

# Watertown Foundation



*Annual Report 2023*





















# *Community Service Grants*

## *2023-2024*

### **For The Arts**

Brass City Ballet	Laptop	\$700.00
Mattatuck Museum	Improved phone system	\$2,000.00
Palace Theater	Radio & microphone greeter system	\$2,000.00
Waterbury Symphony Orchestra	Storage units	\$1,000.00

### **For Our Churches**

Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries, Inc.	Outdoor water bubbler fountain	\$1,000.00
Holy Disciples Parish/St. Mary Magdalen Church	HVAC improvements	\$8,000.00
Union Congregational Church of Oakville	Fire suppression system	\$2,500.00
Watertown United Methodist Church	Lighting upgrades	\$3,000.00

### **For Our Education**

Children's Community School	Safety initiatives	\$1,500.00
Judson Elementary School	Books	\$1,000.00
Polk Elementary School	Library structure improvements	\$1,000.00
St. John Catholic Middle School	Chromebooks	\$3,000.00
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Elementary School	Classroom equipment	\$1,500.00
Watertown FIRST Robot, Inc.	Competition kit	\$5,000.00

### **For Our Environment**

#### **For Heritage Enhancement**

Evergreen Cemetery Association	Equipment garage roof	\$5,000.00
Railroad Museum of New England	Wall restoration	\$2,000.00
Trumbull-Porter DAR	Grounds restoration	\$2,500.00
Watertown History Museum	Foundation repairs	\$3,000.00
Watertown Tennis Club	Clubhouse repairs	\$1,000.00

#### **For Human Services**

Acts 4 Ministry, Inc.	Shelves & containers units	\$2,000.00
American Legion Post 195 Wtn	Bathroom repairs	\$3,000.00
Carolyn's Place	HVAC improvements	\$3,000.00
Easter Seals Rehab Center	Hearing testing equipment	\$1,500.00
Girls Inc. (Park Central)	Dance floor replacement	\$1,000.00
The Social Chase, Inc.	Social activities	\$2,000.00
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury	Speakers & wireless microphones	\$800.00
Quilts That Care	Quilting equipment	\$1,000.00
Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury	Fire escape remodel	\$2,500.00
VFW Post 7330 Auxiliary	Electrical, lighting & ceiling repairs	\$2,500.00
Watertown Area Asso. of Special Citizens	Social activities	\$3,000.00
Watertown Library Association	Security protection plan	\$3,000.00
Watertown Rotary Foundation	Crestbrook gazebo roofing repairs	\$3,000.00

#### **For Our Youth**

Police Activity League (PAL)	Facility improvements	\$2,000.00
Waterbury YMCA - Camp Mataucha	New changing rooms	\$5,000.00
Waterbury Youth Services	Laptop computers	\$3,000.00
		<b>\$85,000.00</b>

# Scholarships

## Watertown Foundation

### 2023 Scholarships

Twenty Eight Scholarships totaling \$89,500

Ricky Bozzuto Memorial Scholarship	Behzad Qurbani	WHS	\$2,000
Reinhold & Katie DeWitt Scholarship	Dylan Payne	WHS	\$3,000
Reinhold & Katie DeWitt Scholarship	Arianna De Leon	St. Paul	\$3,000
Eppehimer Memorial Scholarship	Mattingly Creter	WHS	\$3,000
Fletcher Judson Memorial Scholarship	Kyle Zaccagnini	WHS	\$3,000
Litchfield Bancorp Scholarship	Adriana Dandonoli	WHS	\$1,500
M. Heminway Merriman 2nd Scholarship	Abby Gallagher	WHS	\$5,000
Joyce Mordenti Scholarship	Kami LaBella	WHS	\$1,500
Kathleen M. Scully Memorial Scholarship	Adea Selmani	WHS	\$2,000
Town of Watertown Scholarship	Ethan Cizauskas	Taft	\$1,500
Watertown Foundation 1st year 2023	Melanie Martinelli	WHS	\$2,000
2nd year 2022	Olivia Eshoo		\$2,000
3rd year 2021	Emma Gallagher		\$2,000
4th year 2020	Cailin Maguire		\$2,000
Watertown Foundation 1st year 2023	Jasmine Pham	WHS	\$4,000
2nd year 2022	Grace Kenney		\$4,000
3rd year 2021	Fiora Lena		\$4,000
4th year 2020	Natalia Baran		\$4,000
Watertown Foundation Scholarship	Eva Dishnica	WHS	\$4,000
	Nicolina Gereski	Taft	\$4,000
	Allysa Calabrese	Nonn	\$4,000
Watertown Foundation Past Presidents Scholarship	Ian Metcalfe	WHS	\$5,000
Watertown Oakville Chamber of Commerce			
Antonacci Family STEM Scholarship	Mattingly Creter	WHS	\$1,500
Business Scholarship	Erin Pienczykowski	WHS	\$1,500
David Woodward Scholarship	Charlotte Manalo	WHS	\$5,000
	Marcus Concepcion	St. Paul	\$5,000
David Woodward Year 1 of 4	Giacomo Rinaldi	WHS	\$5,000
David Woodward Year 2 of 4	Torri DiStefano	WHS	\$5,000

HCHS = Holy Cross Nonn = Nonnewaug  
St. Paul Catholic High School after Sacred Heart closed

# Scholarships

## RICKY BOZZUTO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded to a graduating Watertown High School senior on the basis of scholastic excellence in the areas of mathematics, physical sciences and information technology. The recipient should demonstrate financial need. This scholarship is given in memory of a man devoted to scholarship, country, work, and especially his family.

## REINHOLD AND KATIE DEWITT SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded on the basis of academic excellence, demonstrated sensitivity to others needs, and the ability to work cooperatively with those in need. This scholarship is not based on financial need, and is given through the generosity of Mrs. Reinhold DeWitt in recognition of the benefits she and her husband received from their educations that provided them the opportunities for work, friendships, and service to others.

## WILLIAM H. AND MARGARET E. EPPEHIMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded to a graduate of Watertown High School and awarded according to standards set by the Foundation.

## FLETCHER JUDSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded to a graduating Watertown High School senior on the basis of academic excellence and exemplary community service.

## LITCHFIELD BANCORP SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded to a deserving senior from the Watertown Oakville community.

## M. HEMINWAY MERRIMAN 2ND SCHOLARSHIP:

Through the generosity of the Woodward Fund, a scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who is a Watertown or Oakville resident and shows a contribution to Watertown through time and energy devoted to improving the community.

## JOYCE MORDENTI SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded to an Oakville resident who self identifies as female (by birth or by

choice) and is attending any University of Connecticut campus. Recipient need not be entering freshman year to apply. Preference given to recipient who has demonstrated ability to overcome extreme odds in high school, such as bullying, emotional disturbances or other mental health challenges, pregnancy, truancy, and academic suspensions. This scholarship is not based on grades or financial need and is given through the generosity of Joyce Mordenti and Jim Pohl in recognition of the benefits she and her husband received from their educations at the University of Connecticut. It commemorates the Watertown Foundation Scholarship that Joyce received in 1970.

## KATHLEEN M. SCULLY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded to a high school senior who is a resident of Watertown or Oakville. The scholarship is given in memory of Kathy, an exceptional educator and administrator who spent her entire 36-year career in the Watertown/Oakville school system. The scholarship is based on financial need and is awarded to a student who is pursuing a degree in education.

## TOWN OF WATERTOWN SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded to a high school senior who is a resident of the Town of Watertown. The scholarship is awarded based on a combination of the student's grade point average, his financial need, and his participation in community and public service.

## WATERTOWN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded in recognition of the contributions the student has made to the community and to the high school while maintaining a strong scholastic record. The student should demonstrate financial need. This scholarship provides a renewal opportunity for the sophomore, junior and senior years of college.

## WATERTOWN FOUNDATION PAST PRESIDENTS SCHOLARSHIP:

In 1925, a small group of residents gathered to organize a foundation dedicated to making our community a better place to live. Under the guidance

and generosity of David Woodward, the first president, the Watertown Foundation was established supporting the needs of the community. Fifty-one presidents of vision and commitment have volunteered their time and talents to further the goals of our forefathers and have led this foundation since its founding. This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who has exemplified the ideals of community service and has shown vision and leadership in their efforts to improve the lives of others in our community following the inspiration of the founding fathers of the Watertown Foundation.

## WATERTOWN OAKVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANTONACCI FAMILY STEM SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded to a graduating Watertown High School senior, with preference given to a senior in technical education, who intends to pursue a career in a skilled trade or a science, technology, engineering or math related field at a post-secondary school or institution, and who demonstrates academic excellence and provides evidence of contributing to the school and/or community through volunteer activities and/or entrepreneurship.

## WATERTOWN OAKVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded to a graduating Watertown High School senior who intends to pursue a post-secondary education in a business-related field of study and who demonstrates academic excellence, participates in an extracurricular business-related club or organization, and provides evidence of contributing to the school and/or community through volunteer activities and/or entrepreneurship.

## DAVID WOODWARD SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

Awarded to a student resident in Watertown or Oakville. This scholarship is given in honor of David Woodward, one of the founding charter members of the Watertown Foundation, through the generosity of the David, Helen and Marian Woodward Fund.

# Join Us! Become a Member

**H**elp continue the Watertown Foundation's legacy of support for the many special qualities that make Watertown an extraordinary community. Membership in the Watertown Foundation is open to the public.

A donor may support the Foundation's continuing work with an unrestricted gift of any amount. Our donors are individuals, families, businesses, and charitable organizations. Donors may give cash, stock, retirement assets, bequests and other planned gifts.

Designating the Watertown Foundation as the recipient of a *Memorial Donation* continues the memory and spirit of a deceased family member or friend. *In Honor Of* gifts for living relatives or friends in lieu of holiday or birthday gifts can celebrate the event in a meaningful way. *Memorial Donations* and *In Honor Of* donations are received throughout the year. Acknowledgement is sent to the donor and a complete listing of gifts is sent to the family or party.

The Foundation's assets are professionally managed with oversight by the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees.

## **Trust Funds**

The Watertown Foundation will create a special fund in your name, in the name of your family or business, or in honor of any person or organization you choose. You receive tax benefits in the year your gift is made. Your gift will be placed into an endowment fund that is invested over time, and earnings from the fund are used to make grants addressing community needs. Your gift, and all future earnings from your gift, will provide support for scholarships and organizations helping people and programs in perpetuity. Donors may also leave charitable assets upon their death in the form of a bequest in a will or trust, retirement plan designations, or beneficiary designation in a life insurance policy.

## **Distribution from Named Trust Funds**

Each year the Board of Trustees establishes the amounts to be awarded in scholarships and grants, based on the endowment's market value and the success of its investments. This distribution policy strives to maintain the "purchasing power" of the funds over the long term to protect against inflation so that today's assets are not diminished in the future. The Board does not assess fees in the administration of Trust Funds or in the awarding of grants or scholarships.

# *Types of Funds*

## **Unrestricted**

The principal of an unrestricted fund is invested and retained by the Watertown Foundation. Income from investments is pooled and is awarded annually to nonprofit community organizations by the Board of Trustees. An unrestricted fund provides the most flexibility to the Board to meet needs in our community.

## **Field Of Interest**

A Trust Fund may specify a particular field of interest such as the arts, youth athletics, education, social service, or the environment with a minimum gift of \$50,000. The Board of Trustees selects projects within your field of interest and presents the award in the name of the Trust Fund.

## **Scholarships**

Named scholarships may be created with a minimum gift of \$50,000. Scholarships may be designated for study in broadly defined areas such as medicine and health careers, social service, business, engineering, and education. Criteria for selection are at the discretion of the Board of Trustees and are defined annually in the Watertown Foundation Scholarship Application. Recipients must be Watertown residents.

## **Business Community Trust Funds**

Wooster Society: \$5,000 or more

Westbury Society: \$2,500 - \$4,999

Watertown Society: up to \$2,499

Gifts may be given over five years.

### **Tax-free contributions**

The Watertown Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations to the Foundation qualify for the maximum tax benefit allowable by law.



## *Watertown Foundation, Our Heritage*

On October 6, 1925, fifty residents of Watertown met with David Woodward at M'Fingal Inn Bungalow. He informed his guests of his love for the Town and his desire to do what he could to make it a better place in which to live. He had therefore concluded that the organization of a Foundation, incorporated under the laws of the State, should be undertaken for the purpose of receiving and maintaining funds and using the income therefrom to improve the social and living conditions of the town. He explained that he had had some experience in the organization of a similar Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia and that six residents of Watertown had pledged \$500 a year as a nucleus of such funds.

He suggested that an opportunity be afforded to each resident of Watertown who was likely to be interested in the establishment of the Foundation to become one of its Charter Members by subscribing to a pledge to contribute to it not less than \$100. By such action all persons subscribing before October 21, 1925 would be declared and forever known as Charter Members of the Foundation. These subscribers would form a temporary organization to function until the Foundation had been incorporated.

All present on October 6, 1925 approved Mr. Woodward's suggestions. Mr. Horace D. Taft was elected Chairman and Mr. John L. Scott, Secretary of the meeting then held by those present. Residents of Watertown were invited to become Charter Members under the plans outlined by Mr. Woodward. A plan of organization at a meeting of the Charter Members was held at the M'Fingal Inn Bungalow on October 21, 1925.

Within a short time, a total of ninety-five residents of Watertown applied for Charter memberships. The Foundation was organized as a Corporation without capital stock on December 4, 1925.

On July 15, 1926, Mr. Woodward made a gift of \$5000 to the Foundation for the purpose of establishing a Student Aid Fund. He stated that loans should be made from this fund of a reasonable amount to any Watertown student or graduate of Taft School on the basis of scholastic merit, financial need, and contributions to school and community.

The Foundation received \$10,000 from the estate of David Woodward. Mr. Woodward left Watertown as a young man becoming a successful and prominent citizen of Atlanta, Georgia, and he maintained a home in Watertown where he and his family spent several weeks each summer. David Woodward died July 16, 1931.

The Foundation received \$7,475 from the estate of Harley F. Roberts, who died April 29, 1930. He was a long time master at Taft School and was very active in good works in Watertown.

Representatives of the Scovill and Merriman families gave the Foundation the Community House property in 1942. The building and grounds through the years had been the headquarters of many public groups, which were charged only nominal rents by the civic-minded owners. Among the organizations so favored were the Watertown Civic Union, the Red Cross, the Visiting Nurses Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. The management of this property, which also contained a theatre, stores, bowling alley and a large room for social events, became quite a problem for the Foundation to handle. It was therefore decided to sell the property, which was accomplished in 1950, and from the sale about \$60,000 was received.

Through the years the Watertown Foundation has been the recipient of many generous donations and bequests. As a tax-exempt, non-profit community foundation the Foundation identifies, combines and invests the charitable gifts of its members to benefit the community.