

NEWSLETTER

Philipsburg Area Education Foundation (PAEF) was founded on December 7, 1999 by charter board members to provide and expand education opportunities to the residents of Granite County. Since its inception, PAEF has awarded over \$300,000 in scholarships and grants through direct donations and interest earned on our endowment fund. Our endowment value through the Montana Community Foundation is over \$120,000, ensuring program viability for many years to come. Our donor list continues to grow, providing a variety of scholarships, grants and awards to Granite County residents from the 5th grade through adulthood.

2020 in Review

PAEF awards scholarships each May at its Annual Scholarship Reception. Unfortunately, due to COVID 19 and restrictions, we were not able to hold our reception; rather, students and parents were notified of awards through good ol' snail mail – the US Post Office. These scholarship awards represent a year-long process and measures PAEF's progress in fulfilling its mission to support Granite County residents with expanded educational opportunities.

2020 Scholarship and Writing Contest Award Recipients:

- Kayla Holland: Will Wyatt Memorial Scholarship (\$500) and Bales Good Samaritan Award (\$500)
- Hailey Ansel: Bales Good Samaritan Award (\$500)
- Daniel Brabender: Will Wyatt Memorial Scholarship (\$500) and David M. Rouse Memorial Scholarship (\$500)
- Alexis Phillips: Marletto Family Scholarship (\$2500), Commander O'Rourke Scholarship (\$1000) and the John Manke Memorial Scholarship (\$250)
- Serenity O'Donnell: Marletto Family Scholarship (\$2500) and the John Manke Memorial Scholarship (\$250)
- Shiena Medrano: PAEF Board of Directors Scholarship (\$1000) and the KPK Trust Scholarship (\$3000)
- Scarlett Guilbert: Bohrsen Family Scholarship (\$1000)
- Audrey Radtke: Statler Family Scholarship in memory of Theo Statler (\$1000)
- Susanna Kielley: Philipsburg Mail Scholarship (\$1500)
- Haddie Talon: Leipheimer Family Scholarship (\$1000)
- Addison Schindler: Granite County Medical Foundation Scholarship (\$1000) and Molteni Scholarship (\$500)
- Kane Hess: Granite County Medical Foundation Scholarship (\$1000)
- Laterrio Kent: Eik Family Scholarship (\$1000)
- Luke Holland: Rose and Thomas Brogan Scholarship (\$2500)
- Clay Fulk: Tom Hood Leadership Scholarship (\$1000)
- Meghan Flannery: Philipsburg Rotary, Community Service Writing Contest (\$1500)
- Sara Kielley: Philipsburg Rotary, Community Service Writing Contest (\$1000)
- Hannah Bradshaw: Philipsburg Rotary, Community Service Writing Contest (\$500)
- Payton Rasor: 9/10th Grade Writing Contest (\$250)
- Annabelle Locke: 9/10th Grade Writing Contest (\$250)
- Logan Hauptman: 7/8th Grade Writing Contest (\$250)
- Robin Walden: 6th Grade Writing Contest (\$50)
- Nadja Bolotsky: 6th Grade Writing Contest (\$50)
- Grace Parret: 5th Grade Writing Contest (\$50)
- Skylar Dahl: 5th Grade Writing Contest (\$50)
- Mac Sigler: 5th Grade Writing Contest (\$50)

Philanthropy: Their gifts are not forgotten.

Sadly, our community lost three beloved benefactors during the last year. All three will be greatly missed. Mrs. Sharon Christensen ("Mrs. C.") of Philipsburg passed away in September 2020. We remember her great contribution to our community as an educator and friend, but specifically as a charter member of the Philipsburg Area Education Foundation. She served on our board for over 12 years, helping us to form our charitable organization and put us on solid ground for the future. She also gave many scholarships to students throughout her tenure with PAEF.

Mr. Norman Borhnsen of Philipsburg passed away in fall of 2019; and his daughter, Martha Borhnsen Brandon, asked for gifts be made to PAEF. With donations received, we were able to offer a one-time \$1000 scholarship in memory of Norman and Coreene Borhnsen, a ranching family with a long and rich history in Granite County.

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For several years, PAEF has administered the Commander Bernard J. O'Rourke Scholarship through annual donations from his wife, Rusty O'Rourke, and his son, Shawn O'Rourke. At the end of 2019, Rusty passed away and PAEF was the beneficiary of her life insurance policy. With this donation, we were able to increase our endowment fund so the \$1000 O'Rourke scholarship may be given in perpetuity.

Come on — be part of a great organization!

Our PAEF Board of Directors manages funds and activities throughout the year; and notably, they receive no money for their services. These are community members who believe their service and contributions of time and energy will improve the quality of our citizens' lives. If you have an interest in serving your community as a PAEF representative, please contact one of our board members.

The majority of our funds are generated through direct donations. Some are one-time gifts. Some are on-going scholarship funds. Some are in cash while others are in materials for fund-raising events. Donors have the opportunity to define how they want the money distributed for education – to specific scholarships, endowment increase, or to the general fund to be disbursed by the Board of Directors. On behalf of the many students who have used PAEF funds to further their education, we truly appreciate your contribution!

We give a heartfelt thank you to 2020 donors of funds and/or materials:

Marletto Family Trust	Sue & Leonard (Pinky) Eik	Shawn O'Rourke	Kris Kerpa
Tom & Barbara Hood	Boeing Foundation	Rusty O'Rourke	Thomas Mullin
Vicki Burgmeier	KPK Trust	Chuck & Shelly Johnson	Jennifer Aleksich
Fred Lurie	Sandy & Fred McDonald	Myrna Leipheimer	Jon Statler
Sara Rouse	Spencer & Sue Huffman	Sheri & John Singer	Ashley Metesh-McCoy
Randy & Maureen Mannix	Brent & Stacey Mannix	Carol Billadeau	Brooke Billadeau Miller
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Dr. Rich and Joyce Molteni	Chuck & Heidi Hinkle	Carl & Kayla Sanders	Keith Baxter
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Ruby & Doug Kikkert	Kris Kerpa	Patricia McDonald	Pat Dent
Karen & Pete DesRosier	Bill & Marlene Wyatt	Crista Beattie	Gilbert Burdett
Shelagh More	Sarah & Michael Gallagher	Philipsburg Rotary Club	Betty Munis
Ink Realty Group	Nikki Graybeal	Ian & Linda Wallis	Helen & David Rouse
Blackfoot Telecommunications		Granite County Medical Foundation	
Mark Drake & Audrey Zahn		Granite County Medical Center	
Rose & Thomas Brogan Family		Cathy & Nolan Smith, Philipsburg Brewery	
Ed Brunsvold & Peggy Schlesinger		Flint Creek Free Masons Lodge #11	

Donations made after October 31 will be reflected in the next year's donations and newsletter. Please forgive any omissions: email sue.huffman1@gmail.com for corrections.

Scholarships and Writing Contests

All Granite County residents are eligible to apply for scholarships each year through an application process. A scholarship committee assesses the applications and then funds are awarded based on established criteria. 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. Visit www.paefmt.com for applications and requirements. **Check the date on the top of the application!**

Marletto Family Scholarship: up to two scholarships (\$5000 in total) 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 essay – describing a favorite sport memory from high school and how sports enhanced the high school experience.

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.

Eik Family Scholarship: a \$1000 scholarship for a Granite County student to engage in post-secondary education with preference given to current seniors pursuing vocational training.

Jon Manke Memorial Scholarships: two \$250 scholarships – one for Drummond High School and one for Granite High School – for graduates majoring in the healthcare field; preference given to nursing students. And four \$500 scholarships for returning college students in healthcare – must be 2nd year or greater – two for upper valley and two for lower valley residents.

Will Wyatt Memorial Scholarships: two \$500 scholarships – one male and one female graduating senior from Granite High School engaging in post-secondary education or training.

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

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

Philipsburg Mail Scholarship: \$1500 for a Granite County graduate to engage in post-secondary education with preference given to a student pursuing a training or a degree in agriculture.

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.

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.

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 are required for this scholarship. Application requirements and essay criteria are provided on the PAEF website.

Flint Creek Masonic Lodge No. 11, 5th Grade Writing Contest: up to three \$50 cash awards – one for each school area, Philipsburg, Hall and Drummond. This essay is 250 words about patriotism: research and report.

Flint Creek Masonic Lodge No. 11, 6th Grade Writing Contest: up to three \$50 cash awards – one for each school area, Philipsburg, Hall and Drummond. This essay is 250 words about a philanthropic organization: research and report.

Keith and Ken Graybeal Memorial Scholarship: \$250 scholarship contest for Granite County 7/8th graders requires 250-500 word essay based on benefits of living in a small town.

PAEF Essay Contest 9/10th grade: \$250 scholarship contest for Granite County 9/10th graders requires 500 word essay -- 1 or 2-year Technical Certification versus 4+-year University Degree.

Philipsburg Rotary Scholarship and Essay Contest 11th grade through adult: \$1500 to \$3000 scholarship contest for Granite County residents requires a 20-hour community service project and 500 word essay based on benefits of community service. \$1500 is available for High School and \$1500 for an adult pursuing additional training or education.

Bales Family Good Samaritan Awards: two monetary awards for students who demonstrate

characteristics of a Good Samaritan in school -- one for Drummond High School and one for Granite High School. Candidates shall be selected by school staff and then voted on by the senior class at each school.

A few things you should know about Scholarship Applications and Writing Contests

Forms, descriptions, and procedures are available on our website – www.paefmt.com. The most current offerings and information will be available February 1, 2021. Applications can be hand-delivered to any PAEF Board member or mailed to PAEF with postmark of the deadline date. There are two evaluation committees, each with a minimum of five members representing various parts of our community, who will determine how PAEF funds will be awarded. Criteria for application and award are specific to each scholarship and contest.

The Scholarship Evaluation Committee is chaired by Sandy McDonald. She is responsible for collecting application packets and preparing them for evaluation in accordance with PAEF policy and donor-defined criteria. Every packet must include a completed application form, transcripts, EFC page of FAFSA report, three letters of recommendation and one or more essays depending on the scholarship criteria. Scholarship applicants must demonstrate writing skills and an essay structure as defined by Montana Standards for English and Language Arts for 12th grade. Additionally, students are assessed for character and potential to succeed at the next level of study, based on grade point averages, school achievements, and educators' and employers recommendations. Some scholarships require evidence of financial need. Some scholarships require more than one essay; specifically, the Commander Bernard J. O'Rourke Scholarship and the Vern and Anne Steffan Scholarship. See the Scholarship Application for directions for submission.

Students in their second year of college or training must submit new transcripts and letters of recommendation to show growth throughout the first year of post-secondary studies. Good examples of letters of recommendation are ones from employers or post-secondary instructors. Adults are encouraged to apply, but they must also submit proof of continuing education. Proof could include acceptance letters from training institutions where the applicant plans to attend. Funds are sent directly to institutions of learning, not to students, and are applied to tuition, books and fees.

The KPK Trust Scholarship application and 1000+ word 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. This \$3000 scholarship will be available for approximately five more years.

The Writing Contest Evaluation Committee is chaired by Sue Huffman. She is responsible for collecting applications and essays, and then preparing them for evaluation. Any resident may apply for the appropriate age-level contest regardless of whether the contest is offered in school or not. Schools are asked to send three or four of the best applicants for each age level. For writing contests, the applicants' names are removed from the essays, so they may be judged on writing abilities rather than character. Applicants must demonstrate writing skills and an essay structure as defined by Montana Standards for English and Language Arts for particular grade levels. For the community service project, evaluators look at the quality of service hours – assessing the volunteer activities were meaningful and beneficial to the community.

For the 5th grade, the topic is **patriotism**. The evaluation committee looks for a structured essay with focus on the writer's opinion of a patriotic topic. This \$50 contest is sponsored by Flint Creek Ancient and Free Masons Lodge No. 11. There will be a \$50 cash award available for winners from each grade school in Granite County.

For the 6th grade, the topic is **philanthropy**: organizations who give. The evaluation committee looks for a structured essay with focus on one particular philanthropic organization. Last year, this \$50 contest was sponsored by Blackfoot Telecommunications. This year, the contest is sponsored by Flint Creek Ancient and Free Masons Lodge No. 11. There will be a \$50 cash award available for winners from each grade school in Granite County.

For the 7th and 8th grades, the topic is: the **advantages of living in a rural community**. The evaluation committee looks for a structured essay including an introduction with a three-part thesis or series of topics, three paragraphs of supporting details, and a conclusion. 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 was originally funded by Lynn Christopherson, and then increased by members of the Graybeal family in memory of Keith and Ken Graybeal.

For the 9th and 10th grades, the criteria for this contest includes an essay comparing and contrasting **technical training and college education** for any job written to the 9th grade Montana Standards. 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 both types of training for a specific job 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 donors throughout the year. Funds are provided for two awards – one for Drummond and one for Philipsburg.

For the 11th grade, 12th grade and adults, the criteria for this contest includes 20 hours of **community service** and an essay about the importance of community service written to the 11th grade Montana Standards. This essay is not a recitation or report about the 20-hour volunteer hours; rather, it is a broader view of community service. As this scholarship is funded by the Philipsburg Rotary, two Rotarians participate on the evaluation committee. The Rotary’s intention is to award one high school student \$1500 and one adult \$1500; however, if there are no adult applications, all funds will be awarded to one or more high schools students. All funds are awarded to training or academic institutions – no funds are given directly to students. For the community service writing contest, the evaluation committee looks for a structured essay including an introduction with a three-part thesis, three paragraphs of supporting data and cited research, and a conclusion including a re-statement of the topic and thesis.

A note about writing contest fund distribution: writing contest winners may use their awards prior to high school graduation for academic endeavors which include summer academic camps or courses, online coursework and technical training. The funds will be given only to academic institutions – no checks are given directly to students. No funds may be used for non-academic activities. Applicants must request in writing prior to enrolling in activities for PAEF approval for release of funds. Contact: *sue.huffman1@gmail.com*

PHILIPSBURG AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

Every year, PAEF board members hold fundraisers to cover the operating costs of newsletter printing and mailing, the 9th/10 grade writing contest, teacher project grants, and enrichment programs for schools, and then, increase our endowment fund. You may have seen us selling fry bread tacos at the Rotary Music Festival or holding a silent auction at the Brewery. Last year, with the restrictions imposed by COVID 19, we were not able to hold fundraisers. We certainly can cover our operating costs with careful management of reserved funds from previous years. But, 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. Can you help with a donation? If so, please let us know.

If your family would like to set up a new scholarship that will continue long into the future, or if you would like to contribute to our existing scholarship offerings, please contact one of our board members to discuss your goals.

We appreciate every contribution, and thank you for your confidence in us to administer all donations.

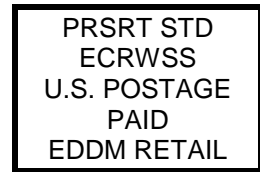
Cut form here and mail to: P. O. Box 900, Philipsburg, MT 59858

DONATION SUBMISSIONS FORM

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Gift Designation: (if any) _____

Philipsburg Area Education Foundation
P. O. Box 900
Philipsburg, MT 59858 - 0900



Local Postal Patron

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER: 2020 AWARD WINNERS and SCHOLARSHIP/CONTEST OFFERINGS FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Through generous donations and fundraising activities, PAEF was able to award \$30,000 in scholarships to 26 outstanding students in May of 2020. Traditionally, PAEF presents award winners with their scholarships during its annual reception dinner. Due to “stay-at-home” status at that time, winners were notified through the mail. Our reception represents the culminating activity of a year-long scholarship process and measures the Foundation’s progress in fulfilling its mission to support the efforts of Granite County students engaged in educational activities. With good luck and good health, our reception will be held again next year. Best wishes to all our recipients and applicants as they pursue their educational goals!

A big shout out of thanks to the 30 community members who volunteered as evaluators for our scholarship essays and writing contests!



Thank YOU Granite County!