

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 \$420,000 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.

2023: Year in Review

The PAEF gave out awards in the amount of \$40,800 in 2023, thanks for the generous support of the community and donors around the country.

In August, the PAEF held its annual fundraiser at the Philipsburg Rotary Club's Annual Music Concert at Winninghoff Park in Philipsburg. The PAEF sold fried bread tacos that were a favorite of the concert goers. Thanks to all those who volunteered and supported this fundraiser which brought in just over two thousand dollars that will be used for local education scholarships.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Morgan Radtke

The PAEF's 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, Morgan Radtke, a 2018 graduate of Drummond High School. She competed at track for the University of Montana Grizzlies, taking the bronze medal in the heptathlon at the 2023 Big Sky Conference Championships this past spring. She recently graduated from UM; and is now attending Montana State University as she plans to go into veterinary medicine, and has been accepted into the Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Utah (WIMU) Regional Program in Veterinary Medical Education. Morgan is an excellent example of hard work and perseverance as a student athlete. One day she could be a veterinarian serving in Granite County. We are proud of Morgan and her accomplishments, and wish her best in all of her future endeavors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT:

Sue Huffman
sue.huffman1@gmail.com
406-214-1453

VICE PRESIDENT:

Vicki Burgmeier
vburgmeier@blackfoot.net
406-241-3604

SECRETARY:

Sandy McDonald
sandymcdonald58@gmail.com
406-560-1587

TREASURER:

Jackie Walter
jaquelyn.walter@gmail.com
406-261-3498

MEMBERS:

Jill Waldbillig
waldbillig81@gmail.com
406-859-3448

Holly Graybeal
holly.graybeal@gmail.com
406-533-8242

Blaine Bradshaw
bcbadshaw@hotmail.com
406-531-5846

Janet Hauptman
hauptman@blackfoot.net
406-529-4066

PAEF BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The PAEF is volunteer run, and one of those volunteers is Mrs. Jill Waldbillig. Mrs. Waldbillig is the longtime music teacher, including band and choir, at the Granite High School and Philipsburg Elementary School. She is married to James Waldbillig, a local rancher, and they live on their family ranch west of Philipsburg. They have three adult children and two grandchildren. Mrs. Waldbillig is dedicated to helping her students learn, excel, and gain a love for music. Originally from Denton, Montana, Jill led local fundraising efforts to help those in Denton rebuild after the devastating fire in 2021. She enjoys growing fresh vegetables in her greenhouse and also enjoys helping her husband on the ranch. Thank for being a PAEF Board Member Mrs. Waldbillig!

LEGACY GIVING FOR A SECURE FUTURE

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/

PHILIPSBURG AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S ENDOWMENT

Scholarship funds that are not earned or donated directly come from interest accruing from our endowment with the Montana Community Foundation. 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. Our endowment fund would not be possible without donations from community members, local, far and wide. If you have an interest in contributing to our endowment for the long-haul, please contact a board member.

DONOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



This year, we want to spotlight two of our generous contributors. We are honored to highlight **Dr. Richard and Mrs. Joyce Molteni of Philipsburg**. They have lived in Granite County nearly 20 years, sharing time between Granite County and Utah. The Molteni family are a blessing to the community as they actively serve it. Dr. Molteni, M.D, is a retired neonatologist who specialized in caring for premature infants for decades. He served his country in Vietnam and provided critical medical services. Dr. Molteni has served as a volunteer board member for years on the Granite County Medical Foundation. He continues to advise local medical personnel. Mrs. Molteni volunteers her time at the H&R Auxiliary in Philipsburg. The Moltenis have two adult children and one adored grand-daughter, but are surrogate grandparents for several children. They are mentors for many more. They are simply great people who generously serve in the community and donate to the PAEF, and it is appreciated!

Dr. and Mrs. Molteni

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2023 Scholarship and Writing Contest Award Recipients:

Ben Bradshaw received the Eik Family Scholarship for \$500.

Blaine Cooper Bradshaw Jr. received the PAEF Board of Directors Scholarship for \$1000.

Hannah Bradshaw received the Jon Manke Memorial Scholarship for \$500 and the Granite County Medical Foundation Scholarship for \$1000.

Terese Buhr received the Marletto Family Scholarship for \$5000 and the KPK Trust Scholarship for \$1000.

Chaelyn Cotton received the Granite County Medical Foundation Scholarship for \$1000, the Vern and Anne Steffan Scholarship for \$500, and the Dr. Richard and Joyce Molteni Scholarship for \$500.

Davis Guilbert received the Myrna & Ed Leipheimer Scholarship for \$1000 and the David M. Rouse Memorial Scholarship for \$500.

Anna Locke received the Philipsburg Rotary Scholarship for \$1500.

Regan McDonald received the Jon Manke Memorial Scholarship for \$500 and the Commander Bernard J. O'Rourke Scholarship for \$1000.

Deana Parke received the Rose and Thomas Brogan Scholarship for \$3500 and the Munis Family Memorial Scholarship for \$1000.

Ethan Parke received the Tom Hood Leadership Scholarship for \$1000.

Elizabeth Perry received the recipient of the Philipsburg Rotary Scholarship for \$1500.

Grady Radtke received the Mullin Newspaper Company for \$2000 and the Rancher's Memorial Scholarship in Memory of Norman Bohrnsen and other Granite County Pioneers for \$1250.

Jackson Radtke received the Bales Good Samaritan Award for \$500.

Kyla Reisenauer received the Marletto Family Scholarship for \$5000 and the KPK Trust Scholarship for \$3000.

Trevor Rouse received the Myrna & Ed Leipheimer Scholarship for \$1000, the Granite High School Alumni Scholarship for \$1300 and the Ezra R. Gentry Memorial Scholarship for \$550.

Jessie Struna received the Statler Family Scholarship in Memory of Theo Statler for \$2000, the Tom Sanders Memorial Scholarship for \$2200, the KPK Trust Scholarship for \$1000, and the Bales Good Samaritan Award for \$500.

PAEF Writing Contests are offered annually in Drummond, Hall, Helmville and Philipsburg schools. If schools choose not to participate, applications are gladly accepted from any students through the US Mail or email. The 7/8th grade contest is sponsored by the Keith and Ken Graybeal Family; the 9/10th grade contest is sponsored by PAEF Board of Directors; and the elementary school contests are sponsored by the Free and Ancient Masons, Flint Creek Lodge #11 and a Blackfoot Community Outreach grant. Thank you to all applicants and congratulations to all winners.

Anna Kate Sawfer from Drummond is the 1st place winner of the 9/10th grade writing contest \$250 – compare and contrast a university degree with vocational training for any industry.

Annabelle Yates from Drummond is the 2nd place winner of the 9/10th grade writing contest \$150 – compare and contrast a university degree with vocational training for any industry.

Natalie Graveley from Helmville is the winner of the 7/8th grade writing contest \$250 – What are the advantages of living in a rural community?

4th Grade Contest – What is Community?
Hudson Laslovich from Philipsburg \$50
Presley Legg from Drummond \$50

5th Grade Contest – What is Patriotism?
Jazelynn Zaske from Hall \$50
Valkyrie Scheffel from Drummond \$50
Taylee Johnson from Drummond \$30

6th Grade Contest – What is Philanthropy?
Hailey Suthers from Drummond \$50
Jarron Kruger from Philipsburg \$50
Claire Whitten from Hall \$50
McKenzie Baker from Helmville \$50

HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

Marletto Family Trust
 Tom & Barbara Hood
 Sue Sweeney
 Anne Wilson
 Bob & Ginny Kane
 Mullin Newspaper Company
 Blackfoot Telecommunications
 Patrick & Renee Cloney
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 Granite County Medical Foundation
 Flint Creek Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Lodge #11

Sue & Leonard (Pinky) Eik
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 Dr. Rich & Joyce Molteni
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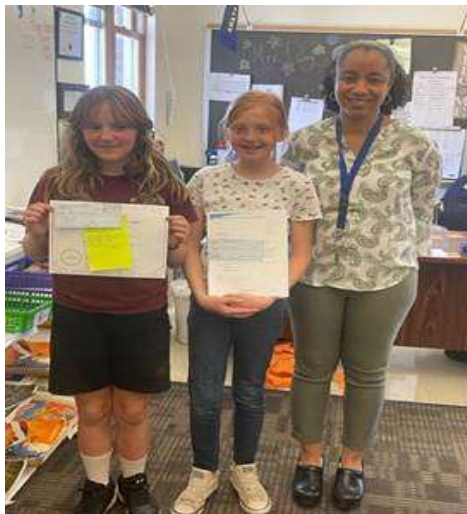
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Donations made after October 1 will be reflected in the next year's donations and newsletter. Please forgive any omissions.

2023 grade school essay winners with teachers:



Hall School Winners--Claire Whitten and Jazelynn Zaske, along with their teacher Mrs. Manley (Above left). Hudson Laslovich and his teacher Mr. Mr. Keltner, 4th grade winner from Philipsburg Elem. (Above right).



Mrs. Perry and her essay winners in the 5th grade, Taylee Johnson and Valkyrie Scheffel (Above left). Hailey Suthers and her 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Anderson (Above middle). All three students are from Drummond Elementary. McKenzie Baker, sixth grade winner with her teacher Mrs. Philips from Helmsville School (Above right).

Expected 2024 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 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.

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 \$500 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 \$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.

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.

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

Ed and Myrna Leipheimer Scholarships: \$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.

Mullins Newspaper Company: \$2000 for a Granite County graduate to engage in post-secondary education with preference given to a student pursuing 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.

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.

Ezra R. Gentry Memorial Scholarship: two scholarships for graduates 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.

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. This \$3000 scholarship will be available for approximately five more years.

Philipsburg 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.

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. Topic varies each year.

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.

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 go 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

DONATION SUBMISSIONS FORM

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

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