

Philipsburg Area Education Foundation (PAEF) was founded on December 7, 1999 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 2025, 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 over \$1,800 for our programs. A huge shoutout to Bohrsen Land and Cattle Company for donating their fine beef to our program. 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, Ashley Wehr (Boomer), who graduated from Granite High School in 2008. She is a 2012 graduate of Montana State University in Bozeman with



a bachelor’s degree in Animal Science. She is experienced in graduate research and has published articles in the *Journal of Animal Science*. Since earning her degree, Ashley has managed two companies dealing with various aspects of product sales, machinery, finance and office work. She is the co-founder, with her mother Leslie, of Meadowlark Moose LLC which is located in Philipsburg, MT. The store is a co-op of local artists and craftsmanship which they are also contributors. She is passionate about working with children and young adults. She volunteers her time at her daughter's school and karate dojo in Deer Lodge. Ashley has spent one week every summer for the past four years being the Wildlife Instructor at the Montana Natural Resource Youth Camp for high school students, where she was once a camper. The camp focuses on conservation and being good stewards of the land. Ashley's future endeavors are focused on homesteading and raising optimal market lambs for consumers; and she works with local customers and retailers to promote the buying of local products.

Ashley Wehr (Boomer) 2008 Graduate of Granite High School

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! We expanded to ten members as we strive to represent all of Granite County and Helmsville, a feeder school into our school district.

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 give a \$1,000 scholarship in perpetuity. Often times, this type of investment is in memory of a loved one – a way to keep their presence in our community. 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 \$250,000 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We have many wonderful donors who give in meaningful ways to our community. We are honored to highlight **Eric and Sue Nord** of Philipsburg who established the Nord-Munis Humanities Award through PAEF. The award focuses on areas of humanities education which are often underfunded in small schools and rural areas including, but not limited to: music, band, drama, art, literature and foreign languages. The initial award of \$5000 in October 2024 was split equally between Philipsburg and Drummond Music programs to purchase band equipment and other music-related supplies. For the 2025/2025 school year, Mr. and Mrs. Nord generously awarded the Drummond High School Music Program \$4000 which will allow students to attend the Montana Music Festival and purchase of band equipment, and the Philipsburg Library Art Program \$1000 which will offer art instruction to all age levels. When you see them out and about, be sure to toot their horn! We are thankful for their donation.



Eric and Sue Nord

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 Janet Hauptman 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. Evaluation is coordinated by our Middle and High School Writing Liaison, Holly Graybeal. Information and forms are available on our website at paefmt.com.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2025 Writing Contest Award Recipients

4th Grade Contest -- What is Community?

Finn Long, Philipsburg
Nicole Franks, Philipsburg
AnnaBell Bailey, Drummond
Charlie Shields, Drummond
Addylae Clark, Hall
Holter Mannix, Helmville

5th Grade Contest -- What does Patriotism mean to me?

Zoom Weaver, Drummond
Luis Ostler, Drummond
Ollie McNiven, Drummond
Teagan Skinner, Hall
Audey Heinz, Philipsburg
Aida Ladd, Philipsburg

6th Grade Contest – If I was a Philanthropist, what would I do?

Jaxson Dahl, Drummond
Andrea Buche, Drummond
Wells Morland, Philipsburg

7/8th Grade Contest – What are the benefits of Living a Rural Community?

Sawyer Stitt, Helmville
Brennan Lacy, Drummond
McKenzi Baker, Helmville

9th/10th Grade Contest – Compare and Contrast Vocational training v. College Education for any industry.

Boston Bradshaw
Piper Wetsch

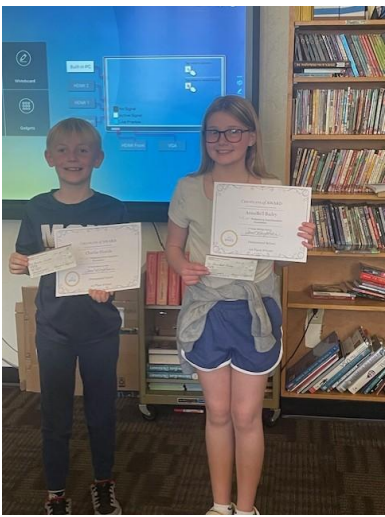
Writing Contest Winners:



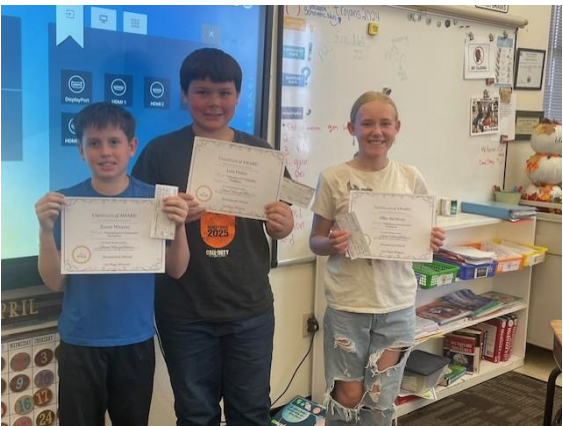
Philipsburg School Writing Contest Winners Above, left to right include: Mrs. Janet Hauptman, Finn Long 1st place, Nicole Franks 2nd place (4th Grade); Aida Ladd 2nd place, and Audey Heinz 1st place (5th Grade); and Wells Morland 1st place (6th Grade, and Ms. Audrey Radtke.



Above: Holter Mannix (1st), Winner from Helmville School



Above: Charlie Shields and AnnBell Bailey (4th Grade) Tied for 1st place, Drummond School



Zoom Weaver, Luis Ostler (Tied for 1st place), and Ollie McNiven, 2nd place; Drummond School place



Mrs. Keeley Chrest (Drummond School, 6th Grade Teacher) with Students, Jaxson Dahl (1st place) and Andrea Buche (2nd place)

2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Lexi Nelson:** Rose and Thomas Brogan Scholarship \$2000
- Terese Buhr:** Flint Creek Childcare Scholarship \$500, Theo Stater Memorial Scholarship \$2000, and Philipsburg Rotary Scholarship \$1000
- Kyla Reisenauer:** Granite County Medical Foundation \$1000
- Meredith Ross:** David Rouse Memorial Scholarship \$500
- Daniel Alley:** Marletto Family Scholarship \$5000
- Elizabeth Perry:** Rose and Thomas Brogan Scholarship \$2000 and Philipsburg Rotary Scholarship \$1000
- Addison Spehar:** Jon Manke Memorial Scholarship \$500
- Ella Tallon:** Vern and Anne Stephens Sports Scholarship \$500
- Cyleigh Langton:** Munis Family Scholarship \$1250, Rancher’s Scholarship in Memory of Norm Borhnsen, Rodney Hobough and Zane Murfitt \$2000
- Tucker Koon:** Ike Family Scholarship \$500
- Halee-Joe Butte:** Richard and Joyce Molteni Scholarship \$500
- Bailey Parke:** Granite County Medical Foundation \$500
- Erik Pitcher:** Granite High Alumni \$500 and PAEF Board of Director’s Scholarship \$1000
- Kadin Graveley:** KPK Trust \$3000, the Ranch at Rock Creek \$5000, and Philipsburg Rotary Scholarship \$1000
- Anna Kate Sawfer:** Jon Manke Memorial Scholarship \$500, the Ranch at Rock Creek \$5000, and the Marletto Family Scholarship \$5000
- Allison Benson:** Commander Bernard J. O’Rourke Scholarship \$1000, the Ranch at Rock Creek \$5000
- Ramsey Smith:** James Grassey Scholarship \$1000, the Ranch at Rock Creek \$5000
- Cooper Bradshaw:** Tom Hood Leadership Scholarship \$1000
- Chance Dunkerson:** Butts Family Scholarship \$500
- Annabelle Yates:** PAEF Board of Director’s Scholarship \$1000
- Wyatt Pyle:** Leipheimer Family Scholarship \$1000 and Ezra R. Gentry Memorial Scholarship \$500
- Paytn Rasor:** Granite County Medical Foundation \$500
- Bales Good Samaritan Award given at graduation \$500 directly to two students: Tahvo Litten, GHS and Haylee-Joe Butte, DHS

HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Marletto Family Trust | Sue & Leonard (Pinky) Eik | Jon Statler | Betty Munis |
| Tom & Barbara Hood | KPK Trust | Myrna & Ed Leipheimer | David New |
| Spencer & Sue Huffman | Helen & David Rouse | James Grassey | Patrick & Renee Cloney |
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| Sheila Butts | | Linda Burns & David Warden | |
| Bohrnsen Land & Cattle Company | | Flint Creek Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Lodge #11 | |
| Granite County Medical Foundation | | Granite County Medical Center | |
| Flint Creek Childcare | | The Ranch at Rock Creek | |
- Donations made after October 1 will be reflected in the next year’s newsletter. Please forgive any omissions.

Expected 2026 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.**

Butts Family Scholarship: \$500 for a Granite County graduate (within three years of graduation) pursue vocational training or a trades program leading to certification or degree.

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 County, current year graduate 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.

J. Grassey Scholarship: a \$1000 scholarship is provided for a Granite County resident to engage in education or training in the aviation industry or the trades (construction, mechanics, plumbing, electrical, etc.)

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.

Larson Woodshed Scholarship: one \$1000 scholarship for education or training to a Granite County graduate. Any graduate may apply, but preference will be given to students who pursue artistic endeavors in life, school and hobbies.

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 (up to \$10,000) 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: \$1500 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.

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 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 for Granite County current graduating seniors to pursue college or technical training. The scholarship requires a separate application which includes an essay and two letters of recommendation in a separate envelope to be forwarded to the donor for evaluation. Students should mention a bit about themselves and hopes for the future, any work experience (paid and voluntary), and contributions to their community. 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 \$4000 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: \$2000 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: What 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 topic is: What Patriotism means to me.

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 topic is: If I was a Philanthropist, what would I do?

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 to one student or split between students.

PAEF Essay Contest 9/10th grade: \$250 cash award writing contest for Granite County 9/10th graders requiring a 500-word essay. Topic: Compare and contrast 1 or 2-year Technical Certification versus 4+-year University Degree. 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 two 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. This award 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. If you would like to fund a specific educational project or training program in our community, we can help you make the donation through our organization. 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

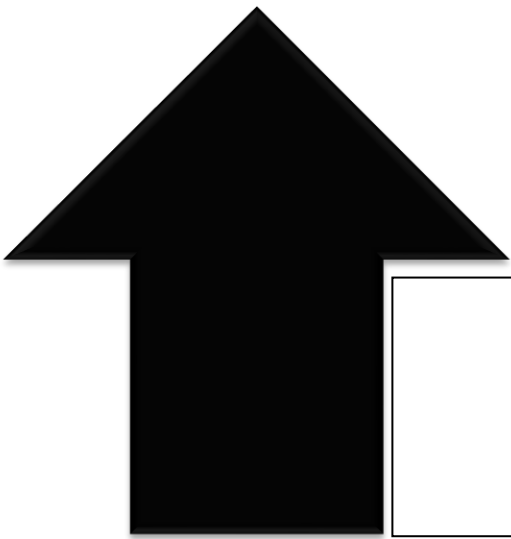
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Gift Designation: (if any) _____

Make payable to: PAEF Treasurer.
Mail to: Philipsburg Area Education Foundation
P.O. Box 900
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**Upward bound with
education and training!**

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