

FUELING EDUCATION, DISMANTLING BARRIERS

The Stephen Phillips
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND





INVESTING IN STUDENTS & OPENING NEW DOORS

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund offers renewable, four-year college scholarships.

We are dedicated to creating new opportunities for promising youth across New England who commit themselves to serving others.

Helping students to achieve their educational goals and lead purposeful lives.

Fostering a community of leaders eager to contribute to society.

Offering students support in building a bright future for themselves and their communities.

Carrying on Stephen and Betty Phillips' legacy of leveraging the power of education to make the world a better place.



DEAR FRIENDS,

In 2021, we celebrated the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund's 30th Anniversary. Reflecting on that milestone, I am grateful that through a steadfast commitment to mission, innovation, and impact, we have experienced so much positive growth. When I joined Phillips as Executive Director in 2012, it was a well-established organization with a rock-solid foundation developed through the hard work and vision of Betty Phillips, Arthur and Karen Emery, and its founding trustees. With a rigorous selection process and fine-tuned procedures in place, we were able to capitalize on opportunities to increase the impact and reach of the Phillips Scholarship.

As college has become increasingly expensive, students from low-income families have in many cases been priced out of the four-year residential college experience. In response, our program has shifted to increasingly serve the most financially vulnerable students and families. Whereas 70% of our recipients were Pell-eligible in 2010, that figure was 84% in our most recent award year. Our average award has also increased, from \$5,000 in 2010 to \$8,500 in 2022. By ensuring that our awarding is responsive to climbing costs and that we are assisting the students with the most limited financial resources, we aim to offer high-impact scholarships that make a crucial difference in a student's ability to attend college, stay enrolled and engaged in their classes, and graduate.

Among the greatest reflections of the Phillips Scholarship's success are the donor partnerships we have made. Over the years, our work has attracted the attention of philanthropists who want to follow in our footsteps, and since 2015 we have administered over \$2.2M in donated funds for six different scholarship programs. Helping donors create scholarship programs in the Phillips model to support more students in their college careers has been an extremely rewarding step that naturally builds on Betty Phillips' vision of investing in those who are driven to uplift their communities.

I hope you will enjoy learning more in the following pages about how the Phillips Scholarship and the community it has created have positively impacted the world. The more we grow this community, the more good we see. Thank you for joining us.

Sincerely,

BARBARA WELLES ILER

Executive Director



Betty Phillips



Betty and Stephen Phillips



Photos courtesy of
Historic New England.

AT THE BEGINNING

In 1991, Betty Phillips launched the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in memory of her husband Stephen, who died in 1971. When Betty and Stephen met in 1940, she had finally obtained her master's degree in mathematics from Mount Holyoke College after years of struggling to finance her education. Stephen's family, on the other hand, had an established tradition of charitable giving going back generations in Massachusetts. Together, it was a natural fit for them to begin informally supporting students who could not afford college in their local community of Salem, MA.

After Stephen passed away, Betty lived very frugally to maximize future funding for the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund. Though she originally intended for the scholarship fund to begin operations after inheriting her estate upon her death, Betty became so eager to see the scholarship program in action that she began funding it in 1991, and was able to participate in several years of scholar selection before her death in 1996. In that time, she set the direction for the scholarship: assisting students with high academic promise, a desire to give back to society, and serious-mindedness who financially were not able to attend college.

Today, we strive to achieve the same goals that Betty set forward in the first days of the scholarship by offering renewable, four-year scholarships to students with financial need who display academic achievement, a commitment to serving others (in school, in their community, or at home), a strong work ethic, and leadership qualities.



EXPANDING INTO THE FUTURE

Arthur Emery joined the staff of the Phillips Family Office in 1988. Soon after, when Betty Phillips decided to launch the scholarship fund, she enlisted Arthur's help and that of his wife, Karen. Arthur and Karen were honored to be part of Betty's vision from the beginning.

When Betty died in 1996, Arthur was named Managing Trustee of the scholarship, and Karen was named Program Director. The Scholarship Fund established an office in the Phillips Trust House, a public museum that Betty created to preserve Stephen's boyhood home. There, Arthur and Karen, in their words, "created a framework and process for awarding students, always being mindful of [Betty's] wishes."

The Emerys developed the fund into a robust organization. During their tenure, they partnered with high school guidance counselors, community-based programs, and college admissions and financial aid offices to promote the scholarship to applicants, build their knowledge of the college access space, and develop a strong program model.

The Emerys shared, "It has been our honor and privilege to be a part of assisting talented, bright, and motivated students who have already and will make a positive difference in the world." The Phillips Scholarship has achieved great impact thanks in very large part to their hard work and dedication.



OUR GROWTH & IMPACT

In 1991, the scholarship launched by awarding 14 recipients. Today we award over 150 new recipients annually.

We have grown, in part, by partnering with community-based college access programs to expand our pipeline of deserving applicants. We now have over 70 partner organizations that direct students to our scholarship.

In addition, in 2015 we launched our first donor partnership, leveraging our model to connect philanthropists with students in need.

Now we award over \$5M annually in funds from the Phillips endowment and from generous donors, supporting over 500 new and renewing scholars each year.

Our successful model has allowed us to strategically increase our impact, and we are well positioned to continue growing.

Over the past 30 years,
our impact has included:

4,650

recipients in
total funded
by Phillips
and donors

95%

six-year college
graduation rate

vs.

63% for
students
nationally

\$74M in funds from the
Phillips endowment

\$2.2M

in donor funds

300

additional awards
funded by donors



MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS

1991

Scholarship fund was established by Betty Phillips in honor of her husband, Stephen.

1996

Scholarship fully funded, resulting in nearly 300 new awards in the following year.

2003

Former recipients begin giving back to the fund, donating to scholarships for new recipients.

2008

Trustees voted to regionalize the scholarship, shifting the scope from national to New England.

2012

Managing Trustee Arthur Emery and Program Director Karen Emery retired after over forty combined years of service to the scholarship.



2015

Scholarship reaches \$50M awarded and 3,500 students supported. Also, Phillips began administering a new scholarship program funded by philanthropists, creating a model for partnerships with future donors.

2018

Alumni Council was created to facilitate meaningful connections among alumni of the scholarship.

2021

First donor-funded scholarship sponsored by a former recipient was established.

2022

Phillips administering six distinct scholarship programs on behalf of donor partners.

REMOVING BARRIERS & BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Scholars from our original cohort of awardees share how the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship impacted their education, community, and life.



The scholarship gave me confidence that I was deserving of such a prestigious award. And I took that confidence with me through college and beyond.”

– HENRY SOO HOO



In the days since being a Phillips scholar I have come to recognize that ‘service’ includes even seemingly small informal acts and actions—for example, everyday kindness and mentoring.”

– DEIDRE JOHNSON



The Phillips Scholarship helped me have the financial freedom to pursue what I believe to be my calling rather than feeling the pressure to keep a job strictly for financial reasons.”

– RACHEL MILLER



Service has been an essential part of my life since my days as a Phillips scholar. It has always been a part of both my professional and personal life. Most prominent has been my public service, where I’ve worked on Capitol Hill and in municipal government for a city that I love.”

– JAMES TIERNEY

Our alumni are impressive. After graduation, many contribute to the scholarship fund by donating, evaluating applications, and serving on our Alumni Council. Here's what some of the council had to say.



The Phillips scholars and alumni have a level of maturity, discipline, and drive to not only succeed in their personal endeavors but to contribute to society. Phillips scholars are leaders. They are also scrappy, creative, and resourceful, given their often humble beginnings.”

– **DANNY BAER**



We have the opportunity to create meaningful relationships through sharing exclusive job postings, resume reviews, mentorship, and other resources with each other. The true value of connecting our alumni is to contribute back to the next generation of alumni who will follow in our footsteps.”

– **YVES SABATO**



The support of the fund affected our trajectories in such meaningful ways that we're always going to feel this common sense of purpose, and some shared connecting threads, as a group. As we make our way in the world, it continues to be so important to find like-minded people to bounce ideas off of, get inspiration from, and simply to connect with.”

– **SAM BISSELL**

EXPANDING OUR REACH & MAKING NEW CONNECTIONS



THE GORDON HALL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

was made possible by a generous gift from Gordon and Taffy Hall and exists to benefit students from Lynn and Marblehead, Massachusetts.



A higher education yields enormous benefits, social, financial and a delightful path to self-amusement. Our family believes this devoutly. Our recipients will benefit from college education, and our culture and economy as well.”

– GORDON HALL

Our model is unique. In addition to managing our core scholarship program, we aid others in starting their own. In 2022, we grew to manage scholarships for six funders. Together, we are reaching more students, building stronger networks, and serving communities.



THE EFROSINI DEMOULAS SCHOLARS

PROGRAM *is an initiative of the One Four Three Four Foundation, established in memory of Efrosini Demoulas, a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother who immigrated to the US from Greece in 1914.*

“ The highlight of working with Phillips is how easy they make it for us to focus on the joy of working with our scholars. Partnering with Phillips assured us that our resources and efforts would have the greatest impact for dedicated young people trying to attain a college education.”

– FOTENE DEMOULAS



THE FISCHER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP *is funded by a former Phillips Scholarship recipient, Kim Fischer, and her family.*

“

[Receiving] the scholarship made the burden of paying for college a little less onerous and stressful. It was also very encouraging to know the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund was rooting for my success and truly cared about my experience at university. This left a lasting impression on me and I always hoped to one day pay this act of kindness forward.”

– KIM FISCHER



THE SALEM FIVE BRIGHT MINDS SCHOLARSHIP *was created by the Salem Five Charitable Foundation as part of its commitment to giving back to the communities it serves.*

“

[We are] committed to making a positive impact in our communities while ensuring vibrant and viable futures for those who live in those communities. [Our] goals aligned with Phillips’ goals of helping students attend college without burdensome debt, assisting those with a financial need who have thrived academically, have a strong work ethic, leadership qualities, and a commitment to serving others.”

– MEGHAN NEEDHAM,
Salem Five Charitable Foundation Manager



THE H&H SCHOLARSHIP *was funded by Henrietta Gates and Heaton Robertson to support students from Essex County, Massachusetts.*



We believe in the value of education and wanted to set up a scholarship. Phillips provided the answer; they have a broad reach into students who are in need of financial support and [they] understand where this assistance can make a significant difference.”

– HENRIETTA GATES AND HEATON ROBERTSON



THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

was established by the Janey Fund Charitable Trust to serve students interested in social or environmental justice.



As a small family foundation we have limited time and resources to manage scholarships. Phillips helps us expand our reach and help more students achieve their college goals.”

– DEBORAH DENHART,

Executive Director of the Janey Fund Charitable Trust



MEET THE TEAM & GET INVOLVED

AMY MORAN LOWE
*Senior Vice President
of Programs, Strategic
Partnerships, and
Engagement*

**BARBARA
WELLES ILER**
Executive Director

MADELEINE JACOBS
*Vice President of
Communications
and Organizational
Development*

KATE GEARAN
*Vice President of Scholarship
Programs & Community
Relations*

TRUSTEES

Beth Anderson
Lawrence Coolidge
Peggy Eysenbach
Rev. John Finley IV
Dr. Robert Randolph

PAST LEADERS

Pam Constantine
1999-2020
Arthur Emery
1991-2018
Karen Emery
1991-2012
Richard Gross
1991-2018
Alfred 'Bunny' Putnam
1991-1997



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Having former recipient Amy Lowe on our team highlights how essential our alumni are to our success. Amy shared, "Serving on the leadership team at Stephen Phillips is like coming home. The generosity of the Phillips family helped make college possible for me over 20 years ago, and the staff behind the fund have cheered me on throughout my career in public service. After a dozen years evaluating federal education programs on behalf of the Congress, I was eager for the opportunity to reconnect with my local community again. Now I've returned to my North Shore roots and am humbled to serve on the team at Stephen Phillips, helping to make college a reality for so many outstanding young people."

We are continuing Stephen and Betty Phillips' legacy of creating opportunities for New England students to achieve their educational goals and give back to their communities.

To learn more about our mission and get involved, please visit phillips-scholarship.org or call us at 978.744.2111.

The Stephen Phillips

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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