awarded for a Granite County student pursuing early childhood development, primary education or childcare.

Granite High School Alumni Scholarship: \$500 for a Granite High School graduate (current or past) to engage in post-secondary education with preference given to a current-year graduate.

Granite County Medical Foundation Scholarships: two \$1000 scholarships for returning college students in healthcare – must be 2nd year or greater – one for upper valley and one for lower valley residents.

Jon Manke Memorial Scholarships: two \$500 scholarships – one for Drummond High School and one for Granite High School – for graduates majoring in the healthcare field; preference given to nursing students.

KPK Trust: \$3000 for a Granite County graduate to pursue studies at a Montana 2 to 4-year university or college. A separate application and 1000+ word essay is required for this scholarship. Application requirements and essay criteria are provided on the PAEF website. The KPK Trust Scholarship application and essay is evaluated by a donor-related process. PAEF collects the applications, but this application is separate from the PAEF Scholarship process. All applications are forwarded to the KPK Trust representative for evaluation. The essay topic is to tell about yourself and plans for your future. Applicants must have 3.5 or better GPA to apply. See application criteria on the PAEF website.

Leipheimer Scholarship: \$1000 scholarship for a Granite High School graduate (current or past) to engage in post-secondary education with preference given to students pursuing vocational training.

Marletto Family Scholarship: up to two scholarships (\$5000 or more) for Granite County students to engage in post-secondary education. Financial need is a primary criterion. Preference is given to a current year graduate. Proof of financial need is required.

Molteni Scholarship: \$500 scholarship for a Granite County student preparing for a career in healthcare.

Munis Family Scholarship: \$500 to \$1000 scholarship for a Granite County resident to engage in post-secondary education or training with preference given to a student pursuing a career in agriculture.

PAEF Board of Director's Scholarship: at least \$1000 for a Granite County resident to engage in post-secondary education or training. Character and academic potential are primary criteria.

Philpsburg Rotary Scholarship: one or two scholarships for Granite County residents for a total of \$3000. The contest is open to all residents (high school student or adult) in Granite County, including 11th graders, current graduating seniors, returning college students, adults pursuing training for the first time, or adults returning to school or training after being out of the school environment for a while. Preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate a quality of community service that meets the Rotary Standard of *Service Above Self*. This scholarship requires a special application process which can be found on our website – paefmt.com.

Ranch at Rock Creek: four \$5000 scholarships are provided – two for lower and two for upper Granite County current graduating seniors to pursue college or technical training. The scholarship requires a separate application which includes a letter of intent and two letters of recommendation in a separate envelope to be forwarded to the donor for evaluation. Students should mention any work experience (paid and voluntary), community service, and hopes for the future. Preference is given to students who do not necessarily meet criteria for financial aid. GPA is NOT a factor.

Rose and Thomas Brogan Scholarship: at least \$2500 for a Granite County student who has attended college for at least one year and is majoring in Business, Economics or Mathematics.

Statler Family Scholarship in Memory of Theo Statler: \$1000 for a Granite County graduate to engage in post-secondary education with preference given to a student pursuing a degree in fine or performing arts and/or the humanities.

Tom Hood Leadership Scholarship: at least \$1000 for a Granite County student to engage in post-secondary education or training. Character and academic potential are primary criteria. Preference will be given to returning students – those enrolled in 2nd year or more.

Vern and Anne Steffan Scholarship: \$500 for a current-year Granite County graduate and student athlete to engage in post-secondary education or training. This scholarship requires an additional short essay – describing a favorite sport memory from high school and how sports enhanced the high school experience.

Flint Creek Masonic Lodge No. 11, 4th Grade Writing Contest: four \$50 or more cash awards – one for each school area, Philipsburg, Hall, Helmville and Drummond. This essay topic is Community.

Flint Creek Masonic Lodge No. 11, 5th Grade Writing Contest: four \$50 or more cash awards – one for each school area, Philipsburg, Hall, Helmville and Drummond. This essay is 250 words and includes research.

Flint Creek Masonic Lodge No. 11, 6th Grade Writing Contest: four \$50 or more cash awards – one for each school area, Philipsburg, Hall, Helmville and Drummond. This essay is 250 words including research.

Keith and Ken Graybeal Memorial Scholarship: \$250 to \$500 scholarship contest for Granite County 7/8th graders requires 250–500-word essay based on benefits of living in a small town or rural community. This \$250 scholarship was originally funded by Lynn Christopherson, and then increased by members of the Graybeal family in memory of Keith and Ken Graybeal. This year, the amount is up to \$500 which may be given one student or split between students.

PAEF Essay Contest 9/10th grade: \$250 scholarship contest for Granite County 9/10th graders requires 500-word essay -- Topic varies each year – in the past, the topic was 1 or 2-year Technical Certification versus 4+-year University Degree. For the 9th and 10th grades, the criteria for this contest includes an essay with varying topics. The evaluation committee looks for a structured essay including an introduction with a three-part thesis, three paragraphs of supporting details, and a conclusion. Furthermore, the evaluation committee looks for evidence that the applicant evaluated at least to aspects of a topic and made a claim for one over the other. The essay has to include statistics or data to support job evaluation. Awards are held in the PAEF endowment account until the student graduates and chooses a post-secondary training institution or college. All funds are awarded to training or academic institutions – no funds are given directly to students. This \$250 scholarship is funded by PAEF fundraising and a variety of donors throughout the year. Funds are provided for two awards – one for Drummond and one for Philipsburg.

Students and parents, please check out PAEF's website for forms and more information, www.paefmt.com.

ALWAYS SEEKING DONATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

If you would like to set up a donation for a one-time or recurring scholarship, please contact Sue Huffman at 406-214-1453 or talk to any PAEF Board member. For a one-time donation to our general scholarship fund, please submit with the form at the bottom of this page. Large and small, we put them all to good use. We PROMISE to be good stewards of your money!



DONATION SUBMISSIONS FORM

Make payable to: PAEF Treasurer. Mail to:
PAEF
P.O. Box 900
Philipsburg, MT 59858

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