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Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation

PO Box 7312
Gilford NH 03247-7312
603-527-3533
scholarship@lrscholarship.org
www.lrscholarship.org

The DeCamp Center
14 Country Club Road
Gilford NH 03249
Our benefactors since 1999

We will be holding a Scholarship Application Informational Session on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at the BNH Op Center – check out our website for more information - registration is required.



2025 Year-End Newsletter

December

A Message from our President



December is a busy month, full of holiday celebration, bright sparkly lights, visits with friends and family and the beauty of new fallen snow. For me, it is a time of *joyfulness*, *connection*, and *gratitude*. As this is my last month as President, as well as board member after serving a decade of volunteerism for the Foundation, these three words resonate even stronger for me this year.

There is nothing more *joyful* than “doing good,” which is the true essence of the mission and work of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation! I will miss the *connections* and relationships built with fellow board members, staff, volunteers, and community members, but am grateful for the friendships I have gained from these shared experiences. But mostly I have an abundance of *gratitude* for the experience of being involved with the Foundation for so many years, seeing firsthand the powerful impact it makes in people’s lives whether you are a student receiving assistance, or a generous donor providing scholarship in memory or honor!

As you can see, there is so much to gain by volunteering for LRSF, and I encourage anyone to do so! I’d like to thank everyone who is now, or who has been, connected with Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation. **You have truly made a difference!**

Gayle Price



This past June the LRSF staff celebrated Karen in her retirement as Executive Director. To honor Karen for her leadership and for all that she has done for the Foundation, the Board of Trustees established The Karen Switzer Leadership Scholarship. In the photo (l-r) Paulette Loughlin, Maggie Gibbs, Laura Ringer, Chris Guilmett, Karen, Joan Cormier, and Tara Columb. Congratulations Karen!

2025 New Funds, Memorials or Additions to Already Established Funds



Albert J Akerstrom III Memorial Scholarship - (1944 - 2025) Albert was born in Laconia, NH and was a 1962 graduate of Belmont High School. Albert began his firefighting career in 1963 and served in the US Army from 1964 - 1967. After his military service, Albert started a full-time career in firefighting with the Laconia Fire Department while continuing to work on the Belmont Call Company. In 1984 he was hired as the Fire Chief in Belmont, the town he loved dearly. Albert was devoted to his town and dedicated his career to building the fire service for the town of Belmont. One of his most notable accomplishments was building the current Belmont Fire station with volunteers using donations. His leadership has left a lifelong impression on those who have followed in his footsteps. Albert retired in 2004 but remained a member of the Belmont Call Company until 2013, ending a 50-year fire service career.

The Warren Bailey Community Service Scholarship - established in 2024 by friends of the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction to honor the community impact of Warren Bailey and to recognize and promote community service in the youth of the Lakes Region. Warren, who in 1982 was a radio host with WLNH, created a two-day fundraising broadcast from the WLNH van in front of the Laconia YMCA. They raised \$2,100 and collected a number of items to be donated to the "Citizen Santa Fund". Fast forward to 2024, the Children's Auction, along with its hundreds of volunteers annually, has raised over \$9 million on behalf of nonprofits serving children and families in need. Visit www.childrensauction.com to learn more. Additional funds were received upon Warren's death in 2025.



Gilmanton Firefighters Association Scholarship - The Gilmanton fire Department was organized on January 3 1990 following the merger of the Gilmanton Corners Fire Department and the Gilmanton Iron Works Fire Department. The merger was completed to ensure that the citizens of Gilmanton are provided with the very best in emergency service.

Martha Virginia Wood Guild Memorial - Ginny Guild (1940-1995) was a professional model and was featured as a Breck Girl in a 1963 national magazine advertisement. She was very involved in her community. Including 20 years volunteering at Lakes Region General Hospital. She was a member of the Nursery Guild and was a past president of the Hospital Auxiliary. Mrs. Guild worked as a school secretary, first at Gilford Middle-High School and later at Gilford Elementary School until the time of her death. She was a strong supporter of the Gilford school

district, serving on various volunteer committees and as an athletic booster. Additional funds were received upon the passing of her husband, **Lawrence W Guild II (1934 - 2025)**. "Larry" was a 1957 Dartmouth College graduate. He was employed by Guild Mills before forming his own company, Hampshire Textiles. One of his proudest accomplishments of his career was producing the fabric for Kermit the Frog and other Muppet characters. Larry actively contributed to his Gilford community through the Gilford Volunteer Fire Department and member of the Budget Committee, Board of Fire Engineers, and Gilford Selectmen. Larry was a long-time member of Gilford Outing Club, Winnepesaukee Yacht Club, Laconia Rotary, and a director of Village Bank & Trust.



Live Like Doug Irving Memorial Scholarship - Created to celebrate the life of John Douglas Irving. Doug was a lifelong New Hampshire resident with strong ties to the Lakes Region. Doug was the Director of Operations at Gunstock Mountain Resort for more than four decades. During his tenure, he was the heart, soul, and backbone of the resort, and lived, breathed, and bled Gunstock. Tragically, he passed away suddenly at the age of sixty-seven. Doug had a hand in every building of infrastructure improvement to lifts, trails, buildings, snowmaking, and base lands since the early 1980s. He also spearheaded the construction of summer amenities such as the Zip tour Zip Lines, Aerial Treetop Course and Mountain Coaster. As remembered by his friend of over 50 years, Greg Goddard, "Doug was a tireless advocate for the resort, its employees, and its guests. He was an outstanding role model, mentor and coach for countless managers who worked with him. His door was always open to anyone who needed his advice and counsel". Doug was especially committed to being a good land steward, working closely with the Belknap County Conservation District, the Belknap Range Trail Tenders, Trout Unlimited

and numerous naturalists, and environmentalists to protect the beautiful landscapes, vistas, streams, woodlands, and wetlands which make Gunstock special. The endowment for this scholarship was provided by generous donations to the Live Like Doug Education Center. LLDEC is a non-profit (501c3) organization whose mission is to foster interest in environmental awareness, conservation, stewardship, and the use of the outdoor environment for healthy mental and physical enjoyment, or in other words, to simply live like Doug.

Bonita L Johnston - (1952 - 2025) Funds were received by Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation upon the passing of Bonita "Bonny" Johnston. A dedicated teacher, Bonny worked at St James Nursery School for many years. She was committed to students and the education. Bonny established the Elm Street School Volunteer Association. She was active in the Laconia High School drama program. Bonny loved to spend time with family and friends. The lessons Bonny taught everyone, including acceptance and finding the humor in life, will live on in her absence.





LHS Class of 1952 - The initial scholarship awarded by the Laconia High School Class of 1952 was to celebrate their 10th anniversary. To culminate their 50th anniversary reunion in 2002, the Class of 1952 voted to establish an endowment scholarship fund. Additional funds were received upon the passing of classmate **Wayne R Fletcher** - (1932 - 2025). Wayne was active in skiing and ski jumping and was captain of the Laconia Ski Team in his senior year. Wayne spent four years in the Navy during the Korean Conflict.

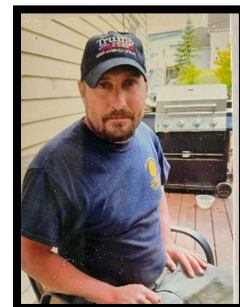
Stephen W Moore Memorial Scholarship - (1954-2001), Stephen, a Vermont native, resided in Laconia for 23 years. He was a graduate of Burlington High School and continued his education at UVM, UNH and NHTC. Steve was employed as a computer technician specializing in the software implemented by engineers and land surveyors. His job afforded

him the opportunity to travel throughout the United States, South America, and Europe. He was also a Licensed Land Surveyor and member of the New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association. Steve was an avid sportsman, excelling in downhill and cross country skiing, hiking, kayaking, and cycling. He spent much of his free time in these athletic pursuits and always encouraged family and friends to join him on one of his adventures. Steve was also a strong proponent of the value of a good education; the reason his family founded this scholarship in his memory in 2001. Additional donations were made this year with the passing of his wife, **Barbara Cushing-Moore** (1948 - 2025). Barbara had many interests, among them were reading, painting, gardening, and home improvements. Barbara was an integral part of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation, filling many roles!



Bert and Anita Morin Scholarship Fund - were born and brought up in Laconia. They married in 1938 and raised 3 children. Both worked together as a team. **Bert** (1915-1995) worked in the family business at the Belknap Mills and later was welfare director for 34 years until his retirement in 1989. **Anita** (1919-2011) worked at Scott & Williams for 37 years until her retirement in 1979. Together they worked for the betterment of their community, church, children and family. Bert coached basketball, baseball, and football for Sacred Heart as a volunteer for 24 years. Anita was the cheerleader, the sandwich maker and the support system in every aspect. She was always there to help in any way she could. Their work ethics were admirable and their belief in God, kids and education was very important to both of them. The scholarship fund has continued their ideals of giving students a chance to have a decent education and to be the best they can be. Donations were added in this past year in memory of **Robert J Dachowski, Sr.** (1938 - 2025). "Bob" was a 1957 graduate of Bishop Bradley High School and attended the Northeast Broadcasting School in Boston where he attained his certificate in broadcasting. Bob was a man of many talents, especially a prolific song writer and music articles for various publications. He was active in his community and deeply devoted to his Catholic Faith.

David C Noyes Memorial Scholarship - (1979 - 2025) Born in Laconia, NH, David passed away unexpectedly at the age of 45, on Thursday, February 27, 2025. David loved to play pool, and he was more than avid pool player, winning the American Legion State pool tournament with his brother Michael Noyes. Hard work was an understatement. He loved working. He was an amazing framing and finish carpenter and was employed as a floor finisher. David was a member of the SAL American Legion, of The Rod & Gun Club and The Elks. David was very active with the clubs and loved by many. He enjoyed his rides on his Harley and his time with his loving sidekick Golden Retriever, Jax. David was full of life and lived life to the fullest!



John Paradise Memorial Scholarship - (1971-2003) graduated from Gilford Middle High School in 1990 and from the College of Oceanography in San Diego, California. He was a professional diver for a number of oil companies. He graduated from Plymouth State College in 1997 with a major in business and a minor in economics and worked as a stockbroker in Boston for a year. He was co-founder and co-owner of the Meetinghouse Brewing Co. in Gilmanton. A past member of the Belknap County Sportsman's Association, he loved the outdoors and enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, and treasured spending time with his wife, Sonsa, at the ocean. He is remembered by family and friends as the most positive and joyful person they know, who lived life to the fullest. His family, friends, and colleagues established this meaningful memorial in his honor. Additional funds were received earlier this year with the passing of John's mother, **Sally Ann Paradise** - (1934 - 2024). Sally was co-owner of Paradise Drilling and Blasting. She and her husband, Lionel, enjoyed camping trips to the mountains and ocean. Sally was a long time member of the Belknap Sportsman's Club, LHS Class of 1952 and member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Dennis A Phelps Memorial Scholarship - (1961 - 2023). Dennis was born in Laconia and an LHS class of '80 graduate. Dennis served in the US Army and proudly dedicated 33 years working at Foley Oil & Propane Company up until his retirement in June 2023. Dennis was a family man; he loved and cherished his family as they were his top priority. He loved time on the lake and up north at camp. He enjoyed ice racing on Berry Pond and White Mountain Motorsports Park. Dennis dedicated his life to improving the well-being of children and bettering our community. Dennis was an active and vital board member of the Lakes Region Santa Fund for 12 years. All who knew Dennis knew him as a selfless individual who put the needs of others before himself. Additional funds were received this year with the passing of his father, **Clinton R Phelps**. (1938 - 2025). Clinton and his wife, Winnie, traveled the entire east coast in their motorhome and settling for many years in Barefoot Bay, Florida before moving back to Gilford. Whether it was hunting at the family camp, car racing or playing golf, Clinton enjoyed time with his family.





Ralph B Sanborn and Boys Scholarship – Ralph B. Sanborn was a wonderful mechanic and a friend to everyone. He deeply loved his three companions, Lucky Bear, Diamond and Smoky, "The Boys".

Karen Switzer Leadership Scholarship - This scholarship was established by the LRSF Board of Trustees in 2025 to honor Karen Switzer. She was instrumental in advancing the Foundation through technology improvements, expanding community connections through public speaking engagements with civic clubs, partnering with businesses for fundraising efforts and launching a strong public presence through engaging the community in events and contests throughout the Lakes Region. Karen was tirelessly committed and embraced whole-heartedly any opportunity to spread the good news about the Foundation and how it can be life changing. This scholarship honors Karen's leadership, business savvy, community commitment, and empathy to benefit deserving students for years to come.



Barbara St. Pierre Memorial Scholarship - (1928 - 2025) Barbara "Barb" L. St. Pierre born in Laconia and was a 1949 graduate from the Laconia Hospital School of Nursing. Barbara was a stay-at-home mother until after her children entered school at which point she resumed her nursing career at LRGH in the areas of pediatrics, medical surgery, psychiatrics and in her final 5 years of nursing in adult dare care. Barbara was an RN for over 40 years. After retiring, Barbara remained active in many local organizations, DAR, St Joseph's Ladies Guild, Elder Friendship Club, Laconia Historical Society and Graduate Nurses Association of LRGH. She was also an avid genealogist, researching her family's genealogy.

Reed Worthen IV Memorial Scholarship – (1974 – 2024) Reed was a 1997 Political Science graduate from UNH, where he excelled on the lacrosse, hockey, and football teams. He was deeply committed to his family and a beacon of light in the Gilford community. Reed was well known for coaching youth sports and being highly involved with the community as a whole through volunteering and simply being a positive presence at local community events. Reed enjoyed the outdoors and spending time at the ocean and boating on Lake Winnepesaukee. Reed defined what

it meant to be a supportive/loving husband, father, and community member, not just for his 3 children (Klava, Sam and Rowan) but for all of the children of the community. His wife Bethany and children are offering these scholarships to honor Reed's character to deserving recipients with similar values and characteristics.



It was another successful evening for our Annual Benefit Night at Fratello's Restaurant in Laconia! It was great to catch up with some of our donors and to tell the community LRSF's story. Our 2026 Annual Benefit Night will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd! Thank you Fratello's!





January started off our year with an informational session held at BNH Op Center. This session was open to students and parents of the area high schools. Despite the snowy weather, we had a great turnout! Thank you to BNH for the use of the space! Informational sessions were also held at the HUOT Career and Technical Center as well as area high schools in January & February.

2026 Information Session at the BNH Op Center will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Space is limited and registration is required. Please visit our website to register.



We had amazing community participation this year in our Annual Lakes Region Pumpkin Figure Contest with close to 50 Participants! The American Legion (right) created a display representing all the branches of the service as well as Fire and Police Departments. Fredda Osman, Colleen Cass & Judy Ball, along with LRSF Executive Director, Chris Guilmett sell raffle tickets for LRSF's annual Fall fundraisers at the Belknap Mill's Annual end of summer sock hop, "under the lights" at the LHS/GHS football game at Laconia High School, and in downtown Laconia.



Graduating seniors received their scholarship award packets at their school's award ceremonies. Even though Laconia and Belmont High Schools had their Award Nights on the same night, with the help of the LRSF Board trustees, we were able to work through the evening presentations! Board Members Judy Ball, Marj Wilkinson and Jim Chase helped out Executive Director, Chris Guilmett at LHS. While LRSF President, Gayle Price was assisted by Board Member Colleen Cass and Director, Karen Switzer at BHS.



Area High School Award Night Ceremonies. Laconia High School (left), Belmont High School (right).



Board Members Fredda Osman and Lois Kessin helped out at GHS (left). Later in June, Chris was assisted by Board Member Dick Mariano at Prospect Mountain High School's Award Night.



Award Nights and Celebration of Achievement ceremonies. Huot Career and Technical Center (left), Prospect Mountain High School (right).

Our 2025 Annual Appeal is winding down, however, it's not too late to send in your donation!

As part of LRSF's Mission and Purpose "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", we are appealing to the generosity of our donors and other members of the Lakes Region community to make a donation now to our 2025 annual appeal of the Friends of the Foundation Operating Fund (FOFOF).

A donation to FOFOF is crucial for the long term success of LRSF and is critical to supporting our operations and the ability for us to carry out our mission. With your donation to FOFOF, the collective act of giving becomes a significant part of the support of the Foundation.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and our students, please accept our deepest thanks for your donation.

How you can donate now to the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation – FOFOF

- Send a check to LRSF, PO Box 7312, Gilford NH 03247-7312
- Click on the "Donate" button on our website to use PayPal or a credit card
- Drop a check off to our office, Monday – Thursday: 9-3

If you would like to make a donation as a gift in honor or in memory of a person to mark a special occasion, or for the holiday season, please provide us with their name and mailing address, and we will acknowledge your donation/gift with a special note. This would truly be a meaningful gift.

If you are a business, you have the option, with a donation of at least \$250.00, of having your business logo displayed on our website as one of our supporters. Your logo would have a direct link to your website.

We would also welcome the opportunity to discuss your long term planned giving options.

Based on the number of scholarships awarded this year, we truly feel Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation is an accurate reflection of the generosity of the people of the Lakes Region.

Take a moment to visit our website and check out some of the heartfelt Thank You notes we have received from some of the scholarship recipients!



(left) A historical overview presentation was given to the Kiwanis Club of Laconia. The Laconia Kiwanis Club is one of the original 8 donors that established the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation in 1956. Since 1956, Laconia Kiwanis has awarded to 356 Lakes Region students who went onto secondary education!

Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation has been highlighted several times this past year on LAKES 101.5FM as the "Good News Story of the Day"! It has given us the opportunity to get our story "out there"!

(right) Chris & Karen are preparing to record in the studio with LAKES 101.5FM host, Heather Bishop.





2026 will be the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation! In its 70 years, LRSF has had only 4 Executive Directors! And even though the prior Executive Directors have retired, they are still actively committed to LRSF! Pictured (l to r) Joan Cormier, Paulette Loughlin, Karen Switzer, and Chris Guilmett.

The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015 (among other things) made the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) provision permanent. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 introduced the QCD provision for Traditional and Roth IRA owners (or beneficiaries after the death of the owner) who are age 70½ or older to make charitable contributions of up to \$100,000 per year directly from their IRAs to an eligible organization without incurring any adverse federal income tax consequences. The distribution counts for the purpose of the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from IRAs but is not included in calculating the individual taxpayer's limitation on charitable deductions in the year the donation was made.

Q. What are the key benefits of an IRA Charitable Distribution to a charity?

A. The IRA QCD provision can help to bolster your legacy while reducing your taxable estate. While you would not receive a charitable deduction for a transfer from your IRA to a charity, the amount of your transfer would not be included in your gross income, nor would it be subject to income tax. You would have the added satisfaction of knowing that your charity could receive the full amount, with no tax cost to you or to the charity.

Please contact your Financial Advisor regarding making a Qualified Charitable Distribution to Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation FOF. Thank you!

2026 – 2027 LRSF Scholarship Application!



Get a head start and check out our website NOW for instructions on completing the **2026 – 2027 LRSF Scholarship Application. The application will be available on our website beginning in January 2026!**

www.scholarship.org

The final deadline for filing an application is Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

Mark your calendar!! Plans are underway to hold our annual LRSF Benefit Night at Fratello's on Tuesday, March 3rd from 4:00pm – 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.

This also includes any takeout orders between those hours. We will also be holding the live drawing for our annual Winter Blues Raffle! Tickets will be available for purchase on our website. You do not need to be present to win.



Opening for an Assistant Director!

LRSF has a unique opportunity to join the team as an Assistant Director. This position offers the chance to make a difference in the lives of students in the Lakes Region. As Assistant Director, you will be in a key leadership role with a hands on approach in all aspects of the Foundation, including working with staff, donors, and students. You will be in a rewarding and fulfilling position, working part time, flexible hours. Send your resume to scholarship@lrscholarship.org and tell us about yourself.

Call us today for more information: 603-527-3533



Follow us!