

The Phillips Scholar

Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.

Volume 17

Fall 2015



Stephen Phillips Memorial
Scholarship Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 870
Salem, Massachusetts 01970
www.phillips-scholarship.org

Trustees

Lawrence Coolidge
Arthur Emery
John Finley, IV
Richard Gross
Robert Randolph

Staff

Barbara Welles Iler,
Executive Director

Pamela Constantine,
Program Director

Kate Gearan,
*Associate Program
Director*

Daniel K. Flynn,
Program Associate

Taking on Human Trafficking

2015-2016 Phillips Alumni Scholar Krista Gay (John Brown University, '16) formed the organization Students Against Sex Slavery (SASS) her first year at John Brown University. It is currently the largest campus organization.



“I became interested in joining the fight against human trafficking in 2011 during a mission trip to the Philippines. I was shocked by the number of street children there who were being trafficked. When I returned to the United States I discovered that human trafficking is not just a foreign problem, and that people, including children, were being treated and sold as objects in my very own state.”

“SASS is dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking and sexual violence within our community and taking realistic steps against them. My ultimate goal is for every student on campus to realize sex trafficking and sexual violence is occurring; what they can do to help; and where they can go if they suspect they or their friends are at risk.”

Krista also works at a rape crisis center, where she interned her sophomore year. We asked what keeps her motivated to work in such grim fields. “I consider it a privilege to work with survivors of sexual abuse and human trafficking. These survivors, usually women, come to me at some of their darkest moments. I am able to speak truth into their lives and tell them that they are worthy of being loved and that the abuse they suffered was not their fault. Although I sometimes cry on the way home from the office, I feel grateful that these women would allow me into their lives at such a time. I am able to watch them heal and grow with the resources I give them. Seeing this growth is a joy, and it keeps me going back.”

“To create SASS, I received approval from the ministry board and then began to recruit members. As we began to sponsor events, other students besides my friends became interested and joined. In just two semesters, our ministry grew to over 100 volunteers. Today, we have more than 200 students who participate at various events.”

Krista invites interested students via handwritten notes to the first event early in the semester, usually a hands-on event that generates excitement about

continued on page two

Continued from page one

the cause. She also thanks all meeting attendees individually, letting each one know that he or she is a wanted, needed and valued member of SASS. “I see myself as the organizer and motivator of the group. When students have an idea, like a 5k fundraiser, I give them the resources to make it happen. They become more enthusiastic about their project and the group and everyone benefits.”

Yeraldo Rodriguez

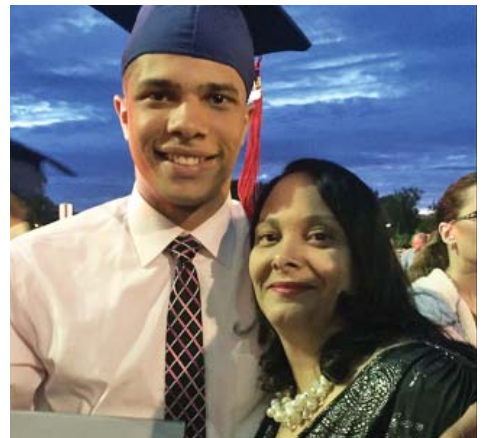
2015-16 Alumni Scholar Yeraldo Rodriguez (Bentley University, '19) attended Central Catholic High School (Lawrence, MA), where he formed the Casa Hogar Committee in support of an orphanage in his homeland, Dominican Republic. Deeply touched by the orphans' stories and the rundown facility, he vowed to help them overcome their histories of abuse, neglect, malnourishment and abandonment.

“Having the opportunity to make an impact on others' lives has been a blessing. First of all, I was able to give back to my homeland. Second, I created a new service organization at my school. With the help of others, I was able to raise \$9,000 for the orphanage. Receiving thank you notes from the children was gratifying, but, most importantly, I realized that it only takes one person to make a difference.”

With his Spanish teacher as an advisor, he formed an eight-person group that spearheaded a host of creative fundraising efforts that amassed an amazing \$4,000. Looking to end their campaign in a spectacular way, they “put together a student-teacher dance competition called Dancing with the Raiders. This was the first time something like this had ever been done at our school -- I even ended up dancing in the competition. Between ticket sales and raffle tickets, we brought in another \$5,000 that night,” reports Yeraldo.

Service to others comes naturally to Yeraldo. “Living in a religious household I have been involved in service from a young age; as I get older it becomes a bigger part of who I am. I honestly enjoy giving of my time and efforts for the benefit of others. Most of my service at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence consisted of tutoring and serving supper, both on an almost daily basis.” He also helps with sports, fundraising, bake sales and chaperoning field trips for the Club. He points out that he has never had a bad experience while serving others.

At Bentley, Yeraldo has found some service opportunities on campus, but also plans to reach out to the local Boys and Girls Club. “I don't think I can ever get away from the Boys and Girls Club environment.”



Kathleen Hemingway

2015-2016 Alumni Scholar Kathleen Hemingway (University of New England, '19) hails from beautiful but small Block Island in Rhode Island, where she founded the Student Leadership Team in the K-12 Block Island School. Growing out of an internship with the school social worker, the team is her response to the challenge, “What is one thing you would change at school?” Remembering her own middle school years as a time of sometimes awkward transitioning, Kathleen sought a way to make life for the younger students less intimidating while also serving as a good role model for them. Her sophomore year, she used extensive surveys and meetings with faculty to determine the need for the program and the willingness of the high schoolers to serve as mentors. Kathleen and her advisor decided that the program would hold fun activities for the middle school at least once a quarter while offering mentoring, tutoring and help with specific skill sets for students from kindergarten through seventh grade. Students would be referred through the office, and then the leadership team would match the student to an appropriate Leader.

Continued on page three

Continued from page two

The Leader then developed the specific action plan for the student in concert with the parent(s). The plan included an end date, although the student and mentor could opt to continue if both felt the partnership was working. The Leadership Team also created appealing quarterly activities and carefully documented each event to evaluate its success and facilitate the planning for the following years. These events included scavenger hunts, movie nights, picnics and themed holiday parties.

“Overall, the team has made incredible strides to give kids the opportunity to feel like themselves and show them that, regardless of what they may think, there are people out there who care about them and are willing to listen. I was surprised by the impact the program had on the Student Leaders as well. They learned how to handle difficult, unforeseen circumstances, to plan, implement and evaluate an event and work with the faculty. I learned how to admit when I need help and ask for it and how to lead a group while giving everyone a voice. I will carry the lessons I have learned from my peers, the students and the adults involved for the rest of my life. One person can really make a difference, and I can be that person.”



The Leadership Team is in good hands to continue even though Kathleen is now at University of New England. So far, she is involved with Habitat for Humanity, the Hunger Initiative Club and the Education Club. Her work-study job is service-oriented: Through America Reads /America Counts she tutors at a local elementary school, currently her favorite activity. She looks forward to becoming an elementary school teacher.

Words of Thanks

Krista, Yeraldo and Kathleen are the three 2015-2016 Alumni Scholars, chosen from new recipients this year, and who personify the service to others that this scholarship seeks to encourage. The following Phillips Alumni and parents have donated generously to the Phillips Alumni Scholars over the past year. Matched by a friend of the scholarship, these funds helped us assist these three students with the increasing costs of education. A sincere thank you to all.

\$5,000 and above

†*Judith Nowinski
*Anonymous (2)

\$2,000 to \$4,999

*Michael Bednark

\$500 - \$999

*Susanna Baker
Thang Nguyen

\$100-\$499

Memorial Gift:

MaryJane Doubleday
for Sarah Doubleday
† Carolyn Burkhardt
†*Robert and Donna
Callahan

†*Gregory and Anita
Dana

*Kathryn Dalton
Tiffany Graham

*Jieh Greeney
*Rachel Hopkins

*Erin Kelley
*Michael Kishko

*Matthew Kozlowski
Dyna Ly

*Thao Mai
†*Karen and Bryan
Malloy

*Anne Powell
Caitlyn Roller

*Monica Scott
Brittney Sullivan

*Jesenia Tejada-
Perez

\$50-\$99

Luis Alvarez
†*Tony and Eleanor
Donato

John Daggett
* Nancy Do

Natalie Gill
Meghan Harrison

*Joshua Hills
†JoAnne and
John Leahy

*Laura Mason
†Allison and Sarah
Person

Mallory Sullivan

Todd Torres

up to \$49

*Samantha Alves
Anonymous

†*Michael Torlen
and Eleanor
Brackbill

*Ian Camacho
†*Susan Lincort

†*Bill and
Kathleen Corley

*Fanny Dines
Diane Gunther

†*John and Emilie
Hartmann

Amanda Helfand

†*Kathleen and

Frederick Insler
Sudan Liu

*Justin Maaia

† Cathryn Keefe
O'Hare

†Marybeth and
Brian O'Connor

†*Jose De Oliveira

*Allegra Parrillo

*Brad Russo

Jeffrey Schramm

Scott Taylor

*Multiple-Year Donor
† Parent Donation

Impacting College Choice: A Pilot Program

What if applicants knew our scholarship decision before they made their final college decision? And what if they could compare the award amount that we would give for two different colleges? The recent 2015-2016 application cycle included an innovative pilot program to see if an earlier application deadline and review process could help applicants make more informed financial decisions about which colleges to attend.

For this pilot, students filled out the Phillips Early Application by April 10th and included aid information for their top two college choices. By April 29th, every applicant was notified of our decision. Awarded applicants were told what the award amount would be at each of their two choices. With that information, the scholars could compare the bottom line for each school and make an informed decision by the May 1st universal college-reply date.

The results were quite positive, so the program will be repeated in 2016. This year, 300 students submitted complete early applications by the deadline, confirming that this timeline is viable for a significant number of students. These applications represented nearly one quarter of all new applications received in 2015. Furthermore, the quality of the applications was very high, as students were strong both in service and academically. We awarded 25 of the applicants and deferred 60 applications to the regular decision cycle; of those 60, 14 were ultimately awarded as well. Demographically speaking, the early awardees were consistent with the recipients of our traditional cycle. Most gratifying was that the majority of the early awardees reported that the information about the scholarship did indeed impact their college choice, which is the primary goal of this process.

News from the Phillips House Museum

Young Stephen Phillips (Stevie) was fascinated by the latest gizmos and gadgets, and mementoes of this interest are currently on display throughout the Phillips museum. His trick-bank collection is displayed on the mantel in his room and is among the many toys and games found in the house. The Trick Dog bank pictured below dates from about 1906 and was designed to promote saving by children. It is operated by placing a coin in the dog's mouth and depressing a lever. The dog springs through the hoop and deposits the coin into the barrel. Stevie was also an avid chess player and a lover of games such as dominoes and marbles. The bookcase next to Stevie's bed displays another interest of his -- adventure stories, history, and pirates -- not just as a boy, but as a young man as well.

Stevie moved into 34 Chestnut Street with his parents Stephen and Anna Phillips when he was five years old. Four rooms of the house had originally been transported from Danvers by ox sled to Salem's fashionable Chestnut Street in 1821. The Phillips purchased and renovated the house in 1911-1912 in the federal style and it remained in the family until Stephen's death in 1971. When the family moved in, they brought with them a family collection that spans five generations and blossomed during Salem's Great Age of Sail.



The Phillips House is open June 1 to October 31, Tuesday through Sunday and November 1 to May 31 on Saturdays and Sundays. Tours are offered every half hour from 11 am until 4 pm. Phillips Scholarship recipients and their families are always welcome to take a tour free of charge. For more information on the Phillips House Museum, please visit www.HistoricNewEngland.org.

Photo courtesy of Historic New England