

LRSF Board and Staff

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Paulette Loughlin, Advisory Director
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Laura Ringer, Volunteer
Krystie Sullivan, Volunteer

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 14, 2025 at the BNH Op Center – check out our website for more information - registration is required.



2024 Year-End Newsletter

December

A Message from our President



As we come to the close of 2024, I am reminded that this is the season of “goodwill.” Here at LRSF we continue to see such goodwill all around us. It starts with our donors. We have seen an increase in the number of donors and donor funds whereby we can then provide more scholarships throughout the Lakes Region to such deserving students.

We see goodwill through our volunteers who help us with mailings, fundraisers and administrative tasks. Our Volunteer Board of Directors who are dedicated to the mission of our organization and who give of their time to events, board meetings and informing all who want to know more about the Foundation.

Goodwill shines bright with our community partners, such as local publishers, radio stations, businesses who donate their time, resources, staff, and facilities whenever the foundation is in need without thinking twice.

It’s been an exciting year of growth and change as we affirm our new executive director Chris Guilmett in January. And we celebrate the successes of Karen Switzer’s strong leadership and deep commitment to the Foundation as she transitions to a Director role and well deserved “partial retirement”.

Please join us in 2025 by either volunteering, providing a donation or attending one of our events, which all directly result in being able to provide deserving students scholarship as they pursue their hopes and dreams. I am honored to Chair our Board of Directors in 2025 and am excited for what we will accomplish ~ together!

Gayle Price



LRSF celebrates successful leadership! LRSF is pleased to announce that Christopher Guilmett has been promoted to Interim Executive Director of the Foundation following the announcement by Karen Switzer, Executive Director, of her upcoming retirement! (l to r) Don McLelland, Vice President, Laura Larson, Treasurer, Chris Guilmett, Gayle Price, President and Karen Switzer

2024 New Funds, Memorials or Additions to Already Established Funds



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.

she came in contact with. Linda always had a smile and took the time to make everyone feel that they had her undivided attention.

Linda A DeForge Memorial Scholarship - (1960 - 2024) Born in Laconia NH, Linda was a graduate of Laconia High School and went on to become a CNA/LNA where she touched the lives of the many patients she cared for. Linda was known for her "heart of gold". She took the time to have in-depth conversations with each nursing home resident



Anthony & Linda Ferruolo Scholarship - Established in 2024 by Anthony and Linda Ferruolo. Anthony F. Ferruolo, businessman and community supporter was born and schooled in Rhode Island where he owned and operated a seasonal refreshment franchise in the 1960's. In 1969 he sold the franchise and moved to Jackson, NH to join a group purchasing Whitney's Inn and Black Mt Ski Area. In the late 70's he transitioned into the restaurant industry by becoming a partner in the Red Parka Pub in Glen NH, and co-founding two B.Mae Denny's Eating & Drinking Establishments in Gilford and Concord NH. Another hospitality transition occurred in 1983 when Anthony partnered to build and then manage B.Mae's Resort Inn & Suites (now Fireside Inn) in Gilford NH. Throughout his business career he devoted time to numerous community organizations: Belknap County Economic Council, The Mt Washington Valley and Lakes Region Chambers of Commerce, Jackson Ski Touring Association, NH Ski Area Operators, New Hampshire Hospitality Association, Gilford Village Knolls Senior Housing, and the Laconia/Gilford Industrial Park. Linda D Ferruolo, M.Ed.C.M.M. was born in Laconia graduating from LHS in 1970. She had various careers during her early life, but with the earning of a Master's degree from PSC (now PSU) she was now on a new path of teaching. Linda also became a Certified Marital Mediator for the state of NH, serving on the Board of Directors for 7 years, the last two as president. She



began teaching volunteer mediators and progressed to teaching for PSC in the Graduate Program. Her final years lead her to teach at Lakes Region Community College, where she was Human Services Program Coordinator for 17 years. Anthony and Linda raised their three children in the Laconia/Gilford area, all three graduated from Gilford High School. Of their four grandchildren, one graduated from GHS, and three from LHS.

Dr Joseph W & Rita Gage Memorial Scholarship - Dr. Joseph W. Gage (1927-2005) practiced dentistry for fifty years which does not reveal his myriad achievements and contributions to the Lakes Region Community. In addition to serving his state and country, he was a vanguard in countless professional dental organizations to advance his profession and benefit his patients. He devoted nearly thirty years of wholehearted service to the Laconia School Board and then the Laconia Police Commission. Yet, Dr. Gage is honored and revered, not only for all these accomplishments, but for being the unpretentious, caring person that he was - dedicated to his family, his profession, his patients, his community. Rita Gage (1925 - 2024) was born in Lynn MA. A 1943 graduate from Lynn Classical High School and a 1951 graduate from Boston School of Physiotherapy practiced PT at Boston Psychopathic Hospital. Rita had a love and passion for creative arts, pottery, painting, ballroom dancing and gardening. Throughout their courtship and 53-year marriage, Rita gave Joseph her utmost support to help further his dental career and enable his commitment to service. Her medical education, and experiences as a Physical Therapist, were invaluable assets as they studied together for his dental exams and set up a dental practice to serve the Lakes Region community they both loved. Additional funds were received and the fund was renamed to the Dr Joseph W & Rita Gage Memorial Scholarship upon Rita's passing this past September. Rita was added upon her passing to reflect her many contributions to Dr. Gage's professional and community achievements

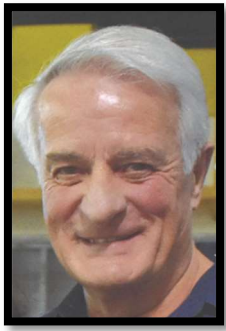


Gilford High School Business Department - Steve O'Riordan, Business Teacher, for Gilford High School established this fund in 2024. The monies were raised by the GHS Business Dept. students through the Steve O's Subs project, as a way to give back to the community.

Bryson Peter Haddock Memorial Scholarship - (1997 - 2024) - Bryson was a life-long, hands-on learner. Music is what got him to graduation at Laconia High School. Along with the saxophone, Bryson played many other instruments as part of the LHS marching and jazz bands. He loved singing in the LHS Choir, on swings, back porches, front porches, in his truck, at bonfires and on his motorcycle! Bryson cared deeply about people. His love for meeting new people, like his music, crossed all boundaries. Bryson lived his life as one giant adventure. He never did anything half-way and was always at full throttle. His life was cut far too short by a fatal motorcycle crash.

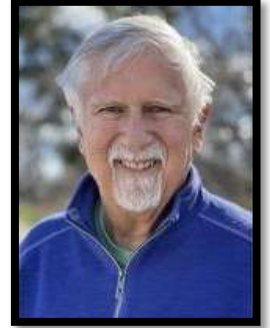


Robert A. "Bob" Hamel Memorial Scholarship - (1951 - 2023) Bob lived a life dedicated to service and absent of idleness. He was born in Laconia and a graduate of the LHS Class of '69. He coached his son's sports team, rode his Honda Goldwing with his wife, Kaye, to 45 states and cherished two grandsons.



He served in the Air Force and immersed himself in the community where he was born and raised. He could repair anything that needed fixing, drank Moxie and had a secret talent for ice skating. Bob lived in Laconia all his life except for the four years he spent as an Air Force missile systems analyst in Kansas. He coached his son in T-ball, Babe Ruth baseball and youth basketball. He refereed local basketball games and loved to watch the Celtics, Bruins, Patriots and Red Sox with Todd. Bob began more than four decades of community service that made him a pillar in Laconia. He started with the Jaycees. He helped start Laconia's Christmas Village tradition, building temporary houses and an ice rink every December. He would take the ice himself on an ancient, worn-out pair of skates. He served on, and at one point led, the Laconia Parks and Recreation board for 10 years. He worked as a Laconia part-time police officer for a decade. He spearheaded the refurbishment of the Colonial Theatre and the restoration of Laconia High School athletic fields and the Huot Career and Technical Center. He filled a vacancy on the city council in 2005 and was elected for nine two-year terms. He encountered no strangers in Laconia. Bob still found time for the people and activities he loved. Bob and his wife, rode to motorcycle rallies - "Wing Dings," in honor of their preferred Goldwing - in Tennessee, Wisconsin, Montana, Pennsylvania, New York and elsewhere.

Gary P Hermsdorf Memorial Scholarship - The scholarship was started after Gary's passing in 2024 by a long-time friend. Gary (1944 - 2024) was a graduate of UCONN Pharmacy School and spent his whole life in the pharmacy arena. His passion for pharmacy is the basis for this scholarship. He had a summer cottage in Belmont, NH, and he would have been proud to have been a small part of the scholarship recipients' accomplishments.



James E Lucas Jr Memorial Scholarship - (1965-1994) The US Air flight 1016 which crashed on July 2, 1994 in Charlotte, North Carolina, claimed the lives of 37 people. Among them was James E. Lucas, Jr., a native of Laconia, James was an LHS class of 1983 graduate. At LHS Jim Lucas, admired as a very good student, was also a member of the chess team, and widely known as a quiet, friendly, good-natured young man. Jim enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduation and was a member of the 82nd Airborne. After he completed his tour of duty, he enrolled at the University of South Carolina to pursue a degree in electrical engineering and had completed his Junior year. Additional funds were received upon the passing of James' mother, Patricia A Millette (1942-2024) this past September.



Bert and Anita Morin Scholarship Fund - 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 2024 in memory of their daughter, Rachel M Gray. (1941 - 2024) Rachel was known for her keen and curious mind, infectious laughter and lifelong desire to experience and enjoy all that the world had to offer.



John Paradise Memorial Scholarship - (1971-2003) was truly a remarkable young man. He 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 knew, who lived life to the fullest, and brought sunshine and laughter wherever he went. He will certainly be missed, but not forgotten by all his family, friends, and colleagues who established this meaningful memorial in his honor. Over the years, many other family members and friends have been commemorated through donations in memory of John, in particular his grandmother, Marie Louise Paradise (1903-2004) who was described as a cheerful homemaker, a family nurturer, and, his brother-in-law, Fred O. "Bud" Wheeler, Jr. (1952-2014), owner and operator of Wheeler Surveying and Mapping for over 25 years. This year additional funds were received upon the passing of John's father, **Lionel Paradise (1934 - 2024)** who owned and operated Paradise Drilling and Blasting for over 30 years in and around the Lakes Region.



Margery J. Steady - (1929 - 2024) A business education teacher at Laconia High School, retiring in 1991, and an active community member, and lifelong interests in reading, travel, classical music, theatrical productions, and knitting Nordic patterned sweaters, donations in her memory were made to the LRSF Friends of the Foundation Operating Fund (FOFOF).



Steven Santy Scholarship - When Steven graduated in 2002 from Laconia High School, he attended college at George Washington University and received financial scholarships through the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation. Established in 2024 In honor of Steven's 40th birthday, Stevens family elected to pass this opportunity forward. Steve was a natural athlete who enjoyed most sports, but in particular, baseball and football. As a freshman, Steve started on the Jr Varsity team for baseball and football. As a sophomore he played varsity baseball and became the quarterback for Jr Varsity and a safety and backup quarterback for Varsity football. His senior year he was starting quarterback, captain for both baseball and football and was the first at LHS to bat over .500. Steven continued his love of baseball at George Washington and in 2006 graduated with a psychology degree and is currently a financial advisor. "We wish you much success in your future endeavors and are happy to be part of your journey."

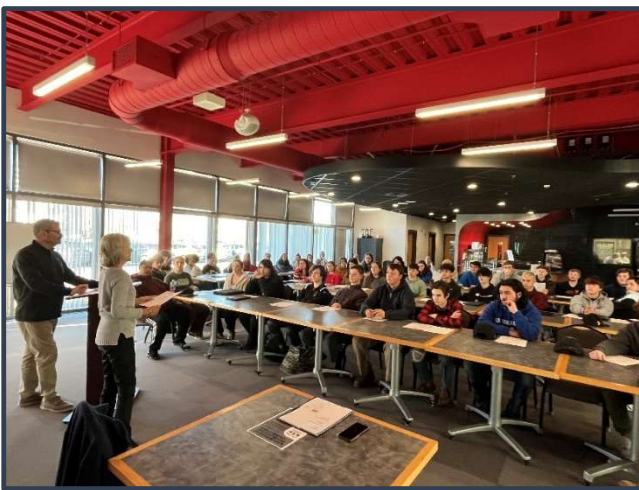
Erin Southworth Memorial Nursing Scholarship - (1974-1978) established in 2024 by her loving parents Deborah Joan Cott Southworth and Michael Thomas Southworth. Erin spent a significant amount of her life in and out of the hospital battling heart disease. Erin was tragically taken much too soon, but her memory and bright spirit live on for a lifetime. Her family is very grateful for the indescribable love, support, and tremendous care that she received from the nursing staff while in their extensive care. In loving honor of Erin, and in appreciation to all the nurses that have touched their lives, they would like to help encourage the nurses of our future! Memorial donations were received with the passing of Erin's father, Michael, in 2024.

LHS Class of 1967 - As alumni, the Laconia High School Class of 1967 wish to help support further education for some future Laconia High School seniors and graduates. They have begun raising funds to establish a permanent, on-going fund.



LHS Class of 2001 - Whether it be athletic accomplishments such as volleyball and football championships or the many teachers in our ranks that continue to educate the next generation of Sachems. LHS Class of 2021 has created a legacy at LHS. Collectively, we are proud of our contributions to LHS and the greater Lakes Region community. That is why we hope this scholarship will continue our legacy and pay forward all that former LHS graduates have given us. The 2024 Award was dedicated to the passing of our classmate Kyle MacPherson, who heroically battled cancer and inspired us with his courage and hope. We will forever be reminded of the passion in which he pursued his musical and culinary endeavors. While he became a talented and accomplished musician and chef, he will be remembered by his classmates as a friend and someone who we admired greatly. It is our hope his life can inspire the recipient of this annual scholarship with the fighting Sachem spirit that marked Kyle's life.

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!



An earlier session was also held in late December at the HUOT Career and Technical Center.



We were invited by the Lakes Region Builders and Remodelers Association to attend their annual meeting to let them know what LRSF is all about!



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. Be on the lookout for the date of our 2025 Annual Benefit Night! Thank you Fratello's!





Even though Laconia, Gilford and Belmont High Schools all had their Award Nights on the same night, with the help of the LRSF Board, we were able to work through the evening presentations! Board Members Judy Ball and Marj Wilkinson helped out Executive Director, Karen Switzer at LHS. Board Members Jim Dirubbo and Fredda Osman helped out Assistant Director, Chris Guilmett at GHS. LRSF President, Gayle Price was assisted by Board Member Colleen Cass and LRSF Vice President, Don McLelland. Later in June, Chris and Karen were assisted by Board Member Dick Mariano at Prospect Mountain High School's Award Night.

LRSF Recipients and Board Members gather for a photo to celebrate, honor & thank the 300 donors for the record-breaking year of awarding to 343 recipients, a total of \$811,600!

Holding the \$811,600 check (left) are: (l) Paulette Loughlin, Advisory Trustee and (r) Gayle Price, LRSF Board President. Holding the \$10 Million Dollar check (right): (l) Karen Switzer, Executive Director and (r) Chris Guilmett, Assistant Director.

LRSF Board members: Jim Chase (far left), around the flag are Lois Kessin, Dick Mariano and Marj Wilkinson (far right)

A huge Thank You to ALL our Donors who made this benchmark year possible!





LRSF Board members, Fredda Osman, Judy Ball & Lois Kessin, along with LRSF Executive Director, Karen Switzer and Assistant Director, Chris Guilmett sell raffle tickets while Board Member Phil Bonafide shows off his car at the Belknap Mill's Annual end of summer sock hop!



Board Members Fredda Osman, Jean Clarke, Lois Kessin (left photo), and Board Members Joan Frates, Fredda Osman and Colleen Cass (right photo), along with Board Members Jim Dirubbo and Judy Ball and Advisory Director Paulette Loughlin help out selling tickets in downtown Laconia for our Annual October fundraisers!



We had amazing community participation this year in our Annual Lakes Region Pumpkin Figure Contest with close to 50 Participants! Above is the display from Gilford Elementary School which won for Best School!

Our 2024 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 2024 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.

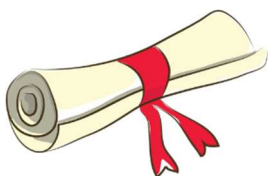
We would also welcome the opportunity to discuss your long term planned giving options.

Based on the amount 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!



2025 – 2026 LRSF Scholarship Application!



Get a head start and check out our website NOW for instructions on completing the **2025 – 2026 LRSF Scholarship Application**. The application will be available on our website beginning in January 2025!

www.scholarship.org

The final deadline for filing an application is Monday, April 1, 2025.



Karen & Chris were in attendance at the Annual Meeting of Chocorua Lodge #51 IOOF (an LRSF donor since 1991) as they honored Maurice Simond's 75 years of service, just prior to his 97th birthday! In addition to Maurice's years with Chocorua, we are grateful for his 22 years of service on the LRSF Board as a trustee, vice-president & president! Seated in the photo is Maurice. (l to r) standing, George Roberts, Peter Karagiannis, Art Perrin, Chris Zackowski, Pat Tierney, Lee Simond, Mitch Dyer

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!

LRSF is growing and looking to enhance our team with an additional Administrative Assistant.

This part time position is for an individual with strong office skills, working in a flexible, small office environment that is closed on Fridays. If you are looking for a rewarding position where you can make a difference in students' and donors' lives, please contact us!

Call: 603-527-3533

Email: scholarship@lrscholarship.org

We look forward to hearing from you!

New 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

We can't wait to hear from you!



Mark your calendar!! Plans are underway to hold our annual LRSF Benefit Night at Fratello's on Wednesday, March 5th 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.



Follow us!