

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS





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ABOUT US

The Community Foundation DeKalb County, or the DeKalb County Community Foundation as it was originally called, was founded in 1996. Our Founders had a like goal, to create a way for the community to invest in its own future by creating permanent support for charitable programs and organizations.

When an endowed fund is created, the money is invested for growth and income. Each year, part of the fund's growth is returned to the community in the form of grants for specific initiatives, events, or programs of area nonprofit organizations. And each year, a portion of the fund's growth is reinvested to ensure that the fund will remain active forever.

In 2024, 13 new funds were created, bringing our current total to 220 funds. Thanks to community donors, those funds made it possible to provide \$2,063,649 in grants and scholarships to the DeKalb County community in just one year.

But that's not all we do. The Foundation and its staff are involved in multiple projects with the goal of strengthening our community and ensuring that our community members are engaged, regardless of where they reside.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Who is eligible to apply?

Each scholarship fund has specific eligibility criteria defined by the donor when the fund was established.

How do I apply?

Visit our website at www.cfdekalb.org to access the scholarship portal.

Will the scholarship cover the full cost of my tuition?

No. These scholarships are intended to provide only partial support.

Is it required that I share my financial information?

Applicants may opt out of applying for financial need scholarships if they do not wish to share financial information with the Foundation.

Can I receive more than one scholarship?

It is possible to receive more than one scholarship and CFDC encourages students to apply for all scholarships for which they meet the eligibility requirements.

If I am awarded a scholarship, do I get the check?

No. Award checks are made payable to the institution and any unspent funds should be returned to CFDC.

Additional questions?

Contact our office at (260) 925-0311 if you have unanswered questions about CFDC scholarships or our process.



Apply Online

Create an account in our scholarship portal using a personal email address and a unique password Fill out application

Be matched to scholarships if completing our standard application and apply to those scholarships

Complete any additional essays Proofread your final work Submit applications

- >>> Please read all instructions and questions.
- High school students complete an initial application that allows them to complete demographic information only once. After submission of the initial application, the student will be matched to scholarships for which they meet the eligibility requirements. The scholarships to which they are matched will appear on their portal dashboard. The applicant must submit each opportunity individually.
- A scholarship application will only be considered when it has been completed by meeting all the requirements and is submitted by the deadline.
- The application for traditional high school students is available December 1 January 31.

Scholarships

DeKalb High School

Aim High Scholarship The Raymond, Luella, & David Aschleman Scholarship Ben Davis Memorial Scholarship The Wayne E. Boyd Scholarship The Bunge Athletic Scholarship Leland R. Fee Scholarship Rex Feller Memorial Scholarship Harry Fisk Scholarship Doug & Nancy Fites Scholarship Julia Hague Scholarship Barbara Herzer Scholarship Carol L. Hill Memorial Scholarship Lynn & Josephine Holsinger Scholarship Don Lash Memorial Scholarship The Laurie Family Golf Scholarship George Stanley & Rose Ilean Means Scholarship Lucas A. Oberkiser Scholarship Jessica Otterstedt Memorial Scholarship Derek L. Padilla Scholarship Parker Hannifin Scholarship Walter S. Penfield Scholarship Dr. Keith E. Perry Memorial Scholarship Donald Ruegsegger Scholarship for Christian Leadership Warren G. Sunday Memorial Scholarship Tri Kappa Scholarship Robert & Virginia White Scholarship

by Category

Eastside High School

The Raymond, Luella, & David Aschleman Scholarship
Butler Community Day Care BEE Scholarship
Rex Feller Memorial Scholarship
Mary Lois Murphy Grimm Scholarship
Julia Hague Scholarship
Donald Ruegsegger Scholarship for Christian Leadership
Warren G. Sunday Memorial Scholarship
Robert & Virginia White Scholarship

Garrett High School

The Raymond, Luella, & David Aschleman Scholarship
Sarah Jean Eldridge Scholarship
Julia Hague Scholarship
Carol L. Hill Memorial Scholarship
Winifred Peters Scholarship
Lukas Rieke Memorial Scholarship
Donald Ruegsegger Scholarship for Christian Leadership
Warren G. Sunday Memorial Scholarship
Robert & Virginia White Scholarship

Hamilton High School

The Raymond, Luella, & David Aschleman Scholarship Warren G. Sunday Memorial Scholarship

Lakewood Park Christian School

Julia Hague Scholarship Donald Ruegsegger Scholarship for Christian Leadership

DeKalb County HS, Graduating Seniors

Master Trooper James R. Bailey Memorial Scholarship
Verlyn Johnson Scholarship
Jane Elmira Mullen Kempf Communications Scholarship
Jody Kessler Skilled Trades Scholarship
The Imogene Mavis Music Scholarship
Jon Thomas Smith Memorial Vocational Scholarship
Starkey Science Scholarship

DeKalb County High School or Homeschooled Graduating Seniors

Chuck Fifer Memorial Scholarship Jody Kessler Skilled Trades Scholarship Pat Zakula Legacy Scholarship

DeKalb County Residents, DeKalb County High School, or Homeschooled Graduating Seniors

Auburn Business & Professional Women's Club Scholarship DeKalb County Community Scholars Scholarship John P. & Louanne Nugen Scholarship

DeKalb County Residents, DeKalb County HS Graduating Seniors Only

Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival Automotive Scholarship Randinelli Family Instrumental Music Scholarship Walters Family Memorial Scholarship

DeKalb County Residents

Jack & Sharon Hannes Scholarship Sirleine M. Smith Library Science Scholarship Walters Family Memorial Scholarship

DeKalb County Residents, Graduating Seniors & College Students Only

DeKalb County Master Gardeners Scholarship

Adults who Reside or Work in DeKalb County

DeKalb County Community Scholars Scholarship

John P. & Louanne Nugen Scholarship

DeKalb County, Noble County, LaGrange County, or Steuben County Graduating Senior

Dr. James Spink Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship Funds

The Foundation is honored to be entrusted with the funds for many scholarships awarded throughout DeKalb County.

The following pages tell the stories of the scholarship funds. Each donor has created their fund for a different reason, whether it be in memory of a friend or family member, to encourage higher education, or simply as part of their legacy.

Each scholarship has its own eligibility requirements set by the donor. Please direct any questions to the Foundation at Program@CFDeKalb.org or (260) 925-0311.

Aim High Scholarship

The Aim High Scholarship is funded from the Isaac Hague, Elva Likens, Robert & Marie Hughes and Berta Willennar funds. It also includes funding from the Helping Hands Fund and the Wings of Love Fund.

Isaac Hague Scholarship

Isaac served as postmaster of Waterloo from 1869 until he was elected DeKalb County auditor in 1874. This scholarship was created by the Hague's daughter, Dr. Stella Hague, to honor her father.

Elva A. Tess Likens Scholarship

Elva A. Tess Likens was a practical nurse who lived on North Van Buren Street in Auburn.



Robert & Marie Hughes Scholarship

Robert Hughes and Marie (Sprott) Hughes were married in 1934 and were lifelong residents of DeKalb County. Robert co-owned Hughes Drug Store in Garrett from 1929 to 1972.

Berta M. Willennar Scholarship

Berta Willennar was a member of the Hamilton Methodist Church and participated in many community activities that related to education and philanthropy. Her husband, Orlie, was a teacher in DeKalb and Steuben Counties. This fund was transferred from the Auburn Foundation, Inc. to the Community Foundation in December 2002.



The Raymond, Luella, & David Aschleman Scholarship Established in 2018 by the Aschleman family to provide scholarships to students pursuing an ag-related degree or veterinary medicine with a focus on "farm animals." Raymond and Luella spent their lives farming in DeKalb County. Raymond was the director of DeKalb Agra for 18 years and Luella worked for several years in the cafeteria

at DeKalb High School.

Auburn Business & Professional Women Scholarship

Established in March 2000 by the Auburn Business and Professional Women's Club to provide educational scholarships for DeKalb County students. This fund oversees three scholarships awarded on a 3-year rotation: Dr. Bonnell Souder Scholarship- female entering the medical field, The Sheila Hoch Fine Arts Scholarship-female pursuing a degree in drama, music & art, Business & Professional Women's Club Scholarship- female pursuing a degree.

Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival Automotive Scholarship

Established in April 2000 and proudly sponsored by the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival Committee and interested donors for a student studying in an automotive-related field.



Master Trooper James R. Bailey Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2023 to honor the service and dedication of Master Trooper James R. Bailey. Trooper Bailey was a graduate of Garrett High School and became an Indiana State Trooper in 2007. During his tenure as a State Trooper, he received the Life Saving Award in 2010, Trooper of the Year for District 22 in 2012, and the combat "Action Award" in 2021. End of Watch 3/3/2023.



Ben Davis Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2014 in memory of Ben by his family after he passed away. Ben entered the automobile business in Fort Wayne in 1970. In 1980, he became owner of Rohm Chevrolet, which became Ben Davis Chevrolet and in 2013 became co-owner of Ben Davis Ford.

Wayne E. Boyd Scholarship

Established in April 2000 by Wayne Boyd to provide educational scholarships for DeKalb County students. Wayne served in the National Guard for 7 years and worked for Dana Corporation for 31 years before retiring in 1990. He loved classic Chrysler cars and enjoyed watching IU basketball and football.

The Bunge Athletic Scholarship

Established in 2018 by relatives of the Jay and Oma Bunge family from Waterloo. Jay and Oma raised their children during the Great Depression, and all of their children, including the girls, were athletes. Their oldest son, Don, became a multisport star at Waterloo High School and Indiana Central (now the University of Indianapolis).

Butler Community Day Care BEE Scholarship

Established in November 2016 by the Butler Community Day Care Board of Directors. The fund will award scholarships to a DeKalb Eastern Community School graduate or an adult living within the DeKalb County Eastern Community School District who is pursuing a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in Elementary Education.

DeKalb County Community Scholars Scholarship

Established in July 2012 by the Community Foundation DeKalb County's Board of Directors. This fund provides educational scholarships in honor of Hilda B. Campbell, Judy Marsh and Delbert McBride. In 2024, the Foundation was able to expand this fund to offer additional scholarships through the generosity of local donors and funders.

Welcome to

Hilda B. Campbell Scholarship

Hilda Campbell was a local homemaker who enjoyed cooking and baking and then sharing the fruits of her labors with friends and business acquaintances. Hilda established the scholarship in honor of her daughter, Betty Lou Stomm, who dedicated her professional career to teaching at DeKalb High School.

Judy Marsh Scholarship

Judy Marsh was a long time DeKalb County resident and business woman. One of Judy's most enjoyable hobbies was playing golf. Friends and fellow golfing partners honor her memory by supporting community causes that were important to her.

Delbert McBride Scholarship

Delbert McBride passed away at the age of 91 on November 4, 1962. He had no close family and left most of his fortune to charitable organizations in Auburn. This fund was transferred from the Auburn Foundation, Inc. to the Community Foundation in December 2002. The fund awards educational scholarships.



DeKalb County Master Gardeners Scholarship

This scholarship was established in May 2006 and is funded by the DeKalb County Master Gardeners.



Sarah Jean Eldridge Scholarship

Established in April 2011, the fund provides educational scholarships for Garrett High School seniors. Miss Eldridge spent her professional career as a teacher, retiring from the Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community School District in 1986 after 33 years.

Leland R. Fee Scholarship

Established in January 2015, Mr. Fee's family established this scholarship in his memory after his death in December 2014. Beginning in 1949, Mr. Fee taught mathematics and science at Ashley High School for five years, served as the principal of Salem Center High School for 13 years, returned to Ashley High School as principal from 1965-1968, and then served as principal of Ashley Elementary until his retirement in 1985.

Rex A. Feller Memorial Scholarship

Established in September 2013, this fund provides educational scholarships for DeKalb or Eastside High School students. Rex A. Feller believed in life-long learning and self-improvement. Numerous friends and family established this scholarship in Rex's memory after he passed away in 2013 from a battle with cancer.

Chuck Fifer Memorial Scholarship

Established in October 2016. Chuck was the owner and head floral designer at the Sprinkling Can in downtown Auburn. Chuck was past president of the Auburn Downtown Business Association and Indiana Teleflora, and he was a member of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce and the Michigan Floral Association.

Harry Fisk Scholarship

Harry Fisk lived near Waterloo, Indiana, all his life. After graduating from Waterloo High School in 1919, he served in the United States Navy. This fund was transferred from the Auburn Foundation, Inc. to the Community Foundation in December 2002.



Doug and Nancy Fites Scholarship

Doug and Nancy Fites spent their lives educating young people. This is why, in 2024, Nancy established this scholarship. They both worked for DeKalb Central Schools. Nancy spent her tenure as a dedicated art teacher. During his tenure as athletic director, assistant principal, and principal at DeKalb High School, Doug coached baseball, basketball, and track.



Mary Lois Murphy Grimm Scholarship

Established in September 1997. Mary Lois Murphy Grimm was an educator in eastern DeKalb County. Mary's husband, Howard Grimm, Sr., established this scholarship in her memory through a gift in his will. "Her pure heart, spirit and noble soul inspired many," he said.

Julia Hague Scholarship

This fund was transferred from the Auburn Foundation, Inc. to the Community Foundation in December 2002. This scholarship was created by the Hague's daughter, Dr. Stella Hague, to honor her mother. Stella graduated from Indiana University in 1893 and worked as an associate professor of botany at the University of Illinois from 1915-1940 before returning to her family home in Auburn.

Jack & Sharon Hannes Scholarship

Established in October 2015 by the Hannes' three daughters -Lesslie Keeling, Lesa Sofhauser, and Cathy Vick - in honor of their parents. Sharon received her degree in social work from Saint Francis College in 1996 and was a case manager with Aging and In-Home Services until she retired.

Barbara Herzer Scholarship

This fund was originally established with the DeKalb Central School Alumni Foundation, Inc., and transferred to the Community Foundation in December 2006. Barbara Herzer taught physical education and health at Auburn High School, McKenney-Harrison Elementary, and DeKalb Middle School. "I have always felt it a privilege to teach young people," she said when she retired from teaching. "I strived to give my students the best I had every day and to encourage each of them to reach his or her possibility." When Mrs. Herzer died she left a gift to provide educational support for a female athlete.

Carol L. Hill Scholarship

This scholarship was established in October 2006 by her husband and children to honor Carol's giving spirit. Carol Hill was a resident of Garrett for 34 years. She was active in the community as a Cub Scout leader (Troop #3178) and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Lynn & Josephine Holsinger Scholarship

This fund was transferred from the Auburn Foundation, Inc. to the Community Foundation in December 2002. Lynn Holsinger taught mathematics to seventh and eighth graders at Auburn Junior High School. His wife, Josephine, taught first and second grades at DeSoto Elementary School and East Auburn Elementary. They established a scholarship to share their love of education.



Verlyn Johnson Scholarship

Established in 2023 by a man loved and cherished by many people. Verlyn resided in Ashley and chose to create the scholarship, which will make educational awards annually as a lasting tribute to his generosity.

Jody Kessler Skilled Trades Scholarship

Joel "Jody" Kessler was born in Auburn in 1959. He was a 1977 graduate of DeKalb High School, where he excelled in tennis and baseball and was a member of the state finalist baseball team. He loved music and was a huge NASCAR fan. Jody was a metal fabricator, and his family said he could fix anything. Jody helped countless people over the years, and the impact he made on those around him lives on. His family started this scholarship in 2022 to recognize and honor that impact.



Derald D. Kruse "Student of Life" Scholarship

Established in October 2006 by friends and family of Derald Kruse to support lifelong learning. Derald had an appreciation for thinking "outside of the box."



Don Lash Scholarship

This fund was transferred from the Auburn Foundation, Inc. to the Community Foundation in December 2002. In 1936, Don Lash set a world record for the two-mile run and competed in the Berlin Olympics, placing 14th in the 5K and 8th in the 10K. In 1938 he won the Sullivan Award as the nation's top amateur athlete. He was inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1995.

The Laurie Family Golf Scholarship

Established in October 2017 by Charles L. Laurie and his mother, Betty J. Laurie. The scholarship is intended to help a graduating senior from DeKalb High School who has participated in the school's golf program. Charles L., Betty, and her late husband, Charles B., were all excellent, competitive golfers.



Imogene Mavis Music Scholarship

Established in 2017, Imogene was a graduate of Auburn High School and began teaching after graduating from Manchester College. Her first teaching job was in Akron Indiana School District, but she eventually moved to Waterloo High School, which later became DeKalb High School. She continued to teach music there until she retired. Imogene was an active community member, participating and volunteering with multiple organizations, and was instrumental in starting the Curiosity Shop.



George Stanley & Rose Ilean Means Scholarship

This fund was transferred from the Auburn Foundation, Inc. to the Community Foundation in December 2009. Stanley and Rose lived on a farm near St. Joe, Indiana. Stanley was a cattle inspector and farmer. Rose taught at Harrison Elementary School in what is now the DeKalb Central School district.

Jane Elmira Mullen Kempf Communications Scholarship Established in 2020 by her sons to support a student pursuing their mother's passion in the field of journalism and communication. Jane was the City Editor of the Evening

and communication. Jane was the City Editor of the Evening Star for 8 years and started the column Potpourri, which ran for 31 years. Jane was also a published author of four cookbooks.

John P. and Louanne Nugen Scholoarship

Lifelong DeKalb County residents, John P. and Louanne Nugen have long supported their community through local business and education. As former owners of Nugen's House of Interiors, and through Louanne's work with DeKalb High School's Building Trades Department, they've championed the value of skilled labor in building a strong community.

Lucas A. Oberkiser Scholarship

Established in September 2016. Lucas was a junior at DeKalb High School, where he was a member of the football and track and field teams. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, riding his four-wheeler, and swimming. On the weekends, he liked playing basketball, sand volleyball, and going bowling.

Jessica Otterstedt Scholarship

Established in August 2014. Jessica Otterstedt was born and raised in DeKalb County. Jessica was a girl scout in her early years and a show choir member as a high school junior. Jessica planned on attending Ball State to become a mathematics teacher at the time of her accidental death in 2004. While her family continues to mourn her passing, they nonetheless celebrate her 17 years of life and the wonderful memories she left them.

Derek L. Padilla Scholarship

Established in September 2016. Derek was a junior at DeKalb High School where he was a member of the football and wrestling teams. He loved watching football, especially his favorite team the Dallas Cowboys. He also enjoyed helping coach middle school football and time spent with his Baron Football family. He was always supportive of friends, willing to help those in need, and always able to make others laugh.

Parker Hannifin Scholarship

The Parker Hannifin Corporation established this scholarship in October 2003 to support students pursuing higher education.

Walter S. Penfield Scholarship

This fund was transferred from the Auburn Foundation, Inc. to the Community Foundation in December 2002. Walter A. Penfield was born in Auburn in 1879 and graduated from Auburn High School. He went on to practice international law in Washington, DC, and won many honors, awards, and decorations in his field.

Dr. Keith Perry Memorial Scholarship

Established in November 2020 by his wife and daughter to honor the family's passion for the world of public education. Dr. Perry began his career as a high school biology teacher, worked on post-grad studies in several areas, and earned a fellowship to study for his Ph.D. in 1976 at Indiana State University. Starting at DeKalb Central in 1978 he worked his way from building administrator, to business manager, and eventually became the district superintendent.

Winifred Peters Scholarship

After her passing in 2006, her daughter, Cheryl, fulfilled her mother's wish to establish a scholarship fund in her memory. Winifred Peters was a lifetime resident of Garrett and a teacher for over 42 years. She taught at Garrett-Keyser-Butler, Jackson Township, and Keyser Township schools.

Randinelli Family Instrumental Music Scholarship

Established in November 2012 by Jack and Ruth Randinelli, the scholarship honors the Randinelli daughters' interest in music. Kim Randinelli and Kari (Randinelli) Ackerman studied piano as young girls and were both successful musicians in elementary and high school.

Lukas Rieke Memorial Scholarship

Established in May 2017 by family and friends. Luke graduated from Garrett High School, and after graduation, he attended diving school in Charleston, South Carolina, to become a commercial diver. Luke was fun-loving and never turned down a challenge. He was adventurous and lived life to the fullest.



Donald Ruegsegger Scholarship for Christian Leadership

Established in August 2000 by his son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Joy Ruegsegger, in memory of Donald and in recognition of his appreciation for Youth for Christ. Donald Ruegsegger was a businessman and community leader from Waterloo who exemplified Christian values in his everyday contact with members of the community.

Tony Sechler Memorial Scholarship

Established in January 2008 with a gift from the estate of Frank Sechler to provide an educational scholarship in memory of his son Ralph "Tony" Sechler. Frank was a founding board member of the Community Foundation DeKalb County.

Jon Thomas Smith Memorial Vocational Scholarship

Jon was raised in rural Butler. He was an active member of 4-H and played basketball, and participated on the track team while at Eastside. After high school, Jon became an engineer for Norfolk and Southern Railroad. Jon was exceptionally creative and had a love for art and music. His family says, "he was as kind-hearted as he was tall (6'10")." This scholarship was started in his memory to support students pursuing a vocational or technical degree.

Sirleine M. Smith Library Science Scholarship

Established in September 2017. Sirleine began her career as a clerk in 1968 at the Eckhart Public Library and became library director in 1975. During her tenure as director, the state changed the laws requiring an academic degree to retain various library positions. Sirleine returned to school and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University in 1979. Through this scholarship, Sirleine would like to encourage others to pursue a career in library services.

Dr. James P. Spink Memorial Scholarship

Established in September 2010, this fund was created in memory of Dr. James P. Spink to honor his giving spirit. Dr. Spink, in 1970, founded the Northeastern Community Mental Health Center which serves DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, and Steuben Counties. In 1979, he established a private practice at the Family Counseling Center with offices in Angola and Auburn. Dr. Spink used his unique talents to help thousands of people throughout his life, whether or not they could pay him.



Starkey Science Scholarship

Established in July 2000 by the Donn & Connie Starkey family to emphasize the importance of science in education.



Warren G. Sunday Scholarship

Established in 1998 by his friends and family, this scholarship honors the memory of Warren G. Sunday. He was a prominent attorney in DeKalb County who believed in many different forms of education.

Tri Kappa Scholarship

Established in June 2016 to provide educational scholarships for seniors from DeKalb High School who are accepted into and attend accredited two- or four-year public or private institutions of higher learning.



Walters Family Memorial Scholarship

Established in May 2010 to provide educational scholarships. The fund was created in memory of the children of David and Ruth Walters: Susie (Walters) Bishop, Annette (Walters) Bowman and Ed Walters.



Robert D. & Virginia E. White Scholarship

Established in September 2000 by the Whites who were big supporters of positive activities for young people, including higher education. Virginia and Robert operated a successful retail grocery business in Auburn for many years.

Pat Zakula Legacy Scholarship

Established in October 2016. Pat was the Executive Director at the Children First Center, Auburn, Indiana, for 36 years, retiring in 2015. Pat was known for her service to, respect of and work for the at-risk and underserved people in the community.

Ignite Your Future Scholarship

Originally established in 2023 as a pilot program in its efforts to follow Don Wood's passion for investing in the potential of students, The Don Wood Foundation has continued to partner with the Community Foundation to offer scholarships to students pursuing fields related to entrepreneurship, leadership, sales, and advanced manufacturing.

Thank You

All photos, except the cover photo, are courtesy of DeKalb County Visitors Bureau, photographer Daniel "Porch" Church. To view more photos, please visit their website at: www.dekalbcvb.org



If you would like more information on creating or donating to a scholarship, contact the Community Foundation DeKalb County.

Foundation staff are available to give presentations to clubs and organizations interested in learning more about charitable giving and the great impact it can have on our community.

Phone

(260) 925-0311

Email

Program@CFDeKalb.org

Site

www.CFDeKalb.org

Address

700 South Main Street PO Box 111 Auburn, IN 46706 Scan for more information & to apply

