

Scholarships, Inc.



NEW Scholars

Scholarships, Inc.
2301 Riverside Drive
Green Bay, WI 54301

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www.scholarshipsinc.org

2016 Annual Report

Changing Lives Through Education

Encouraging and Investing in Students

Scholarships, Inc. was founded in 1962 when a group of Green Bay community leaders came together with the same goal: To financially assist and encourage worthy local high school students to seek higher education. The focus remains the same today. The organization works directly with schools, students, and their parents to provide scholarships and programming that encourages educational and personal growth among students.

We understand the pivotal role that a community plays in supporting students on their path to higher education.

This country's greatest resource is its students. Our future depends on the continuous flow of energized, well-educated young people into our work force and communities. Yet, most of today's college-bound students face a heavy financial burden. Escalating college costs stand in their path, shortening their reach and, in too many cases, limiting their potential.

Through scholarships and college readiness programming, Scholarships, Inc. provides financial assistance and encouragement to local students as they explore higher education opportunities. We are a nonprofit organization funded by forward-thinking donors and supported by a diverse group of community volunteers. With our 54-year legacy of awarding millions of dollars in scholarships to thousands of students in Wisconsin's Brown and Door counties, we remain fully committed to helping area students become college success and scholarship ready.

Our Mission

Encourage and invest in area students to succeed in higher education

Our Vision

Every student has access to the tools necessary to pursue higher education

Dear Friends,

Our mission is to "Encourage and invest in area students to succeed in higher education." These words are important to us; in fact, every day we strive to help students on their path to a college degree. Through both our Scholarship and NEW Scholars programs, we encourage students to pursue higher education and with the help of our donors, we invest in them so they can achieve their college goals.

We were founded to provide scholarships for local students with the desire to attend college, but without the financial means to do so. In 2016, we awarded more than \$664,000 in scholarships to 204 students. While these numbers are impressive, what's more important is the impact we have in the lives of these students as we help them realize their career dreams.

Three years ago, we set out to further enhance our impact with the development of NEW Scholars, a college readiness program for underserved and would be first-generation college students. Starting in sixth grade and continuing through twelfth grade, we help these students on their way to college acceptance and the promise of a brighter future.

Good things are happening at Scholarships, Inc. and it's all thanks to you...our donors, volunteers, and community partners. We hope you enjoy this report as it illustrates how young lives are changed through the opportunity of education made possible by you.



Elaine A. Wagner

Elaine Wagner
Board President



Brent Roubal

Brent Roubal
Executive Director

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Berenice Guerrero Vazquez
Ciara Hedstrom
Asusena Lopez
Shannon VanStraten

A Year of Excitement and Change

In October 2015, Scholarships, Inc. welcomed **Brent Roubal** as its new Executive Director. Brent arrived with more than 24 years of nonprofit experience through his work with United Way, UW-Green Bay and most recently Family Services of Northeastern Wisconsin, where he served as Vice President of Development & Communications. Greetings, Brent!



In March 2016, Scholarships, Inc. proudly presented its **2016 Green Bay Pre-College Fair**. This free event for local middle and high school students gave kids an opportunity to check out the many summer pre-college programs offered by Wisconsin colleges & universities. These programs give students a sneak peek at college life when they live and study on-campus for up to two weeks while exploring a career field that interests them. Programs are offered in a variety of subject areas, and scholarships are available to cover the cost for Wisconsin free/reduced lunch students. We look forward to presenting this event again in 2017!



Also in 2016, the Scholarships, Inc. **Board of Directors** welcomed three new members: Debbie Helmle, Ronda Kincheloe and Mike Stearney. We also said farewell to two board members who reached the end of their terms. The organization extended its sincere appreciation to Julia Wallace and Michele McKinnon for their years of dedication to Scholarships, Inc. and the students we serve.



The NEW Scholars program greeted Program Director **Jason Annoye**, who joined the Scholarships, Inc. team in December 2015. Jason's work experience includes directing a similarly-focused college readiness program, teaching elementary and middle school-age children and specializing in reading intervention strategies. Welcome, Jason!

2016 Lamp of Knowledge Celebration

Walking up the red carpet at the Lamp of Knowledge Celebration, local high school graduates feel a mixture of nerves and excitement. Their family tells them to relax, but they can't; tonight they learn how much they'll receive in college scholarships from Scholarships, Inc. The suspense builds after dinner as each student lines up with their classmates, waiting for their name to be called. They climb the stairs, cross the stage and receive a crisp, white envelope containing their award letter. Quietly returning to their seat, their hands shake as they open the envelope...



Sponsors award a scholarship in their name and sit with the recipient at Lamp of Knowledge

On July 27, 2016, Scholarships, Inc. proudly presented our annual Lamp of Knowledge Celebration to recognize area students. Congratulations recipients - we are proud to be a part of your bright futures!

While we administer and award scholarships for those who have set up a legacy of higher education through an endowed scholarship, we also grant scholarships on behalf of event sponsors. Scholarship providers are seated with their recipients at the Lamp of Knowledge. This one-on-one interaction between donor and recipient is a wonderful way for supporters to feel the direct impact their funding has on these deserving students.

In addition to awarding scholarships to high school grads, Lamp of Knowledge provides an opportunity to introduce the incoming cohort of NEW Scholars. This group of 27 students began their journey to college as 6th graders, and will return to accept their own scholarships in 2023!



A Special Thanks to our Event Sponsors

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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NEW Scholars Navigate their Path to College

NEW Scholars is a college readiness program that inspires growth and encourages middle school students by preparing them for success in the college admission and scholarship process. Through after-school programming, active parent engagement and an incentive-based scholarship (up to \$5,000), we remain committed to supporting these students from sixth grade thru their first year of college—at no cost to the family.

The program is offered to students whose parents have not earned a college degree, qualify for free/reduced lunch and attend Washington or Edison Middle School in Green Bay. Participants are chosen because of their academic ability, desire to learn, and motivation to succeed.

When students meet each week, we encourage good academic habits and guide their steps to college, which feature discussions about financial aid, choosing a college, scholarships, college applications, and so much more. Our programming demonstrates the importance of volunteerism, being a 'difference maker,' and working together to encourage each other in their college-bound journey.



Since these children are first generation college students, our monthly parent workshops provide a safe, family-oriented space for parents to ask questions, share stories and challenges, and learn tips & tricks to better guide and support their child through middle and high school.



Learning by Serving Others

One major component of the NEW Scholars curriculum is service learning, which provides a multitude of benefits to students. It builds their self confidence, humility, kindness and compassion. It demonstrates the importance of community involvement and cultivates a habit of giving back, which will be evaluated on college and scholarship applications. And most importantly, it encourages a 'greater good' mentality by showing students that their actions can make a positive, direct impact on others, on themselves and on their community through volunteerism.



In 2016, NEW Scholars participated in a service learning project with community partner, Bornemann Senior Community. In class, students made signs for residents to hang on their doors to help make their rooms feel more like home. They later visited the facility—which provides nursing, rehabilitation and assisted living care—to hand-deliver the door signs and read stories with the seniors.

Reflecting on the project, many students remarked that it felt good to see the seniors smile, they enjoyed reading to them, and would gladly return for a second visit.



Student Spotlight:

KaNeisha, a NEW Scholar



KaNeisha is an 8th grader and, as a member of the first-ever cohort of NEW Scholars, will graduate from high school in 2021. Always ready with a big smile, KaNeisha has a great attitude, is friendly to everyone she meets, and works hard in school to achieve her goal of getting to college.

This summer, she participated in two pre-college programs, NWTC's Tech Camp and GLAD Camp at St. Norbert College. We sat down with KaNeisha and asked what she thought about these local pre-college programs.

What did you learn at NWTC's Tech Camp?:

It was all about technology. I learned how to use a touch screen computer, which was really cool, and how a radio station works. I loved that because I want to be a singer or an actress someday.

What is the most memorable part of St. Norbert's GLAD Camp?: The last day - I was really sad to be going home! I loved Zumba, yoga, and meeting the other kids. We were shy at first, but then we opened up and became friends.

Would you participate in another pre-college program?: Yes, I would love to! Now I know that I have a lot of choices. I can choose a career. I can choose any college, because there are a lot of them!

"I really want to go to college and be the first one in my family to graduate."

We also asked if NEW Scholars has helped her in school. "I had a hard time doing my homework this year," she explained. "Mr. Jason (Annoye) talked to one of my teachers to ask if I could stay after school. I stayed after and worked with my teacher, and now I have better grades!"

In fact, "better" is an understatement - KaNeisha's grades went from D's to B's in one week. And now she advocates for herself and her own education. We are proud of her commitment to school success, and will continue to support her as she pursues college!

Supporting Students Through Scholarships

From the Bottom of My Heart...



There are not enough words in this world or in my heart to express my sincere gratitude for receiving this scholarship. My mother and I had no idea of what to expect... I think our jaws hit the table after opening the letter from Scholarships Inc. at the banquet when we realized the amount of scholarship money I was receiving...and we immediately felt a weight lifted off our shoulders.

For the first time since we lost Brady, the tears we shed together were not of sorrow or emptiness from the loss but they were filled with joy and our hearts were full of happiness...

My mother had a lot of extra expenses raising Brady and myself on her own and having to take off of work countless hours to take Brady to appointments, surgeries, hospitalizations and then his unplanned funeral...she did her best to save money to help me as much as she could with college and I saved everything I earned this past summer working fulltime, but we still came up quite short paying for my first year. Your kindness and generosity has lifted a lot of that financial burden...

Thank you for giving me this tremendous gift and opportunity. After I finish college and begin my career, I will pay it forward to kids just like myself and make a difference in their lives as you did in mine.

Sincerely,

McKenzie, a scholarship recipient

You'll find the topic covered extensively in the Education section of every major newspaper: The cost of college is staggering, and today's students face an increasingly heavy financial burden. Scholarships, Inc. lessens student debt for hardworking, deserving area students; in fact, we are proud to have awarded over \$9 million to more than 8,500 local students since the organization was founded in 1962.

This year, a total of \$664,100 in scholarships was awarded by Scholarships, Inc.

Our current recipients are halfway through first semester at colleges & universities across the country, while soon-to-be high school grads will begin applying in December. Applicants are evaluated based on financial need,

academic achievement, volunteer and extracurricular activities, course rigor, and leadership, as well as clarity of thought and quality of character through essays and references. Many scholarships are two-year awards, and some are awarded for four years; students in Brown & Door Counties are eligible for all opportunities, and some are open to students in other Wisconsin counties.



Awards are funded entirely through donations from generous businesses, foundations, and individuals, many of whom have set up an endowed scholarship to provide a legacy gift of education (see list at right). These contributions prove to students that their community is backing them, and removes roadblocks for those with significant financial need. Without this support, many deserving students would not be able to attend college.

As many scholarship recipients write to their donors:

"I truly cannot thank you enough for the gift you have given me."

We have proudly supported area students for over 54 years, and together with our community, look forward to many more years of encouraging and investing in area students as they pursue higher education.



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2016
 scholarships
 by the
 numbers

Total
 awarded in
 scholarships:
\$664,100

Average
 award:
\$3,255
 per recipient

Scholarship
 recipients:
204

Attending
 a UW system
 school:
61%

Attending
 a college/
 university in
 Wisconsin:
79%

SCHOLAR (\$10,000 AND ABOVE)

Associated Bank
George & Anna Dittmer Trust
The George Kress Foundation
Green Bay Packers Foundation
K.C. Stock Foundation
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