

SPRING 2023

# OpeningDOORS

## *Chris Rose Is Making Plans*

The Path to Higher Education:  
Undocumented and Undeterred

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The Edward Jones Scholarship

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Advocacy Program Celebrates  
10 Years with Largest Cohort Yet

THE  
Scholarship   
Foundation  
OF ST. LOUIS

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**On the cover:** Current Foundation student and advocacy fellow, Chris Rose, discusses his background, how it has shaped his perspective today, and what he is planning for the future. Read about Chris on page 13.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Spring is always an exciting time of renewal and transition, especially at The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis. With our focus placed squarely on student success, we celebrate those students who have persevered to graduation, are encouraged by the new students who have applied for support, are impressed with the number of dedicated graduates engaged in their loan repayment, and remain inspired by the Foundation advocacy fellows and their important work. Foundation students truly are at the heart of all that we do.

Longtime subscribers to *Opening Doors* may have noticed that it looks a little different now. We hope that the magazine style format is enjoyable to read and pass along to your friends and family. Sharing the stories and news of the Foundation with you, our community partners, is our pleasure and we appreciate your readership.

In this issue, you will read about a variety of topics related to what we call “*the three As*” of our strategy for students: advising, awarding, and advocacy. Additionally, you’ll read about our incredible community partners and donors, their generous tributes, a new staff member, and a fascinating new feature entitled “*The History Department*,” located at the back of the issue. With so much going on, it’s hard to include everything so we hope the selected articles will give you a sense of the exciting activities of The Scholarship Foundation.

**Thank you for all you do to support the students of The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis. We’ve started 2023 strong, thanks to you!**



Warmly,  
Lauren Nash Ming, *Board President*



## Our Mission & Vision

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THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION OF ST. LOUIS, a nonprofit organization founded in 1920, is based upon the conviction that an educated society is essential to a healthy democracy. The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis sees education as a catalyst, an agent of change for individuals, families, communities, and nations. The Foundation envisions a community that truly recognizes the importance of educational attainment and assures that positive educational outcomes are accessible to all regardless of economic circumstance. This is a community in which doors will not be closed to those who lack financial resources, and postsecondary education will be available to all with the potential to succeed.

# December 2022 Graduates

Congratulations to all 37 Foundation students who graduated in December 2022, including the exemplary individuals who are quoted here.



*"With the weight of ongoing challenges from every direction, I was often tempted to give up during this journey. But I am so proud of myself for persisting because I discovered a level of strength I never knew I had. To me, The Scholarship Foundation represents light, always beaming with tools, resources, and support; that allows students, like me, who may feel unequipped, to see their way through."*

**Kiera Wilson**, Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, Kansas State University

*"I will attend vet school at Mizzou in the fall of 2023.*

*The support from The Scholarship Foundation has meant so much to me.*

*I was able to be financially secure throughout my 3.5 years of college. I was so blessed to have received the scholarship and plan to do great things in the future because of it!"*

**Maggie Clark**, Bachelor's in Animal Science, Missouri State University



*"The Foundation provided me with the funds for my education, gave me a job, guided me in my young adult years, and taught me many important lessons about being an adult. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity provided me. Post-graduation, I plan to transition from the in-house legal department where I currently work to a management position within a large corporation specific to diversity and inclusion."*

**Nicole Sullivan-Handshy**, Master's in Business Administration and Leadership and Management, Webster University





*"I plan to start my career in information technology and utilize my computer science skills. My goal is to find a challenging and dynamic work environment where I can continue learning and growing."*

**Noah Erb**, University of Central Missouri, Bachelor's in Computer Science, University of Central Missouri

*"Because of The Scholarship Foundation, I have been able to achieve my goals. Being in school full time, working full time, and being a single mother is extremely challenging, but the Foundation helped alleviate some of that stress. I am forever grateful."*

**Alexis Harvey**, Master's in Cybersecurity, Maryville University, and son Jayden



*"The support from the Foundation was amazing. It was an opportunity to secure loans and services I needed to navigate college. Since graduating, I am seeking a new job in St. Louis so I can relocate back home."*

**Melvin Jones**, Master's in Business Administration, Indiana University-Kokomo



*"After graduation, I plan to attend Grand Canyon University and pursue a Master's in Social Work to advance my career goal of becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. I am proud of how I persevered through the most challenging time of my life. I returned to college and showed my daughter how to fight, no matter the circumstances."*

**Chelsea Crawford**, Bachelor's in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Missouri State University, pictured with her mother, her aunt, and her daughter



An Interview with Monica Godbee

# Positive Impacts of Financial Literacy

As a high school student enrolled in several honors level classes, **Monica Godbee** excelled in all her subjects but felt most passionate about the cello. At the encouragement of her music teacher, she went on to pursue a degree in music at the University of Miami with support from the **Sheila Carr Prensky Designated Scholar Loan (DSL)** at The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis. There, she was able to advance her craft and teach cello to local children, as well.



A St. Louis native, Monica Godbee  
now lives in Oregon.

*“My dream is to one day reach financial independence and become a Scholarship Foundation donor myself.”*

While enrolled in her undergraduate program, Monica received regular advice and support from **Teresa Steinkamp**, Director of Advising, on topics related to responsible borrowing and personal finance. Growing up, Monica’s family incurred many financial difficulties and she felt *“money was the source of much conflict”* within her household. Through her research on The Scholarship Foundation’s dedication to providing sensible and sustainable financial solutions for students such as herself, she became aware of the positive impacts financial literacy can have on one’s life. While her heart belonged to music, her intellectual pursuits were turning towards the business sector.

Monica’s father passed away after a long struggle with COPD and emphysema as Monica’s senior year of college was coming to a close. A retired mail carrier, he was leery of seeking regular medical care throughout his life for fear of the additional costs associated with doctor’s visits. Monica returned home to St. Louis to assist her mother, a Japanese American immigrant, former waitress, and cancer survivor, with organizing the household finances. Taking a year off after graduation, Monica did *“a considerable amount of reading about personal finance”* and worked at a Montessori daycare while considering her next steps. Ultimately, she decided that while music was one of her passions, financial literacy and access to affordable health care were her true calling.

Monica enrolled in the business school at the University of Missouri in 2014, a year after earning her bachelor’s degree. While in graduate school, she took advantage of both the Foundation’s repayment deferment option and regular campus advisor visits from the Foundation’s advising team. Monica credits these check-ins and the steadfast support of her DSL donor, **Arthur Prenskey**, to whom she wrote

while she was an undergraduate, for bolstering her confidence in her pursuit of both an MBA (Master of Business Administration) and an MHA (Master of Health Administration) from the University of Missouri.

Five years later, Monica has paid off her interest-free, fee-free Foundation loan and is living in Portland, Oregon where she is currently a Program Manager within the Northwest Telehealth Center at Kaiser Permanente. In her work there, she says she has *“gotten to see what holistic healthcare (including dental and vision) looks like”* in Oregon, a state that prioritizes coordinated care for its residents. *“I have always dreamed of working at Kaiser Permanente,”* says Monica, and she believes her parents’ lives would have been different had they been able to seek more affordable health care. *“We need to break down peoples’ fears about healthcare access,”* Monica believes. And even though she admits the pace of change is slow, she finds the work inspiring and is eager to empower others by working towards dismantling complexities that serve as barriers.

In her early thirties now, Monica owns a lovely home, has a great job she loves, and will be getting married soon. While she misses her family and roots in St. Louis, she is pleased to be learning all she can about increasing access to healthcare for all people. She says that one day she may move home to Missouri to work in healthcare reform. She adds, *“My dream is to one day reach financial independence and become a Scholarship Foundation donor myself.”*



*Monica and her sister, Michelle, in 2010.*



*Student Advisor Ricky Hughes leads an information session for Cardinal Ritter Prep High School students and families.*

# *The Edward Jones Scholarship*

On January 31, 2023, The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis announced the launch of the **Edward Jones Scholarship**, a multi-million-dollar, multi-year commitment to provide 75 students annually with scholarship grants up to \$12,000 per student, per year.

**Edward Jones**<sup>®</sup>

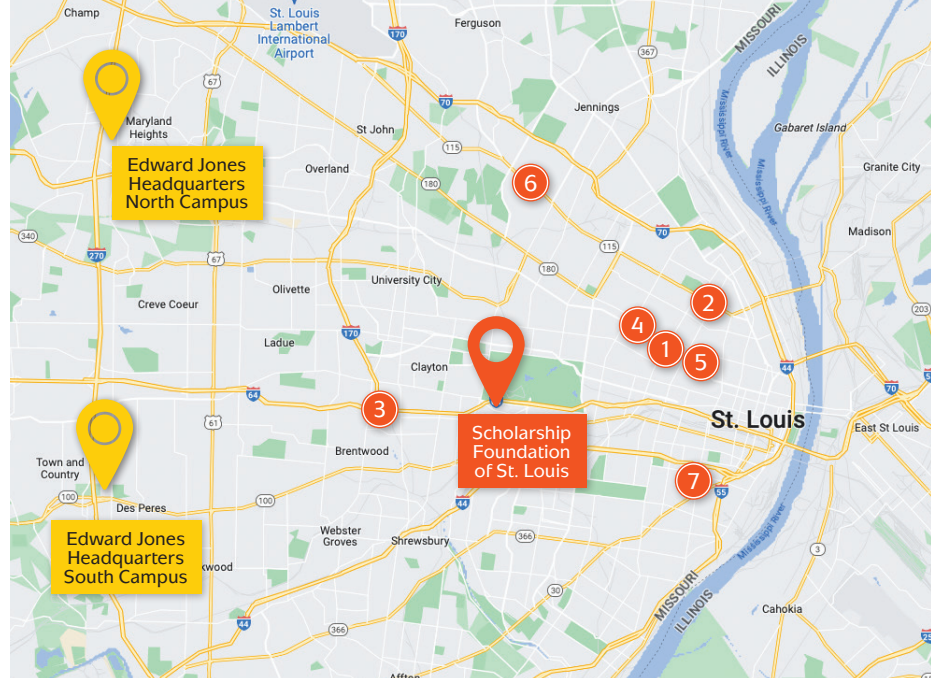


Like all programs at the Foundation, the Edward Jones Scholarship is designed to award critical “last dollar” funding to fill the gap between the total cost of education and the financial resources available to students from family, school, state, and federal sources.

The Edward Jones Scholarship will foster educational attainment and financial strength for members of the community often priced out of post-secondary opportunities. These scholarships will serve low-income students who are active participants in each of their high school years with any of the following specially selected youth development agencies:

- ① Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri
- ② Boys & Girls Club of Greater St. Louis
- ③ Boys Hope Girls Hope of St. Louis
- ④ Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School
- ⑤ College Bound-St. Louis
- ⑥ Girls Inc. of St. Louis
- ⑦ LifeWise StL

In addition to receiving major financial support, Edward Jones Scholars will work with Scholarship Foundation student advisors to complete applications and learn about important resources and opportunities throughout their educational journey. Like all Foundation scholars, students funded through this program will also qualify for paid policy fellowships and for quality mental health



services through Flourish, a new Scholarship Foundation initiative which covers the costs of therapy provided by licensed, vetted, and culturally competent providers.

*“Creating a path to access quality education not only impacts our youth but our community as a whole. We share a commitment with The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis to developing the potential of young people across our region and beyond,”* said **Laura Ellenhorn**, principal, and Head of Community Impact at Edward Jones.



(above) Announcing the scholarship opportunity to students and families at Girls Inc. of St. Louis.  
 (left) Representatives from partner agencies enjoying lunch and conversation around supporting students to and through the scholarship application process.

# Putting the Pieces Together for Student Success

The Scholarship Foundation often gets asked why its students graduate at rates more than five times higher than their peers. There are many pieces to the puzzle. Financial support – while critical – is insufficient to alone make the difference, and an array of student support services help ensure student success:

## Knowledgeable Guidance

Advisors guide students from application through graduation, helping them make sound financial decisions. This information prevents students from making costly mistakes that could negatively affect them for the rest of their lives.

## Careful Calculations

Award packages are individually calculated to provide last-dollar funding and close the entire gap between students' existing financial aid and their total cost of attendance. The Foundation ensures that students begin each school year knowing where every dollar will come from.

## Accurate Data

By tracking and analyzing changes in student data, the Foundation can quickly respond to trends and adjust to meet students' changing needs.

These activities are supported by unrestricted donations, contributions made specifically to support student services, and by restricted funds contributed as a percentage of the Foundation's large scholarship grant programs. Together, they create a formula for success for low-income students.

# The Development of One Life Makes a Difference for Many

The Marilyn and Morton Werner Equality Scholarship Fund was established to commemorate two people whose lives exemplified kindness, community participation, leadership, and the advancement of humanitarian values. This fund honors the ingenuity and industriousness that Marilyn and Morton brought to uplifting the lives of others.



## Marilyn Rudman Werner & Morton Thomas Werner

Marilyn and Morton were both born and raised in University City, Missouri in the 1920s and 1930s. They grew up strongly connected to family and community. Drawn together by their humor, ambition, and creativity, they made their 25-year marriage a fun adventure. They brought gusto and a pioneering spirit to all their pursuits.

Both Marilyn and Morton were avid learners and understood education as a means of advancement. Morton attended Washington University on a partial scholarship and graduated in 1950, majoring in business administration. Marilyn graduated Phi Beta

Kappa from the University of Michigan in 1956 and received a master's in social work from Washington University in 1958. Marilyn and Morton married that same year, and Morton became certified to sell commercial insurance. Marilyn devoted herself to family and supporting Morton as his career as an insurance broker developed. In 1968, Morton became a managing partner of Parcel Insurance Plan (PIP). Following Morton's death in 1984, Marilyn effectively managed PIP. They both created supportive conditions for their employees and fostered a work culture of personal connection and celebration. Deeply grateful for family, friends, and community, they were also devoted parents to their children, **Susan, Jean, and Ken**. They lived lives of participation and contribution to business, social, and civic organizations and supported the education and welfare of many individuals.

The **Equality Fund** honors the role of human potential in creating a more just, equitable, and inclusive world. Equality acknowledges the imperative of dismantling systemic inequities. This fund is for students who are motivated to advance systemic change through fields of study that involve civic engagement.

To learn more about Marilyn and Morton Werner and this scholarship opportunity, visit our website at [sfstl.org/marilyn-and-morton-werner-scholarship](https://sfstl.org/marilyn-and-morton-werner-scholarship).



Aja McCoy

Chris Rose

Niyah Harris

Allison Morales

Asia Parson

# Advocacy Program Celebrates 10 Years with Largest Cohort Yet

Since 2013, The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis has built the organizational capacity and culture to establish a student-led advocacy program.



Sara Rutherford

Rosa Rodriguez

Kayla Sullivan

Anne Marie Crane

Jessica Magana-Munoz



Tori Hershey

Sharita Franklin

Nicole Fortney

Mykah Sims

Haylee Hughes



(left) Fellows meet with Rep. Kathy Steinhoff.



(right) Advocacy fellows prepare for their day of meetings with state legislators at the state house by reviewing policy notes.

### Current college students and recent graduates are engaged annually to:

- Set a policy agenda responsive to the priorities of students who are most disadvantaged by current systems and policies.
- Involve their peers in redesigning democratic processes.
- Engage in research and data analysis to inform policymakers.
- Lead the board, staff, and partners in understanding the systemic barriers to educational attainment.
- Develop policy proposals to improve outcomes for the students adversely affected by barriers of race, class, and immigration status.

Using a modular advocacy curriculum developed by program alumni, students participate in the Foundation’s eight-month policy fellowship program. Fellows select a track that grounds their policy research for their time in the fellowship.

#### The policy tracks include:

- Campus
- State
- Federal
- Nursing and Health
- Immigration
- Voter Engagement
- Strategic Data

This year’s cohort is made up of 15 policy fellows, the largest group yet. In February, thirteen of them traveled to Jefferson City to advocate for tuition equity for all Missouri students attending public postsecondary institutions. The Fellows spent the morning issue training with partners from across the state, and the afternoon was dedicated to meeting with state representatives. **Anne Marie Crane**, Advocacy Associate, reflected on her first visit to the state’s capital, “I was really proud of our team. I noticed we knew more on the policy issue than the representatives. We were the experts.” The Scholarship Foundation trusts the leadership and expertise of students to advocate and advance equitable policies in higher education.

*“I was really proud of our team. I noticed we knew more on the policy issue than the representatives. We were the experts.”*

**Anne Marie Crane**  
Advocacy Associate



(above) A still from the video

(left) I-r: Alisson Morales, Vivian Garcia Cruz, Felipe Martínez, and Nicole Cortés

## The Path to Higher Education

# Undocumented and Undeterred

Providing quality guidance to all students, including those who are undocumented, is essential to the mission of The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis.

In 2022, Foundation Director of Advocacy **Karina Arango** facilitated a collaboration among **Félice Martínez**, former Foundation student advisor and expert in the field of undocumented student advising; **Nicole Cortés** of the Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project (MICA); **Vivian Garcia Cruz**, Graduate Support Director at St. Cecilia School in St. Louis; and **Alisson Morales**, Senior Immigration Policy Fellow with the Foundation. The result was a series of three workshops, a narrative video, and two detailed resource guides on the topics of supporting and advising undocumented students. The workshop, entitled “*The Path to Higher Education: Undocumented and Undeterred*,” provided practitioners a way to expand their sense of purpose and their confidence with assisting undocumented students and families.

A total of 297 practitioners from across the country attended one of three workshops: an in-person, invitation-only St. Louis event with close community partners; a virtual workshop hosted by the Missouri College and Career Attainment Network (MOCAN); and a national webinar, hosted by the National College Attainment Network (NCAN). Debuting at the workshops was “*Owning My Stripe: A Brave Chameleon Asks the Right Questions*,” an animated short film written by Alisson Morales and illustrated by Vivian Garcia Cruz. This short story is drawn from the lived experiences of the film creators and their friends and is told by a very special chameleon.

At each workshop, key recommendations were made regarding specific ways counselors could support undocumented students. The importance of communicating information explicitly and understanding the complex role of students’ families are just two of the topics covered in the recommendations. Additionally, a comprehensive list of resources including legal and social history, local and national resources, and reputable online guidance was distributed to all participants.

To learn more and for links to recommendations, key references, and the video, “*Owning My Stripe: A Brave Chameleon Asks the Right Questions*,” visit our website at [sfstl.org/undocumented-and-undeterred](https://sfstl.org/undocumented-and-undeterred).

# Chris Rose Is Making Plans

**Chris Rose**, a Scholarship Foundation voter engagement fellow and an Ava's Grace scholar, is an "open book" and he has a lot to say about turning his personal circumstances into opportunities to connect with others. At 21 years of age, Chris is eager to travel, learn, and make meaning of all that he has experienced.

For the first decade of his life, Chris witnessed his teenage parents struggling with balancing the pressures of life while parenting. Neither of Chris' parents finished high school. His father was incarcerated. At ten years old, Chris moved to St. Louis to live with his grandmother. It was his grandmother who got him into football, which led to basketball, Chris' first passion and a place where he could work hard and find friends who would feel like family for years to come. He found a strong role model in his coach and appreciated the hard work and dedication he expected of players. "He just really wanted us to be great." Chris also credits his middle school math teacher for being a person with whom he could connect. "She really was the first person who preached to me that it's OK to be smart and it's OK to stand out."

Chris' achievement in basketball led him to a scholarship to study at Fontbonne University, but Covid-19 kept his team off the court his entire freshman year. Like many students during that difficult time, depression and isolation set in for Chris, leading to his need to step away from college and explore other options for his transition into adulthood. After a year away, Chris returned to Fontbonne Fall 2022 and landed a spot in The Scholarship Foundation's biggest advocacy fellowship cohort yet. He is now thriving as a voter engagement fellow and marketing major. He is making plans to study abroad before finishing his undergraduate degree, hoping to learn all he can about international marketing and consulting.

As a Voter Engagement policy fellow, Chris is working with his cohort on important issues facing young people today. "The main goal of my life is to make other people's existences easier, and I want to help kids. **I want to be the person who I needed when I was a kid.**" Chris says he looks forward to Saturdays, the days when the policy fellows meet to do their work: "I'm glad to have more opportunities to do policy work like this to actually make a difference."

Support of the Foundation advocacy work from **Robert Brunk** and others has allowed for substantial program expansion and led to this year's cohort being the largest yet. Director of Advocacy, **Karina Arango**, noted that connectivity within this larger group. She writes, "Chris is a perceptive, sharp, and committed leader. His ability to energize his peers, serve honestly, and spark curiosity has only strengthened the fellows. He's an active and outgoing presence in the fellowship with a great sense of humor. Chris understands first-hand what it feels like to be a student in today's world, and he is clear and honest about his experience. With each challenge presented to him, Chris shows up and shows out. On his first trip to Jefferson City, Chris jumped right in and asked questions to learn more about his role. Chris is not afraid to make mistakes and is powerful in the way he shows up, each and every time."



*"I want to be the person who I needed when I was a kid."*

To learn more about the Foundation's Advocacy Fellows and their work, please visit [sfstl.org/lsa](https://sfstl.org/lsa).

# Adapting to Changing Times

Since 1920, The Scholarship Foundation has focused on supporting students who are left out, priced out, or excluded by one means or another from postsecondary education. The founding and persistent goal is not to “*make loans*,” but to advance higher education, support degree completion, and build strong communities that strengthen democracy.

*In the early years, interest-free loans could be repaid after graduation without causing undue financial strain. But the world has changed and the current cost of college has far outpaced income.*

It was with an interest-free loan that The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis began, and the loan program was the primary way the Foundation supported students for the first 99 years of its history. In 2023, the Foundation will award just under \$7 million to 620 students. Fully 75% of those awards will be made in the form of scholarship grants, the balance in interest-free loans.

## Is This A Good Thing?

It depends. A student’s response would be very clear and direct (they may think it odd to even inquire). A guidance counselor or teacher or parent would likely also understand this to be a sign of success, given the headlines they’ve read about ongoing confusion surrounding federal student loans. Ask a longtime Scholarship Foundation donor, former board member, or some current board members, and reactions might range from celebration to concern.

## Environmental Factors

In the early years, interest-free loans could be repaid after graduation without causing undue financial strain. But the world has changed and the current cost of college has far outpaced income. The interest-free loan now rarely covers the whole cost. For Scholarship Foundation students today, covering the whole cost of attendance would mean loaning each an average of \$27,000 annually. Given funds available for loans, such a strategy would reduce the number of students who could have been funded in 2021 from 489 to 178. A total debt in excess of \$100,000 for four years of college is unmanageable for most of the students who are supported by the Foundation.





In 1994, board members Bente Seitz, Karen Berry Elbert, Regina Edwards, and Audrey Shanfeld gathered a group to discuss interest-free loan selection criteria.

## A Mission-Centered Approach

Three important policies, ratified by the board of directors in late 2015, are clues to the Foundation's current position on awarding:

1. All awards (interest-free loan, grant, or both) will be “*last dollar*.” This is simple math. Any gap remaining after family contribution and grants from other sources are applied must be filled by the Foundation's award. If not possible, no award is made. The Foundation doesn't look the other way, sending a student to school underfunded.
2. An interest-free loan will be the only student loan Foundation students incur. With a maximum of \$11,000 per year, the interest-free loan program should meet the remaining gap. This provision guards against students borrowing too much, tapping multiple lenders, and committing to unfavorable loan terms.
3. Grants are awarded first and in maximum amounts before interest-free loans are awarded. This is in the best interest of the student and honors the impact the donors of scholarship grants seek to have.

## What Lies Ahead?

The interest-free loan program has remained constant in purpose. The repayment program has been entirely restructured from a “*one size fits all*” to a plan that is much more responsive to individual circumstance. Operations have been improved and each new program is multi-year (in donor commitment and in student benefit) and governed by the policies for eligibility and selection set by the board of directors. The larger of the programs also contribute to outreach and student support services. The combination of scholarship grants, interest-free loans, and a continuum of student services will continue to move many to, through, and beyond college thanks to a generous community and an abundance of young talent.

For more on this and other Foundation topics, please visit and subscribe to Executive Director Faith Sandler's blog, *Words of Faith*, at [sfstl.org/category/words-of-faith](http://sfstl.org/category/words-of-faith).

# Back Out There!

The Student Advising Program, under the compassionate and dedicated leadership of Director of Advising **Teresa Steinkamp**, returned to in-person work after two years of virtual meetings, connecting with 3,436 individuals in 2022. And while re-adjusting took some time, one thing was never in doubt – the work of Student Advisors and their relationships with students benefit tremendously from face-to-face connection and conversation.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Student Advisors’ work has remained responsive to student needs. Student participation declined in 2020 and 2021; however, the data from 2022 demonstrates an upswing. Requests from students and partners have steadily increased in 2023 and Student Advisors expect that trend to continue as the year progresses.

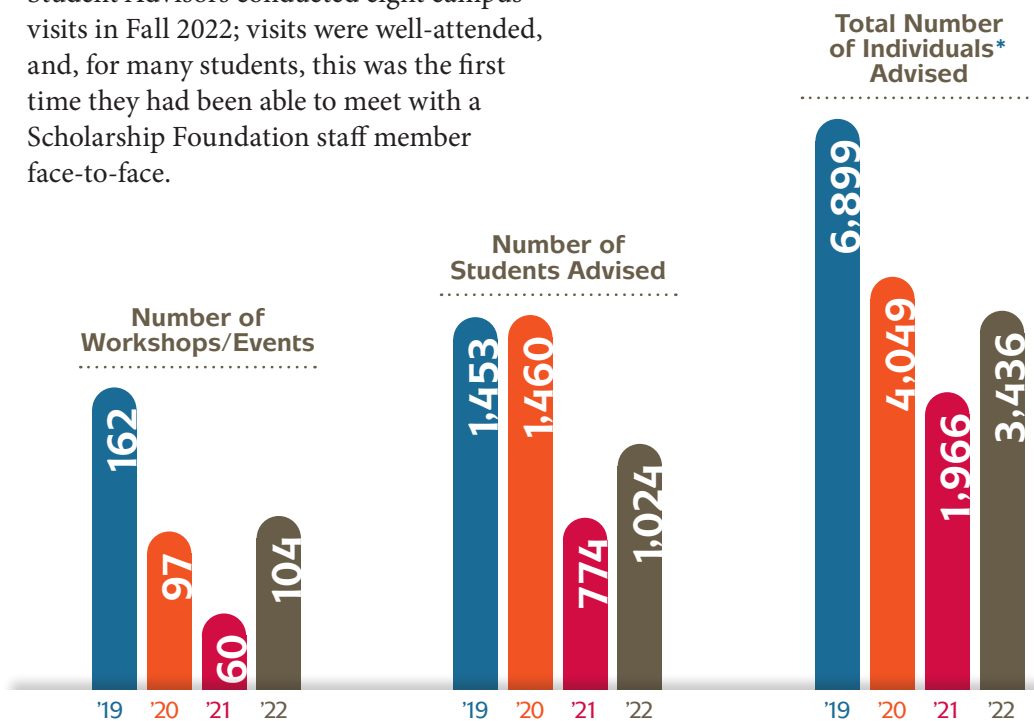
Every Scholarship Foundation student has an assigned Student Advisor who offers ongoing support while students are pursuing their degrees.

- In 2022 Student Advisors met with 91 newly awarded students to support problem-solving, planning, and resource identification.
- Student Advisors conducted eight campus visits in Fall 2022; visits were well-attended, and, for many students, this was the first time they had been able to meet with a Scholarship Foundation staff member face-to-face.

- In early December, The Scholarship Foundation launched FLOURISH, a new mental health program. Through this program, Scholarship Foundation students can access high-quality mental health care and have up to eight therapy sessions paid for by the Foundation.

## The Heart of the Work

The numbers are important, but the heart of Student Advising is all about relationships. Every day, Student Advisors demonstrate tremendous compassion and care that cannot be quantified. The strength of the program lies in the advisors, whose focus is on students, their lived experiences, and the individualized solutions that support their goals.



\* Students, parents, teachers, counselors, community partners, etc.



Senior Student Advisor, **Dominesha Newton**, provides essential guidance to her colleagues. Her advising efforts are focused on the Metro East, supporting students in East St. Louis and Collinsville, as well as on several partner programs including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, KIPP St. Louis, and Girls Inc.

**Grace Carlson**, Student Advisor, has extensive experience assisting students with disabilities. Her focus is on enhancing the existing supports provided to Foundation students while building up new outreach efforts in the community for students with disabilities. Grace assists students with partner programs Boys Hope Girls Hope and Boys & Girls Club of Greater St. Louis.



**Ricky Hughes**, Student Advisor, has a deep and vibrant passion for the young people of St. Louis. He supports students, counselors, and advisors at several partner programs, including LifeWise StL, Epworth, Cardinal Ritter College Prep, St. Louis Internship Program, and College Bound.

Director of Advising, **Teresa Steinkamp**, oversees the Student Advising Program, as well as the Foundation's new mental health program, FLOURISH. Teresa works with students and is known throughout the region as "The FAFSA Lady," working to ensure that students, families, counselors, and advisors have information to navigate financial aid forms and follow-up processes.



Thank You for Opening Doors for Area Students

# Tributes in Honor of

August 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023

**HOLIDAY**  
**Martha Aronson**  
 Joanne Greene

**APPRECIATION**  
**Martha Aronson**  
 Barbara Greenspoon  
 (2 gifts)

**BIRTHDAY**  
**Arthur Auer**  
*Marian D. Auer DSL*  
 Suzanne Yee and  
 John Nachbar ✦

**BIRTHDAY**  
**Radine Borowsky**  
 Beverly and Joseph  
 Schraubman

**APPRECIATION**  
**Buff Buffkin**  
 Steven Goldberg and  
 JD Brooks ✦  
 Ron Jagels and  
 Tim Bahr ✦

**BIRTHDAY**  
**Stefanie Buscher**  
 Sara Magalli

**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY**  
**Rich Cobb**  
 Mary and Ken Shapiro

**APPRECIATION**  
**Jenne Connolly**  
 Don Tomlinson ✦

**FRIENDSHIP**  
**Pat Cox**  
 Deborah Killmer ✦

**ANNIVERSARY**  
**Dorothy and William  
 Firestone**  
 Martha and David  
 Aronson and Miriam  
 Wilhelm and  
 Eric Friedman ✦

**HONOR**  
**Sharon and Barry  
 Friedman**  
 Betsy and Mike  
 Wicklund ✦

**MONETA CHARITABLE  
 FOUNDATION  
 SCHOLARSHIP,  
 ESTABLISHED IN HONOR  
 OF NANCY GEORGEN**  
**Nancy Georgen**  
 Martha Brown ✦

**SPEEDY RECOVERY**  
**Sid Goldstein**  
 Betsy and Stuart  
 Zimbalist ✦

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
**Dr. and Mrs. George  
 Grossberg**  
 Carolyn and Steve  
 Wolff  
*James Joshua Romeis and  
 James C. Romeis DSL*

**SPEEDY RECOVERY**  
**Rick Grosz**  
 Shirlene Baris

**BIRTHDAY**  
**Debra Kennard**  
 Katie Damitz ✦

**APPRECIATION**  
**Lynne Kipnis**  
 Debbi Braunstein,  
 Sharsheret Supports  
 STL ✦

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
**Dick and Jo Liddy**  
 Boo and Chuck Cook

**GRATITUDE**  
**Carol and Harry  
 Moppins**  
 Jeanne B. Lewi ✦

**DEDICATION IN SUPPORT  
 OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
**Lainie Neiman**  
 Dale and Robert  
 Schreiber ✦

**BIRTHDAY**  
**Ethel Newman**  
 Nancy L. Schapiro ✦

**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY**  
**René Price**  
 Betsy and Stuart  
 Zimbalist ✦

**IN HONOR**  
**Susan Rava**  
 George S.  
 Roudebush, Jr.

**SON'S BAR MITZVAH**  
**Davis Weiss and  
 Bobby Sanderson**  
 Lynne Kipnis and  
 Steve Rothman

**APPRECIATION**  
**Kim Savage**  
 Don Tomlinson ✦

**SPEEDY RECOVERY**  
**Noma Simon**  
 Margie Talcoff ✦

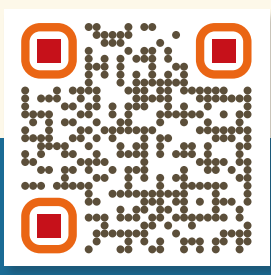
**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY**  
**Nancy Siwak**  
 Sharon and Barry  
 Friedman ✦

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
**Jennifer and Nick  
 Tompras**  
 Sharon and Barry  
 Friedman ✦

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**Vistage CEO  
 and Trusted  
 Advisor Groups**  
 Linda Goldstein ✦

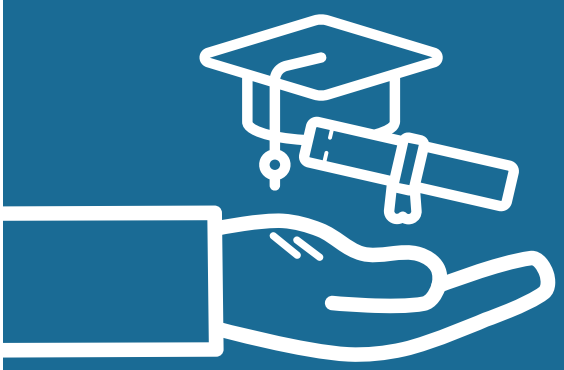
## Ways to Make a Tribute

- 1 Mail a Check:**  
 The Scholarship Foundation  
 6825 Clayton Avenue  
 Suite 100  
 St. Louis, MO 63139
- 2 Call:** 314-725-7990
- 3 Donate Online:**  
[sfstl.org/tribute-gift](https://sfstl.org/tribute-gift)



Looking for a meaningful gift for the new graduate in YOUR life? Why not make a Graduation Gift Tribute to The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis?

All tributes will be acknowledged here, in our newsletter, to celebrate your special graduate's big milestone. Graduates will also receive notification of your gift. Tributes are accepted via mail (see enclosed envelope), or online at [sfstl.org/donate/tribute-gift](https://sfstl.org/donate/tribute-gift).



✦ Indicates a donation of \$50 or more | \* Deceased

Thank You for Opening Doors for Area Students

# Tributes in Memory of

August 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023

## Jean Agatstein

Martha Aronson ✧  
Lois Friedman ✧  
Virginia and David  
McDonald ✧

## Paul Arenberg

Steven Arenberg ✧

## Ethel and Delores Ball

Trent Ball ✧

## Morton Baron

Rhea Oelbaum ✧  
Carolynn and Steve  
Wolff  
*James Joshua Romeis and  
James C. Romeis DSL*

## Roger Berent

Marla and Ed Cohen

## Ruth Byers

Joyce Jacobs ✧  
*Evelyn and Isadore Levine DSL*

## Donald Clausen

Pat Clausen ✧

## Mother of

Lynn Courier  
Mary and Ken Shapiro

## Jane Eiseman

Steven Arenberg ✧

## Ann Epstein

Patty and Jerry  
Padawer

## Pat Esserman

Julia Muller and  
Earl Shreckengast ✧

## Susan Fadem

Patty and Jerry  
Padawer

## Jack Finkelstein

Patty and Larry  
Malashock ✧

## George Friesen

Catherine M. Tierney ✧

## John Fudenberg

Patty and Jerry  
Padawer

## Mildred "Mickey"

Hoffman  
Carol and Alex Evers ✧

## Dr. and Mrs. James G.

Janney, Jr.  
Plancorp LLC ✧

## Dr. Lawrence Kahn

Betty R. Epstein

## David Kantrovitz

Patty and Jerry  
Padawer

## Dr. Jerome Kaplan

Amy and David  
Pritikin ✧

## Robert Levy, DMD

Ethel S. Newman

## Claire Marx

Julia Muller and  
Earl Shreckengast ✧

## Cordia Moppins

Harry V. Moppins,  
Jr. and Kenneth H.  
Moppins ✧

## Courtney and Gyo

Obata  
Sakurako and William  
Fishers ✧

## Stuart Oelbaum

Rhea Oelbaum ✧  
*Stuart Oelbaum DSL*

## Brother-in-Law of Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Rennard

Margie Talcoff ✧

## James and Josh Romeis

*James Joshua Romeis and  
James C. Romeis DSL*  
Joann Akemannchein  
and Family ✧  
Holland Brigham ✧

## Peggy Grosberg Ross

Stuart Friedman ✧

## Leatrice "Lee" Salky

Margie Talcoff ✧

## Bruce Schneider

Shirlene Baris

## Janet Schoedinger

Buff Buffkin and  
Donn Kleinschmidt ✧

## Karen Silverstein

Margie Talcoff

## Ken Steinback

Patty and Jerry  
Padawer

## Tom Tucker

Fran Berger ✧

## Harold "Hal" Tzinberg

Drs. Lynne Kipnis and  
Steve Rothman

## Mark Weinstein

Joyce Schneiderman  
and Family

## Sandford "Safe" Weissman

Rhea Oelbaum ✧

## Whitney, Daughter of

Kathy Williams  
Margie Talcoff ✧

## DeVonne Wilson and

Ayanna Woods  
Allison Williams ✧

## Sidney Wolf

Lynne Kipnis

## Tova Zimmerman

Sissy Price

✧ Indicates a donation of \$50 or more | \* Deceased

## Janice Gitt 50 Years of Commitment

In life and in her 50 years of commitment to The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis, **Janice Gitt** was steadfast and strong-willed. Janice and her husband, Stanley, first became contributors in 1972 and she served as ScholarShop treasurer and board member from 1977-1990. Under her steady hand, the books balanced and the proceeds were documented on time, as planned.

Generous estate contributions, tributes in Janice's memory, and a significant gift from Patty and Larry Malashock have combined to create the **Janice and Stanley Gitt Memorial Designated Scholar Loan Fund**. This memorial honors the family's commitment to the interest-free loan program and the students of The Scholarship Foundation.

### Tributes in Memory of Janice Gitt

Martha Aronson ✧

Joyce and Richard  
Becker ✧

Susan Goldberg ✧

Carol Hadidian ✧

Nancy Kalishman ✧

Terri and Steve Leyton

Carolyn Losos ✧

Cheryl and Hiram Martin

Donna Moog and

Leonard Landsbaum

Marcia and Wally

Pankowski

Dr. and Mrs. Marvin

Rennard

Debbi and Ira

Rosenberg ✧

Faith Sandler ✧

Jamie and Terry

Schneider ✧

Terri and Jeff Schnitzer

Ruth and Alvin Siteman ✧

Jerlyn S. Southwick ✧

Ellen and Dave Sullivan ✧

Margie Talcoff ✧

Sherie Winston

# Joining the Team

**Jenny Weber** joined the Foundation as the new Director of Advancement on March 15, 2023. She came to the Foundation from College Bound, one of the Foundation's longtime partners in college attainment for low-income students. Jenny had been on the College Bound staff since 2016, advancing to Vice President and Chief Development Officer from Director of Development in her work there. She had served as Interim Executive Director of College Bound since September 2022.



Prior to her tenure at College Bound, Jenny held development positions at Washington University and Teach For America. She also worked for two years in research and development as a business analyst at Dot Foods. Jenny earned her bachelor's in sociology with a concentration in gender and women's studies at Grinnell College. The daughter of social workers, Jenny cares deeply about the power of education, mental health, and college access for all who seek it.

In expressing her interest in the position, Jenny wrote *"I would be hard pressed to find a better place to continue my career in fundraising, college access and completion...I share the belief in the urgency of this work given the state of our democracy, the student debt crisis, and what we all stand to gain by having a more educated and empowered community."*

Jenny is a St. Louis native and lives in Maplewood with two toddlers and a toddler-like dog. When not at work or keeping up with those three, she enjoys baking and spending time with her sisters and parents. Please join us in welcoming her to The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis.

## New Contributors

The Foundation thanks the following first-time donors for their generous gifts made between August 1, 2022–February 28, 2023.

Liz and Bob Baisch  
Cory Bricker  
Joyce Buchheit  
Pamela Buell  
Erica Cage  
Robert Cannon  
Sally and Joe Coleman  
Bruce Czarnik  
Carlene W. Davis  
Eduardo Del Riego  
Jeanne Dickens, M.D.  
Dr. Mark C. Eddy  
Gary Eskow

Preston Andrew Estrada  
Suzanne Fischer  
Julie and Leonard Frankel  
Maria J. Hankerson  
The Dr. James L. Hickey and  
Patricia A. Hickey Trust  
Suzanne W. Karam  
Laura Arnold and  
David Kimball  
Susan and Eric Lowenstein  
Yumeng Luan  
Lydia Marshall  
Nancy and Jack McDonald

Shelly McDonald  
Deborah Merovitz  
Donna Burkart and  
Tom Mertle  
Dr. Noelle Miles  
Michelle and Dean Millonas  
Gina P. Nicholson  
Penny Pennington and  
Mike Fidler  
Dimon Phillips  
Keith Rabenberg  
Lois Raimondo  
Kathleen Rall

Lisa Riad  
Riot Games, Inc.  
John Roedel  
Peggy R. Samuels  
Rachel and Jermal Seward II  
Sandy Sheldon  
Amy and Joe Sklansky  
Sullivan Bank  
Adrienne Wells-Kestur  
Kirsten Wheeler  
Honey Win  
Kathy Withington



# The Great Debate

The Scholarship Foundation held its only staged debate at a board meeting in 1992. The contested topic was whether men should join the board of directors. For the prior 72 years, the organization had been governed by women. While there was no specific requirement in writing, the female composition of the board was practice as close to “*etched in stone*” as any words on paper.

Emotions and opinions on the topic ran high. The nominating committee sought formal board resolution on the matter. To help structure decision making, two highly regarded members of the board were selected to take the podium and make a case.

**Paula Kipnis** (on the board 1982-1996) argued that board governance was not broken and didn’t need fixing. She shared a great pride in the Foundation’s history of volunteer leadership by women. She suggested that those who had served on the board knew how to work together for the good of all in ways she thought more difficult for men. She expressed a concern that men would be less likely to do the hands-on (“*envelope stuffing*”) work, would not be good fundraisers, and would work for individual ego and create unproductive competition.

Former board president **Frances Franklin** (on the board 1968-2011) argued that times had changed, and the Foundation board should change as well. She contended there was no biological reason men could not stuff envelopes, raise funds, or collaborate. Her position was that the women of the board would be strong enough to show men a



Frances Franklin



Paula Kipnis

different way to lead and serve. She shared her confidence that such a change would be for the better and did not have to threaten the organization’s way of working.

After hearing the debate, board consensus was to alter this long-held practice of restricting board nominations by gender. In 1993, the board further voted to remove gender-specific pronouns from the bylaws, just months after **Earl Millard** (served 1993-1994) was the first man elected. Shortly thereafter, **Chuck Cook** was nominated and served from 1994-2002 providing not just complex real estate and financial analyses for the board but also raising funds, opening application mail, and stuffing envelopes as needed.

Today, there is no gender requirement or quota in place; however, it remains true that individuals identifying as male have never held the majority on the board of The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis.



Open House: January 4-5, 2023

# Reconnecting

The Foundation kicked off the new year with an Open House for students, families, and community members in early January, 2023. Information tables welcomed conversation and questions about applications, student support services (see pg. 8), advocacy (see pgs. 10-11), financial support, and more. Board members, advocacy fellows, and staff were on hand to meet students and families who were able to drop by.

