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DeCamp Financial Center
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Our benefactors since 1999



2026 Anniversaries Newsletter

January

A Message from our Executive Director



Happy Anniversary to us! 70 Years and still going strong and growing! In 1956 through the effort of a handful of local organizations and individuals, the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation was born. That first year, 8 donors awarded to 17 recipients a total of \$2,625.00! Since the inception of the Foundation, a total of 654 donors, which does not include the thousands who have contributed to specific memorial funds or to our fundraisers, have awarded scholarships to 6,270 recipients for a total of \$10,956,663.00!

Not only is LRSF providing students with scholarship aid to help in their education pursuits, but LRSF has also become an invaluable service to those service clubs and organizations fulfilling their legacy of service to the community, as well as helping families looking to honor their loved ones by perpetuating their memories and life story. We are so grateful to all our donors who deserve the credit for this remarkable feat. I think the Founders of LRSF would be proud of how far the Foundation has come in fulfilling its mission "to promote and encourage scholarships and opportunities for higher education among residents of the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, and to encourage the establishment of additional scholarships...". I also want to thank the past and present Trustees of the Foundation, including our recent retiring Trustees, Gayle Price, Jim Carroll & Phil Bonafide, as well as the past Executive Directors, Joan Cormier, Paulette Loughlin, and Karen Switzer. It is with their stewardship that the Foundation has grown to become an integral part of the Lakes Region community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris".

Chris Guilmett
Executive Director

Plans are underway to hold our annual **LRSF Benefit Night at Fratello's** on Tuesday, March 3rd, from 4:00pm to close. If you attend, please make sure to mention that you are there that night to support LRSF, and Fratello's will donate 25% of the food portion of the bill to LRSF. Please note that this also includes any takeout orders between those hours.



We are honored to recognize the following funds celebrating benchmark anniversaries in 2026!

5 Years (2021)

CW2 Jonathan R. Farmer Memorial Scholarship - (1981-2019) This award was established by friends of Jonathan from Laconia High School. By trade, Jon was an Assistant Detachment Commander of an ODA (Operational Detachment Alpha) in the 5th Special Forces Group of the United States Army. His work took him around the world on six combat tours until, on the 16th of January 2019, he was killed in action in Manbij, Syria. Jon died an American hero, but there was certainly more to Jon than you would read in the short DOD press release. John was a loving husband and devoted father to his four children, family. Jon's integrity was beyond reproach. During his years at LHS, he was someone that all of his classmates and teammates could look up to. From a young age, Jon was the type of man who always looked out for the disadvantaged and tried to always protect those that could not protect themselves. Jon's almost 30 years of friendship meant the world to his friends, and they considered it an honor to present this scholarship in his memory to a graduate of LHS, in the community that Jon loved dearly.

Kyle Harriman Memorial Scholarship – (1981 – 2021) born in Laconia, he attended elementary, junior high and high school in Gilford, where he resided. Kyle was active in numerous sports, baseball, soccer, basketball, and golf. He had a positive impact with his team members and was well liked by players and coaches alike. In high school, he was awarded the scholar athlete award in golf. He excelled in math, scoring an almost perfect score in the math section on the SAT in high school. He knew before he started high school that he wished to pursue a degree in pharmacy. For Kyle, his Doctorate in Pharmacy degree offered him the opportunity to make a real difference for the health and well-being of his patients. Kyle did his internship at Hannaford in Plymouth and was hired full time. Kyle embraced his mom's favorite quote, "A day without laughter is a day wasted." He had a big heart and was always willing to help others. He brought laughter to friends and family alike.

Christopher Lockwood Memorial- (1975 – 2020) a 1994 graduate of Belmont High School, Chris was a stand-out athlete in both soccer and basketball, scoring over 1,000 points in basketball. He continued his pursuit of sports with a post-graduate year at Brewster Academy, followed by two years at NHTI and then Elms College, where he obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees. Chris was an avid sports fan. He had a love of team sports and wanted to instill that same love in his two children, coaching both of their basketball teams and encouraging team to try new things, and most importantly, have fun.

Willard G Martin, Jr. Scholarship- (1937 - 2021) Willard G. "Bud" Martin, Jr. was born in Boston but lived for many years in Sanbornton. He was a graduate of Laconia High School and then went on to get his bachelor's degree from Bates College. Based on his success at Bates, he earned a scholarship and continued his education at Harvard Law School and in 1962 he passed the NH bar exam and returned to his hometown to begin his law career. During his 57 years at Martin, Lord & Osman, PA, he served as an attorney, director, and president. Bud also served 35 years as a special justice at the Laconia District Court in the Family Division, working almost exclusively with juvenile cases. He was known for his Mickey Mouse watches and often would give one to one of the kids who appeared in his court as a special gift. (It was said that he probably held the record for the most Mickey Mouse watches purchased.) When Bud had to step down from the court at age 70, he continued his work advocating for children through CASA. Bud spent his life serving his community. He was a co-founder of the Belknap County Citizen's Council on Children and Families and the Carroll County Juvenile Justice Program. In addition to these organizations some of the other groups he served were: The Sandwich Board of Selectman, the Sandwich Planning Board, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, the Child and Family Services Carroll County Coalition, the Carroll County United Partners in Prevention, Neighbors in Need, the NH Bar Association and the Board of UNH Law School. In his spare time Bud loved working in his orchard picking apples and making cider in the fall and in the spring he was busy at his sugar house making maple syrup. He loved running and was an avid alpine and water skier and loved to travel.

Craig Miles Memorial – (1956 – 2021) An LHS Class of 1974 graduate, Craig was an LHS athlete. He always spoke of his days on the Laconia High School football field, where he played and then later watched his three boys do the same. Craig worked at a number of local marinas in his youth establishing Miles Marine in Gilford, NH, in 1984. Craig started off with a used pick-up truck and a trailer, and Miles Marine grew to be one of the largest and most well-respected boat transport companies on the east coast helping to pioneer the boat transport industry. He ran a true family business alongside his wife and children. Craig was a well-respected man of knowledge, integrity, and trust in his work, but he was also someone with a heart of gold. He would offer people rides, assist people on the lake, and in early spring and fall you might have found him picking up the trash on the sides of Lily Pond Rd to support his commitment to NH Adopt-a-Highway. Work was what he did, but it was all done for his family. In the little time he did spend away from work, he could be found with his family; boating, fishing, playing hockey, snowmobile racing or riding in Colebrook or Pittsburg, side by side riding on those same trails or journeys to the beach or a cruise ship with family or friends.

Patrick's Pub Employee Scholarship Fund - Patrick's Pub & Eatery has been owned and operated by the Beetle family since 1994. In that time, the restaurant has been an active partner in the community, with a commitment to make a difference with their customers, staff, and community.

Cody J Ryan Memorial Scholarship - (1990 – 2015) Cody was full of life. He had a beautiful, giving heart and shared his exuberance for life with many friends and family members. Cody went to Holy Trinity School from Kindergarten through 8th grade and then went on to Laconia High School graduating in 2009. He studied building trades at the Huot Technical Center and played several sports but was very passionate about basketball. He played on an AAU basketball team that won the state championship and went on to play in the Nationals. Cody was a member of St. Joseph Church (now St. Andre Bessette). He loved spending time with his family.

Reverend George J Soberick Memorial – (1935 – 2021) born in Lansford, PA. he attended the Seminary of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit before transferring to the Diocese of Manchester, NH. He was ordained a priest in 1962. Fr. Soberick was a faith filled, compassionate and caring priest. He served numerous parishes in NH throughout his 59 years following his ordination, including as Diocesan Superintendent of Schools for five years. In his quiet unassuming manner, he made a difference in so many lives. His presence in the Lakes Region impacted on countless people. He was well known for his family Mass at Our Lady of the Lakes where children were welcome to sit on the altar for the homily. He was an enormous advocate for families, and students of all ages, including high school and college. He was a quiet supporter of seniors in need. When he retired, he returned to PA and served in weekend ministry. He enjoyed being close to New York City and quickly got involved in teaching courses and serving weekends as needed. It is fitting that through this scholarship Fr. Soberick will continue to reach out to students on their journey to further their education.

Society of St Vincent de Paul – Laconia Conference - The Laconia Conference is a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, an International Catholic lay organization based in Paris, France. The National Council of the Society for the United States is headquartered in St. Louis, MO. The US Council celebrated the 150th anniversary of its foundation in 1995. The Society is active throughout the United States with over 100,000 members. The Laconia Conference was started during the latter part of 1990 and received its formal letter of Aggregation by the National Council in June, 1991. The Conference was incorporated in the state of New Hampshire in August, 1994. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. Official Mission Statement: "Providing material assistance in a spirit of Christian love and justice to those in need in the Lakes Region by establishing programs, both directly and in concert with other organizations, which will provide both temporary relief and helpful solutions." Our Programs include the following: Thrift Store, Food Pantry, Children's Foundation and Financial Assistance

Gary Westergren Memorial – (1940 – 2020) Gary was a practicing attorney in the Lakes Region for 50 years. The last 19 years he was a staff attorney with the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families. He was a passionate and tireless advocate for the rights of children. He worked tirelessly and was a calming force in the Laconia District office. He did amazing work with the families of the Lakes Region. It was a pleasure when he appeared in court as his preparation was spot-on. He had understanding, compassion and respect for parents and legal process which set a high bar for others to follow. Kind to the core, he was passionate about kids and always fair with parents in understanding their difficult circumstances. Gary was also a Major in the United States Marine Corps serving as a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War. He served his country, his state, and communities with honor. Gary loved the outdoors, staying active and most of all spending time with his family and pets.

10 Years (2016)

Allen Family Award was created in 2016 to assist Gilford High School students fulfill their educational goals. The family has long been dedicated to quality education and have been staunch supporters of the Gilford School system. The family brings years of experience to LRSF through Peter and Susan's involvement with the Winsheblo Award and their daughter Katie Allen Bryant's involvement with the Gilford School District PTA Scholarship Fund.

Alton Summer People's Award- Summer People, Brad and Ginnie Jones and Don Young were friends who had cottages near Alton Bay. They were looking for a way to give back to Alton, for those families who find it difficult financially to send their children to college. Many of these young people were excellent students for whom a higher education would be necessary for good career opportunities. They decided that offering scholarships would be a good way to give back. In 1985 the three launched Summer People's Scholarship, raising \$75,000 mostly from generous summer residents. The first award was given in 1986 to a graduate of then Alton High. Each scholarship was made renewable for three or more years provided the students had good grades. In 2016 the funds for this award were turned over to Lakes Region Scholarship as an endowment so that "Alton Summer People's award can continue..." (Don Young)

Keith Bryar II Memorial Award- (1958 – 2016) funded by Gregory and Linda Bryar following the passing of their brother, who was known for his charismatic spirit, generosity, compassion, sense of humor, kindness, and ability to make friends. Although Keith spent his career working in the construction field, his passion was racing sled dogs. His crowning achievements came at the World Championship Sled Dog Race in Laconia which he won twice (2001 & 2002). He was also the Canadian Sled Dog Champion in 2005. He was able to balance his work and his loves and make a mark in all these areas.

Stone Family Award – Doug (1938 – 2018) and Angela (1938 – 2023) Stone have been vital members of the Lakes Region community for many years. Doug was born in Keene and attended the Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston. Angela was born in Bradford VT and a graduate of Lyndon State College and was a dedicated elementary school teacher for many years. In 1969, Doug and his partners began a new construction company named "Bonnette, Page & Stone" and Doug and Angela moved to the Lakes Region. Over the years, the company earned respect and admiration for their high-quality construction and above-standard workmanship and became one of the largest commercial construction firms in the state. Doug and Angela were very generous in his support for charities in the area and across the state. They became benefactors of the Belknap Mill's preservation project and numerous other worthwhile causes, including this scholarship fund to benefit college-bound students, especially those graduating from the Huot Technical Center.

Charles and Nancy Wilder – Charles (1926 - 2011) and Nancy (1926 – 2016) spent their lives serving the Lakes Region community. They will continue to serve through this scholarship by helping students further their education in a way that will impact not only the area, but hopefully the world in general. Attracted to NH's hiking, skiing, and sailing, Dr. Charles Wilder became Laconia's first cardiologist serving the people of Laconia for thirty years. He was a dedicated father and during his retirement enjoyed taking his grandchildren hiking and boating and sharing his love of poetry and literature with them. Nancy Eddy Wilder was a special education teacher for the Belmont and Laconia School District for 25 years. This scholarship fund was established by Dr. Inga Wilder Robbins, the daughter of Dr. Charles E. Wilder.

15 Years (2011)

Martha Axelia Forsberg Memorial – (1909 – 1984) is a generous bequest from Marie Forsberg to honor her sister and pay tribute to the nursing profession by helping LHS graduates enrolling in a nursing program. Although Marie was a teacher and Martha a court stenographer, both sisters had been volunteers at Lakes Region General Hospital during their retirement years and had a great deal of admiration and respect for the nursing profession and gratitude to the LRGH nurses.

Laconia Police Relief Award - Members of the Laconia Police Dept. show their commitment to the community with personal involvement in worthwhile programs and by channeling funds from the local Children's Auction to provide much needed services, such as scholarships to Laconia High School college-bound graduates.

Parents and Children Together (PACT) Award - founded in 1995 and dissolved in 2011, PACT was a tremendous benefit to the youths of the area for many years and will continue to help local youngsters by supporting their educational and career goals.

Winsheble Award – In 2011 the Laconia Girls' Corporation board members established the Winsheble Scholarship in memory of the camp that was operated for young people from the Lakes Region for over 50 years. This generous gift will perpetuate the dedication of all those involved with the Laconia Girls' Corporation over the years.

20 Years (2006)

Belknap County Sportsmen's Association - Since 1931, the BCSA has been an advocate of conservation, safety, and good sportsmanship, especially in training youngsters. In celebration of their 75th anniversary in 2006, they began funding scholarships to benefit Belknap County students pursuing careers in conservation related fields, such as forestry, wildlife, and marine biology.

Chertok Family Fund - This fund, originally called the Ed and Polly Chertok fund, was set up to honor this beloved Laconia couple for their countless years of service to their community. This award is donated by their daughters in loving memory of their parents, Polly & Ed (a founding donor of the LHS Class of 1933 Scholarship Fund), who believed deeply that education is a gift and that spreading knowledge could be a way to promote peace and end prejudice. Sadly, their daughter, Maxine Derby, lost her battle with cancer in 2020. Maxine worked in the medical field for many years as a pharmacist at Lowell General. The family described Maxine as someone who was a great friend, a good listener and someone who always wanted to make people feel better. She was a real, "glass half full" kind of person. People loved being around her. She was also a great storyteller. Many donations to her parents' fund were received in her memory.

Jenni Ann Harmon Memorial - (1987-2006) Jenni was a special young woman, who lost her life when her vehicle crashed as she was on her way to an EMT class. She was known for her generosity, willingness to help, and caring for others. This fund will in no way ever replace Jenni, but it will serve as a loving and living tribute to her all-too-brief life by helping other young people achieve their career goals. Funds continue to be raised each year for this award through the annual Jenni's Ride in July.

25 Years (2001)

Nancy Dow Memorial – (1940-2001) described as a gifted teacher, who was truly dedicated to the education of children, a wonderful colleague, a caring person, and interested in the well-being of the entire community.

Stephen W. Moore Memorial - Steve (1954-2001) was employed as a computer technician, specializing in the software implemented by engineers and land surveyors. He was also a licensed land surveyor and member of the NH Land Surveyors Assn. An avid sportsman, he excelled in downhill and cross-country skiing, hiking, kayaking, and cycling. Steve was also a proponent of the value of a good education, which is the reason his family founded this scholarship in his memory. Additional donations were received this past year with the passing of his wife, Barbara Cushing Moore (1948 – 2025). Barbara had many interests and was an integral part of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation.

Perley Family Memorial - originally started by John & Suzanne Perley to commemorate the Perley family's long and proud history in this community since 1787 and to perpetuate the family's strong belief in the value of continuing education. Upon the death of John's brothers – R. Allan in 2001 and Richard L. in 2012, and with the passing of Mrs. Suzanne Perley (1952 – 2020), memorial donations were added to the family fund.

Annalee Thorndike Art Award – (1915-2002) Annalee was a Lakes Region entrepreneur, built a home craft business in Meredith into a national company—an endeavor which reflects her talent, hard work, and shrewd business sense. By making a generous donation to the LRSF, she perpetuated her lifelong dream of creating an art scholarship fund, with awards based on the merits of the artwork submitted by Lakes Region high school graduating seniors, who will be pursuing an education in the art field.

30 Years (1996)

Colby Family Fund - began in memory of Priscilla Colby (1920-1996), a lady who won the love and admiration of all she met. Her skill and dedication to her profession, community, and her church, also earned their respect. Later, the fund grew with the loss of her son, Richard "Rick" Colby (1958-2005), who was described as big-hearted, spreading a sense of joy and love, inspiring those around him, and raising their spirits through trying times. Her husband, Richard "Dick" Colby (1919-2012) is remembered as "Mr. Little League" by those who worked with him during his 50 years of service to the youth of the community. The Little League field at Opechee Park is named after him.

Stephen S. Jewett III Memorial - (1960-1996) Steve devoted his time, energy, and skills to the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation, as Administrative Assistant even to his final hours. This fund perpetuates Steve Jewett's life and deeds and honors his memory. Sadly, this fund was substantially increased with the untimely passing of his son, Stephen S. Jewett IV (1984-2017), a young man who cared deeply for others and tried to help those less fortunate. With the passing of Stephen's mother, Mary Orton, additional funds were added. Mary was a former trustee of LRSF and ardent supporter of the local chapter of the American Red Cross, the local Make-a-Wish Foundation, the United Way, the Boys and Girls Club of the Lakes Region, Got Lunch! Laconia and St. Vincent DePaul. Mary was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend who loved her family and friends unconditionally. She traveled the globe but was just as happy and content in her garden tending to her flowers or in her kitchen cooking. Mary's positive outlook on life, her kind words and gentle selfless nature had an impact on all those she touched.

Sophie & Theodore Krasnow Memorial - was established with a generous gift from Mrs. Sophie Krasnow to help needy and deserving Lakes Region residents fulfill their educational goals. Mr. and Mrs. Krasnow were hard workers who appreciated the value of an education.

Cecil E. & Barbara Richardson Memorial - Cecil (1921-1996) was a 1939 graduate of Laconia High School and served in the South Pacific as a sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star. Cecil was an active member of the Laconia Rotary Club; he was named a Paul Harris Fellow. He also served on the Laconia City Council and was respected as an efficient and thoughtful councilor. Barbara (1936-2016) worked in the Laconia School System for many years, as well as at the Lakes Region Community College. A very active person, she channeled her energy and enthusiasm as a volunteer at the Lakes Region General Hospital and at the Wellness Center. Throughout their many years together, Cecil and Barbara shared not only a loving devotion to each other and their family, but their caring also encompassed civic-mindedness, thoughtful consideration of friends, and a kind-hearted willingness to help others.

Mallorie Claire Roux Memorial - (1994-1996) For an all-too-brief moment of time, Mallorie brightened the lives of her parents and family. This fund was initiated by the Lakes Region Sled Dog Club and continued to grow with additional donations from friends, family, the LRSDC, and for many years through enthusiastic participation in the Mallorie Cup Volleyball Open.

35 Years (1991)

Chocorua Lodge #51 IOOF – Laconia - was founded in 1869 and has supported many worthwhile community programs in the Lakes Region over the years. In 1991, the Lodge established a scholarship endowment fund through LRSF in memory of deceased Oddfellows and Rebekahs and has made generous gifts over the years, substantially increasing this endowment fund – a lasting and living tribute to their membership.

Carl A. Lemay Memorial - (1974-1991) A Belmont High School honor student, Carl is remembered most by those who knew and loved him for his enthusiastic outlook, encouraging comments, energetic lifestyle, and most of all for his warm and affectionate nature.

Rebecca A. Tebbets Memorial – (1972-1991) A person who truly loved to experience life and the world around her, Rebecca had strength of character and soul, others couldn't help but feel. She had so much to give and so little time. Her gift of love continues to help others. Additional funds were received in memory of Rebecca's dad, Richard Tebbets. Richard was born in Laconia and attended Laconia High School, served in the navy, and later became a licensed master electrician. Richard was an outdoorsman, who loved to fish, hunt, ski, snowmobile, skeet shoot with his daughters and putter around the family farm. He also loved taking rides in his Mustang convertible and riding his motorcycle on and off road. He was devoted to his family, his extended family, and several life-long friends.

40 Years (1986)

Kelly Carter Memorial - (1966-1986) A vibrant young woman, Kelly shared her vitality, enthusiasm, and warmth with all around her. Her love of dance and theater is perpetuated by helping other young women pursuing careers in dance or drama.

Jane Divers Memorial - (1951-1986) A dedicated Christian and musician, Jane's beliefs and talents are commemorated by helping students with similar goals and values. Additional funds were received in memory of the passing of her parents, Madge (2001) and Bill (2010).

David Fillion Memorial – (1936 – 1986) established by family, friends, and colleagues as a loving and living tribute to this well respected teacher at N.H. Vocational Technical College, who was a member of the Gilmanton School Board, a communicant of St Joseph Church and a member of the Laconia Lodge of Elks.

Archie & Ida Gozonsky Award in Memory of William Mahoney - was established by the Gozonsky family as a tribute to their parents, who encouraged their children to further their education and to Mr. Mahoney, their revered teacher at Laconia High School. Two generations of Gozonsky students were taught by Mr. Mahoney from 1932 through 1971.

David A. Horn Memorial - (1962-1986) Although David twenty-four years were much too brief, he led a life that was fuller than many can even hope for. David was an LHS Class of 1980 graduate, and a 1984 graduate from the University of Notre Dame. His love and friendship are remembered by helping students pursue a career in engineering, preferably electrical engineering.

Robert C. Hussey Memorial – (- 1986) Described as a loving husband, dedicated father, terrific insurance man, and a wonderful friend, Robert spent countless hours volunteering his time to the community. Robert's memory is honored by helping students showing academic promise and community involvement.

Gwendolyn A. Lund Memorial - (1930-1986) As a teacher, who served her profession, her community and her church, Gwen is memorialized through this fund by continuing her life goals of helping others and educating students.

Martin, Lord, Osman PA, F/K/A Nighswander, Martin & Mitchell P. A. In Honor of Arthur H. Nighswander - established to recognize Atty. Nighswander's long service to public education and his profession. Arthur Nighswander died in December of 2008, two months after celebrating his 100th birthday. He made a generous bequest to further endow this meaningful scholarship fund as a reaffirmation of his commitment to education and the mission of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation.

45 Years (1981)

Roland Corriveau Track Memorial – (1921 – 1981) A former track star and U.S. Army Air Force Veteran of World War II, Mr. Corriveau's memory is honored through this perpetual fund.

Roscoe E. Twombly Memorial - was established in 1981 by his wife, Barbara, as a tribute to her husband's twenty-two year teaching and coaching career, helping Belmont High School students reach their potential. In 2009 family and friends increased this fund to commemorate Barbara and her school, civic and church involvement.

65 Years (1961)

Krasnow-Dow-DeGoye Memorial - In July of 1961, a plane crash took the lives of four promising young people, William Krasnow – Jane Dow Krasnow – John H. Dow III – Donna DeGoye, whose tragic loss was mourned, not only by family, friends, and colleagues, but by the entire community.

Laconia-Gilford Lions Club has been awarding scholarships through the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation since 1961. In 1992 the Lions Club set a precedent in the Lakes Region by making donations to an endowment fund to honor members and acknowledge personal events or circumstances in the lives of their membership.

Saltmarsh Memorial was established in 1961 by Robert Saltmarsh to commemorate his parents, Dr. George Saltmarsh & Mina Avery Saltmarsh, and brother, Arthur A. Saltmarsh and to perpetuate their numerous contributions to the community.

70 Years (1956)

Kiwanis Club of Laconia - established in 1927, is part of a Global organization of members of every age who are dedicated to changing the world, one child and community at a time. The Kiwanis Club has supported LRSF since the very beginning in 1956 and their support has never wavered.

Laconia Emblem Club - One of LRSF's originating donors in 1956, the Emblem Club has won the recognition of the Governor's Council on Volunteerism for their commendable record of community support. The Laconia Emblem Club disbanded late in 2017, and the members unanimously voted to ensure the Club's proud legacy by establishing a permanent scholarship endowment fund bearing their name.

Laconia Lodge of Elks #876 - was one of the first groups that supported awards made through LRSF in 1956 and continues to support the educational future of the Lakes Region students and family members.

Laconia Rotary Club - The world's first service club, the Rotary Club International was organized in 1905. The main objective of Rotary is service—in community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Established in 1925, the Laconia Rotary Club has been a major contributor to the LRSF since 1956. They truly live their motto "Service above Self" – a fine example for our local students.

Lakeport Woman's Club - organized in 1922, was one of the first clubs in the state to award scholarships and one of the first donors to the LRSF in 1956. Although the club disbanded in 2006, through a scholarship endowment fund established in 1923 – a vision of Mrs. Rosetta Dame – the memory of Mrs. Dame and the generosity of the Lakeport Woman's Club will live on in our community for generations to come. Memorial donations were received in 2014 with the passing of long-time board member and officer, Margaret Paquette, in honor of her many years of dedicated service to the Club and LRSF.

Each year we recognize the Laconia High School classes that have established scholarship funds.

This year we are pleased to recognize the LHS class 1966; as well as a fund established by the LHS Alumni Fund.



Laconia High School Class of 1966 – In June of 1966, one of the largest classes in the history of Laconia High School, 262 students, received diplomas. To celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2016, the class voted to donate funds raised from their successful reunion to help future LHS students fulfill their educational goals.

Laconia High School Alumni Award - was initiated in 2011 as part of the LHS Homecoming & Reunion Event which has been enthusiastically attended and supported by LHS graduates from 1933 through the current generation. The Laconia School Board voted to donate proceeds from the football game and has continued its support each year. The selection of scholarship recipients is based on students who exemplify the positive attributes that comprise Sachem Pride (Personal responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Empathy).

Message from retiring Board Member, Gayle Price



It's funny how life can sometimes come full circle. I can still hear my parents' voices saying, "If you want to go to college, you'll have to pay for it yourself." My family was no different from many then—and many today—who could barely afford the necessities of life, but not the added expense of higher education. As a young person beginning my college journey in the early 1980s, I understood that achieving my educational goals meant taking full financial responsibility. I worked hard to be a strong student, a supportive teammate in athletics, and a positive contributor to my school and local community. As a result, I was rewarded in many ways. One of the most meaningful was receiving scholarship support from the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation. I was truly thankful and grateful, as those scholarships made a real difference in allowing me to pursue my education and build a brighter future. All these years later,

I am thrilled to have had the opportunity over the past decade to give back to the organization that gave so much to me. I am deeply thankful for the many heroes along the way—the board members and Foundation leaders—who care so deeply about students and the community, and who work tirelessly to ensure the Foundation's future for generations to come. The Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation is truly a crown jewel of this community, and I will be forever grateful for the difference it continues to make.

Message from retiring Board Member, Phil Bonafide

It has been both a pleasure and an honor to have spent the past nine years as a Board member of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation. Thanks to the work of our Executive Director, our Board members, officers, Foundation staff and our generous donors, the Foundation continues to grow and to benefit increasing numbers of students seeking to continue their education beyond high school. Reviewing the scholarship applications each year has given me, and my fellow Board members, a real insight into the hopes and dreams these students have for their futures. I can't think of a better way to have spent the last nine years than to have assisted those students reach their full potential with the financial support provided to them by our donors through the work of this foundation. I wish our current Board members well as they continue the important work of the LRSF.



Message from retiring Board Member, James Carroll

LAKES REGION SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

MINUTES OF JANUARY 1, 2054



- 1) All Board Members were present for the 100th Anniversary of the Foundation.
- 2) Financial Report: The treasurer reported that the Foundation's financial picture reflected decades of wise investing, combined with many like-minded citizens and organizations who have supported the LRSF's mission.
- 3) Director's Report: The Director reported that 600 students had received scholarships in this past cycle. The Director reported that the Foundation had again surpassed \$1 million dollars to students across the region.
 - a. The Director reported that 10% of the students were studying in graduate level programs, 65% of the students were in Bachelor Degree programs, and 25% were in vocational training programs.
 - b. The Director was delighted to report financial support for individuals in 'people related professions' (First Responders, Healthcare, Childcare, Social Workers, etc.) received \$50,000 in 'unrestricted' financial supports from the Foundation, which supported their continued professional growth, while continuing to work full time, as well as serving the 'greater good' of the region.
- 4) The Director announced the candidates for the Trustee's Scholarship, which will be granted to the Board's Choices at the Annual Meeting. This year's scholarship will be given in 'living memory of the trustees,' who served the foundation from 2016-2025.
- 5) The Meeting closed with the 'Closing Round' of reflecting on each member's service.

PS. Excuse my attempt to dream, but these are the dreams and visions that I see in the Foundation's future. The Board's membership understands my incidental 'editorializing' in the previous minutes, which I authored.

This musing is my way of thanking the Board who allowed me to serve, and to those whose vision created the present capacity and will yield what I envision at the Foundation's 100th Anniversary.

This service was not a 'labor of love' but a joy to be!!! Thank you to the directors, Joan, Paulette, Karen, and Chris. Thank you previous members for granting me the opportunity to be part of the future of so many men and women, who have benefitted from the Foundation's Scholarship.

A Final Goodbye, and Respectfully Submitted,

jmc

Thank you to former LRSF Trustee Gail Beane for designing our 70th Anniversary logo!

At the Annual Board Meeting, Executive Director, Chris Guilmett and Director Karen Switzer (far right), thanked retiring Trustees, for their 34 (cumulative) years of dedicated service to LRSF! They have certainly made a positive impact not only on the Foundation, but on the lives of many Lakes Region students! Thank you! (l to r) Phil Bonafide, Gayle Price (outgoing President), Jim Carroll (outgoing Secretary), and Kathy Gilman



Chris Guilmett (left) and Karen Switzer (right) welcomed new LRSF Trustees at the Annual Board meeting. (left to right) Chris Guilmett, Executive Director, Andrea Besegai, Jessica Beane, Leisa D'Amour, Teresa Mahoney Mullen, and Karen Switzer, Director. Welcome!



Our First Application Information Session of the year was held on January 13, 2026, at the BNH Operations Center. It was a great opportunity for students and parents to learn about LRSF and the application process. Thank you to BNH for the use of the room and thank you to Sal's Pizza for providing pizza for the evening!

1956 - 2026

Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation celebrates its 70th year!

Check out this article from a 1956 copy of the Laconia Evening Citizen!

g Citizen

WEATHER
Cloudy, Possible
Snow Flurries

PRICE SIX CENTS

Initial Steps in Organizing Scholarship Foundation Taken



Steps were taken at a meeting last night to organize what eventually may be known as the Community Scholarship Foundation or possibly the Belknap County Scholarship Foundation. The meeting was held at the directors' room of the Laconia Federal Savings and Loan Association and present were representatives of several organizations which in the past have made scholarship awards. Several of the representatives stated they had served on committees of clubs to obtain information concerning applicants for grants toward a higher education, and gave examples of confusion in the procedure which it is hoped could be eliminated and a more orderly arrangement found through the operation of a duly incorporated foundation. The corporation under its state charter would be a non profit institution, authorized to receive bequests, make student loans, and scholarship grants in strict accordance with the individual desires of clubs, service groups, business firms or others participating as members.

A community scholarship foundation was given a start last night at an informal meeting of representatives of organizations who grant scholarships. Don MacIsaac was chosen to preside at the discussion session in the directors room of the Laconia Federal Savings and Loan association. He talks over steps to form a foundation with Norman Weeks, president of Kiwanis; Mrs. Edward Howland, Emblem club president; Mrs. Lawrence Guild, president of the Laconia Woman's club; E. Harrison Merrill of Rotary club and Jerome Leavitt, school board chairman.

McDonough Fund Pattern
A year ago the New Hampshire Golf association sponsored the Richard McDonough scholarship foundation, in memory of its long time executive director. A copy of the McDonough foundation's charter and by-laws will be used as a pattern in drawing up the aims and objectives of the Laconia foundation.

Atty. John Chandler is to prepare a summary of the objectives in co-operation with Donald MacIsaac, who has served on the scholarship committee of the Elks. This summary will be sent shortly to the Woman's club, the Elks, the Emblem club, the Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions clubs, the Business and Professional Women's club, the University Women, the Grange, the Steel Workers Union, the Laconia Evening Citizen, the Laconia school board and other groups who have indicated interest in the subject of scholarship awards.

Second Meeting
If organizations approve the purposes of the foundation they will be asked to send representatives to a meeting Thursday evening, Feb. 9, for formal action leading to the election of directors, adoption of the charter, etc.

These steps would be taken, it was indicated, with positive assurance that any club, individual or business firm making a scholarship award through the foundation would be publicly recognized as the donor of a stated amount, as in the past.

On hand for the initial meeting were E. Harrison Merrill, William A. McHenry, and Donald Piper of the Rotary club, Edward J. Gallagher of the Evening Citizen, President Jerome Leavitt of the school board, Mrs. L. J. Guild of the Woman's club, Mrs. Edward Howland of the Emblem club, President Norman Weeks, Howard Bacon and Robert Morrison of the Kiwanis club, John Chandler of the Lions club and Don MacIsaac, who presided.

The original 8 donors from 1956

Emblem Club
Kiwanis Club
Lakeport Women's Club
Charles P. Raymond

Laconia Lodge of Elks
Rotary Club
Laconia Women's Club
Laconia Evening Citizen

"On January 19, 1956, a meeting was held at the Laconia Federal Savings and Loan Association to consider the desirability of establishing an incorporated foundation which would improve the administration of academic scholarships granted by various organizations of the Laconia Area and which might also work to increase the number and amount of these scholarships." -John Chandler

Statistics from 1956
8 Donors
17 Recipients
\$2,625.00 total in awards

For a walk down memory lane, take a look at some of the photos/articles from our archives over the past 70 years! We encourage you to stop by the LRSF Office and look at more archival photos and share some of your stories! Thank you to Joan Cormier for having the foresight to catalog the history of the Foundation!



NEWLY ELECTED president of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation is Robert McGrath, seated. Officers standing are Kenneth Blackey, reelected treasurer; Joan Cormier, reelected corresponding secretary; Helen Martin and Daniel Sullivan, elected directors.

Scholarship Group Scores Two Firsts

Annual meeting of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation Monday evening marked two firsts in the 14 year history of the foundation.

For the first time a person who received a scholarship on graduation from Laconia High School, Dan Sullivan was elected a director for three years. With L. M. Pike and Son, Mr. Sullivan is making his home at 41 Lyford St.

Rev. Frank Gulinello is the first member of the clergy to serve as a director of the foundation. Third director elected at the meeting in the directors' room of the Laconia Federal Savings and Loan Association is Mrs. Helen Martin, who served two terms on the board in past years.

Robert McGrath succeeds Mrs. Margaret Howland as the foundation president. Elected vice president was Willard Hayward. Kenneth Blackey was reelected treasurer. Miss Joan Cormier, corresponding secretary, and Miss Polly Cotting, recording secretary, were both reelected.

Two past presidents, Edmond Sullivan and Robert Morrison, were named directors ex officio. Treasurer Blackey's report showed 59 scholarships awarded to 45 students in 1969, a total of \$12,859.

With the Irving Selig Fund added to the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation in 1969, trust funds now total \$48,479.26. President McGrath recalled that

New scholarships, such as the L. M. Pike and Son award last year; memorial gifts, the Dr. Frank Sullivan, F. A. Normandin, David Kreitzer, Mickey Dunleavy funds, for example, and the many trust funds have contributed to the growth.

Directors agreed not to have a drive for funds this year, but personal donations and memorial gifts may be made at any time to Treasurer Kenneth Blackey, Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation. The deadline for 1970 scholarship applications will be May 15.



SIGNING THE CHECK for the 1973 Teacher Memorial Scholarship is Earl Cayes, treasurer of the Laconia Education Association, before its presentation to Joan Cormier, corresponding secretary of the Lakes

Region Scholarship Foundation. With Miss Cormier and Mr. Cayes are John Cote, left, incoming president of the teachers group, and Charles Beard, present president.

Teachers Increase Scholarship Award

Laconia Education Association since the start nearly \$3,000 in banks and trusts who help the directors' room of the scholarship funds. Donors of scholarships or their representatives in the case of memorial awards, associations, business corporations,

foundation met Monday evening to choose recipients. Paul Normandin, vice president, conducted the meeting in

Laconia Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Announcement of the scholarship winners will be made at Laconia High School commencement June 12.



LHS Class of 1910 Exceeds Scholarship Goal of \$10,000

Laconia High School Class of 1910 has contributed over \$10,000 to the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation in 10 years.

Treasurer Kenneth Blackey has received the following letter from Charles O. Duke, 1910 Class treasurer:

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$800 which the Class of 1910 is presenting to the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation. This donation is to be added to the principal of the Class of 1910, Laconia High School Trust Fund. The income from this fund is to provide a scholarship to some worthy graduate of the Laconia High School to further his or her education.

We, the members of the class of 1910, had a secret ambition to donate at least \$10,000 to your Scholarship Foundation but this amount at the time appeared to be beyond the realm of probability. I am now pleased to state that we have reached our goal and hope that we may make additional donations before the curtain falls on the class of 1910.

Our contributions to your Foundation are as follows:

1960, \$3,001.82; 1961, \$3,284.43; 1966, \$230; 1966, \$250 (credited to the Saltmarsh Fund); 1967, \$1,015; 1968, \$1,000; 1969, \$500; Dec. 28, 1969, \$300.

Total to date — \$10,101.25.

1-14-70

PAGE FOUR LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITI

4/21/70 Lac. Budge



Scholarship Funds

Mrs. Blanche Fournier, President of the Laconia Bridge Club, presents a check to Miss Joan Cormier, corresponding secretary of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation. The Laconia Bridge Club, a non-profit organization, has selected the scholarship foundation as its local charity this year. In addition, the club also contributes to the American Contract Bridge League's charity foundation, which this year is joining in the fight against arthritis.



Donation for Scholarship

Joan Cormier, right, executive director of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation, accepts a donation of \$1,000 for two \$500 nursing scholarships from Sue Boulbee, left, director of nursing recruitment and development at Lakes Region

General Hospital in Laconia; Tom Clairmont, LRGH president; and June Fitzpatrick, LRGH vice president of nursing. The nursing department of the hospital made the donation to demonstrate its support of local nursing.

5-5-89

1-14-70



PO Box 7312 Gilford NH 03247-7312

2026 LRSF Board & Staff

Board:

Don McLellan, President
Semi Shin-Kenison, Vice President
Laura Larson, Treasurer
Jean Clarke, Secretary
Judy Ball
Chris Banks
Jessica Beane
Andrea Besegai
Colleen Cass
Jim Chase
Leisa D'Amour
Scott Davis
Jim Dirubbo
Calise Houle
Lois Kessin
Teresa Mahoney Mullen
Richard Mariano
Fredda Osman
Marjory Wilkinson

Staff:

Chris Guilmett, Executive Director
Karen Switzer, Director
Aprill Morgan, Assistant Treasurer
Maggie Gibbs, Admin. Assistant
Tara Columb, Admin. Assistant

Volunteers:

Joan Cormier, Advisory Director
Paulette Loughlin, Advisory Director
Steve Loughlin, Publicity/Photographer
Laura Ringer, Office Support

The 2026 – 2027 Scholarship Season has begun and is going strong!

The LRSF Scholarship Application and Application Instructions and Checklist are available on our website under the "Applicants" tab! www.lrscholarship.org

Stay up to date on our current activities!
www.lrscholarship.org

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