



CELEBRATING GROWTH

This year, with the completion of another successful application cycle, the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund is excited to be achieving some significant milestones. In 2025, our number of submitted applications was the highest it has been since the Covid-19 pandemic. We see that as an encouraging sign that more students across New England view college as an attainable goal—and we're proud to help make those goals a reality. This past summer we offered over 140 new scholarships, which means that we have now awarded over 5,000 individuals since launching the scholarship fund in 1991.

**2025 by the
Numbers**



1,150+
new applicants



~\$4M in
scholarships



~5,040 all-time
recipients

EXPANDING OUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

We are delighted that 2025 brought two major partnership announcements, opening a new chapter of growth and impact for Phillips. First, we have launched a new collaborative effort with the Essex County Community Foundation, establishing a strong foundation for our donor-driven programming. You can learn more about this partnership on page two of this newsletter. We are also proud to announce a major expansion of the Gordon Hall III Family Foundation Scholarship Program in 2026.

A Game Changer for Lynn

Launched in 2022 with a gift from Gordon Hall and Taffy Knowlton Hall to support students from Lynn and Marblehead, the Gordon Hall III Family Foundation Scholarship Program will soon celebrate its first cohort of college graduates. Thanks to a transformational legacy gift from Gordon Hall III, dedicated specifically to Lynn, in 2026 the scholarship will open doors for many more local students. In the years ahead, this gift will allow the program to award approximately \$500,000 annually.

Gordon, who passed away in 2022, was a long-time owner and operator of real estate in Lynn and surrounding communities. It gave Gordon great joy to plan this donation, which will provide access to educational opportunities that will benefit Lynn students, their families, and the entire community.

Gordon's son, Max Hall, shared that, "Gordon was famous for his devotion to education for individual success and happiness, and also as a civic good. He loved learning for its own sake, as it makes the world more interesting. And as a hard-nosed pragmatist, he loved learning for its self-perpetuating utility, too.



He believed horizons expand endlessly for those who learn to learn." We could not agree more! It is wonderful for Phillips to be helping Gordon's generosity, spirit, and memory live on.

The Hall Scholarship Program has already made a meaningful impact for students like Emily Merida of Lynn. Emily graduated from KIPP Academy in Lynn and now attends University of Massachusetts, Lowell where she is majoring in criminal justice. She shared that receiving the Hall Scholarship, "has been a very crucial part to my academic journey because it has been able to take off a huge financial burden which has allowed me to be able to focus on my academics. With the help of this scholarship I have been able to join meetings, workshops, or even clubs that I never knew I could be a part of. Being able to be a part of those programs has allowed me to gain so much more perspective about the world and it has allowed me to meet new people that I know will be a part of my journey after I graduate college." Gordon's latest gift will extend these kinds of benefits to many, many more Lynn students.

Joining Forces with Essex County Community Foundation

We are excited to share that the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund (SPMSF) has entered into a new partnership with the Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF) this year. Since we share deep roots on the North Shore and the mission to help individuals and communities thrive, ECCF and Phillips are natural partners.

Through this collaboration, ECCF is hosting a dedicated Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund within its foundation. This new structure allows supporters to give a larger range of gift types, which can then be managed with more flexibility — thereby enabling us to serve our donors better and, in turn, the students who benefit from their generosity.

We are deeply grateful to be working with ECCF and proud to partner with an organization driving systemic change in our own community of Essex County. Together, we are ensuring that donor generosity continues to expand opportunities for motivated students with financial need to pursue higher education.

This year, donor partners who previously established named scholarship programs with Phillips directed their 2025–2026 program funds through ECCF, an organization that has been leveraging partnerships like these to unlock opportunities in the 34 cities and towns of Essex County for more than 25 years. While ECCF provides critical administrative support, Phillips continues to provide program management expertise to administer these scholarships.

We are thankful to the following partners for making a difference in the lives of students through their gifts to ECCF this year:

The Efrosini Demoulas Scholars Program, awarding 72 students.

The Salem Five Charitable Foundation's Bright Minds Scholarship Program, awarding 12 students.

The H&H Scholarship Program, awarding 3 students.

MEET THE 2025 ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARS

Thank you to our former recipients and their families for their continued generosity and support. Because of their donations, we are able to continue to award new scholars each year through the Alumni Legacy Scholars Program. Alumni Legacy Scholars exemplify what it means to be a Stephen Phillips Scholarship recipient. They demonstrate academic excellence, a commitment to serving others in their community, a strong work ethic, and exemplary character. On the next page, continue reading to learn about this year's Alumni Legacy Scholars.

Ronald Walters is a graduate of Beaver Country Day School in Massachusetts. As a high school student, Ronald was an avid member of his school and surrounding community. He was the Director of Communications for Student Council, a member of Black Student Union, and served as an admission ambassador. He tutored young children at the Steppingstone Foundation, helping them learn mathematics and science by sharing his love of learning. Ronald also was a volunteer with the Begin to Dream Foundation, a foundation that helps assist homeless women acquire housing. He helps out at a variety of their events including a yearly coat drive. Ronald says, "All of these extracurriculars are important to my sense of self because they define who I am and how I spend my time. They represent my character, and I'm proud to state my connection to each one of them." Ronald is attending Howard University studying Architecture.



Paige Cargill spent her time at Bellows Free Academy in Vermont very involved in her school community. She served as class president, a member of National Honor Society, and was captain of the soccer team. She was a member of the Connections Club which pairs high school students with elementary school students to meet and interact with weekly and Farm to School which allows students to grow food for the school cafeteria to use. Paige also consistently volunteered for her local community center's event, Kids Night Out where she got the opportunity to play games, do crafts and interact with young children in her community. Paige says, "All of these activities have led me to believe that community service is a crucial aspect in my life." Paige is pursuing a degree in Elementary Education at Vermont State University. She has known she has wanted to be an elementary school teacher her whole life and wants to make an impact on every student she teaches.



Charlotte Merrill is currently studying Nursing at the University of Vermont. She plans to become an Emergency Nurse or Critical Care Nurse and work for a Level 1 trauma hospital. Charlotte strives to help wherever and whenever she can. During high school, she was a volunteer firefighter and has received first aid training, trauma training, and fire truck pump training that allowed her to better support her community and fellow firefighters during emergencies. She also assisted with equipment and station maintenance and directed new members of the Junior Volunteer Firefighter program teaching them the protocols and responsibilities of the position. To gain experience in the hospital setting, Charlotte volunteered at St. Mary's Hospital where she assisted in the transportation of different patients and medical supplies, helping other hospital staff to be able to focus on their patient care. Charlotte says, "The reason behind all of this is so I can help people feel a little less stranded when life takes that downward turn. I know all of this because my family was once there, affected by an awful downward turn in life, but there was the community, right there to help us get up on our feet again." Charlotte attended Leavitt Area High School in Maine where she was a multiple year member of the cross-country team earning various awards and serving as a leader to her teammates.



Daniel Tolman has always been interested in construction. He has already worked in construction for years and has shadowed a professional surveyor. His goal is to become a professional surveyor. Daniel is now studying Surveying Engineering Technology at the University of Maine Orono, to help him continue to build his knowledge in the field and prepare him for his future career. Daniel attended Moultonborough Academy in New Hampshire where he was the class of 2025 president, vice president of student council, a member of National Honor Society, and a four-sport athlete. He was a trained mentor with the Moultonborough Academy Mentor Program where he was matched with an elementary school student to mentor. He was also a member of the Construction Club where he helped plan and build an outdoor classroom for his school. Daniel says, "Serving others is important to me because I was raised to believe that you take care of your people, whether that is your family, your community, or your team. I've seen how much small efforts can matter, and it's taught me responsibility, leadership, and compassion."



Read about the final Alumni Legacy Scholar on the next page.

Keyra Huaman is passionate about music and wanted to find a way to connect her passion with a career in STEM. Keyra is currently pursuing a degree in Entertainment Engineering at the University of Connecticut Storrs. Her goal is to design hand-crafted stages for musicians. She has been a Girl Scout throughout her childhood. Through Girl Scouts, Keyra has received her Bronze and Silver Awards. To receive these awards, she created and completed different service projects in her local community. She repaired a senior center's garden and created and compiled over 100 feminine hygiene product kits for an elementary school. While attending Montville High School, Keyra was a member of student government and student council. She also volunteered to be her school's photographer taking pictures of athletic events, spirit week, pep rallies, senior nights, and other school sponsored events. Keyra says, "Service is not about what is received, but about what is given."



WORDS OF THANKS

We are humbled by the generosity of the alumni, families, and partners of the scholarship listed below, who made donations from November 2024 through October 2025. Thank you for your commitment to making college more affordable and accessible for students across New England.

Anchor Donors: \$1,000–\$9,999

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