



Beckley Area
FOUNDATION

Education Report 2021-2022



Kaplan Family Fund for Learning Disabilities Educator Training | July 2022

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN THE COMMUNITY

Welcome to our first edition of Beckley Area Foundation's Education Report. Through the support of our donors, Beckley Area Foundation (BAF) has been able to address some of the community's most pressing needs, including education.

Education makes all the difference. It is the most utilized tool of success for children struggling with poverty, community disruption, family stress, or failure. It is the prerequisite for most long-lived careers that provide sustainable wages. BAF provides several types of funding throughout the year that enriches the educational experience of our students. Some initiatives the foundation directly fund are grants for teachers to enhance their curriculum, college scholarships for students, supporting library reading programs, programs for students with learning disabilities, and feeding programs for school aged children.

At its core, BAF is an organization created with gifts from generous people committed to local causes. I hope you enjoy reading and learning more about BAF's educational initiatives providing support throughout Raleigh County.



DENA CUSHMAN

Grantmaking & Impact Numbers



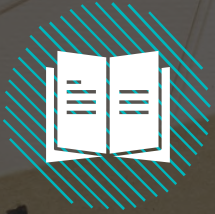
Scholarships.....\$432,283



Education Funds.....\$114,609



Students First.....\$28,278



Kaplan Family Fund
Educator Training \$6,620



Susan Landis Youth
Philanthropists \$6,000



Wyoming County
Writing Contest \$1,900

FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR

FURTHERING EDUCATION OF YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

Here at BAF, we are very honored to provide oversight for scholarship funds established by individuals and organizations wishing to assist students in furthering their education. The scholarships awarded over the past 37 years have made a substantial impact to students in Raleigh County and beyond.

As Scholarship Coordinator my goal is to award scholarships to deserving students based on eligibility requirements of each individual fund. Additionally, it is vital to honor the donor's overall intent which is to provide an opportunity for students to attend an institution of higher learning without the financial burden. Because of the generosity of our donors, the scholarship program at BAF will make a lasting impact on the future of students in our communities for years to come.



MELANIE STEWART

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SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

2021-2022



\$432,283

Scholarship
Dollars
Awarded



294

Students
Received a
Scholarship



188

Funds
Contributed



32

Colleges
Attended



91%

Scholarships
Stayed in WV

Top 5 **Colleges**
Attended:

1. WVU Tech
2. WVU
3. Concord
4. UC Beckley
5. Marshall

SCHOLARSHIPS

LYNN SCOTT

Parents Lynn and J.T. Scott, as well as dozens of friends, pooled their resources to create a permanent memorial to John who died in a tragic accident Sept. 9, 2006. Each year, a scholarship will be awarded in John's memory to a student from Independence High School. The recipient must demonstrate both merit and financial need. A car show raised additional funds for the scholarship.



"When our lives were changed forever with the loss of John, we decided to turn our tragedy into triumph by changing a deserving students life forever, and John's legacy will forever live on."

Lynn Scott | Established the John T. Scott II Memorial Scholarship



14

Students



7

Colleges



\$10,426.88 Total

Awarded

SCHOLARSHIPS

NICK COOK

Nick Cook was born at Raleigh General Hospital, and the only time he has not lived in Raleigh County was when he briefly lived in TN as a child. Nick attended Woodrow Wilson High School and was awarded the Class of 1949 Scholarship to attend college at WVU Tech. Nick currently owns Green Stripes Contracting. Nick's initial plan was to retire the business after finishing college; but he kept asking himself "what if?"

Although HSTA paid for most of Nick's tuition, he did not qualify for the Promise Scholarship. He had dug himself into a hole his freshman year of high school, and it seemed like no matter how many A's & B's he received during the next three years, his cumulative GPA would not rise above 2.98. Thankfully, BAF does not award scholarships strictly on cumulative GPA, and because of this, more kids still have an opportunity to receive a scholarship. Nick spoke to others at college, and many of them didn't have local scholarships outside of Raleigh County. It was unheard of.



"Giving back to Raleigh County and BAF is important to me because I am a product of my environment. Although I have always tried to work hard, and make good decisions; I know I wouldn't be where I am without the people and organizations that have supported me along the way. To the donors of my scholarship, I want to say thank you. Without my education, I would not be a business owner. Kids, please take your education seriously, even things you think you will never use.

Nick Cook | Recipient of the WWHS Class of 1949 Scholarship

Thank You

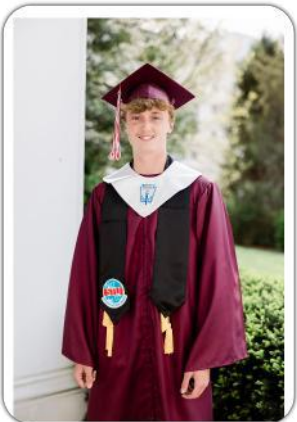
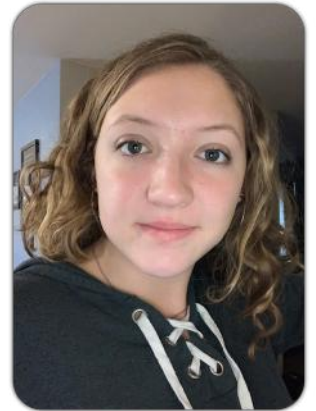


"Thank you for choosing me as the recipient of this scholarship. This will help me further my education and reach my dream of becoming an engineer. For that, all I can say is thank you!"

J.R. Maynor | Recipient of the William M. Harnsbarger Scholarship

"I am honored to be the recipient of this scholarship. I will be attending West Virginia State University in the fall. I plan on majoring in sports studies while playing soccer for the women's soccer team. After receiving my bachelors degree, I plan on attending Marshall or WVU to get my doctorate in physical therapy. I am truly grateful for this scholarship. This will allow me to work less and focus on academics. Thank you so much."

Colby Agnor | Recipient of the Sam & Maud Turner & Carole Anne Turner Memorial Scholarship



"I am extremely honored to receive this scholarship from BAF. I look forward to attending Virginia Tech in the fall and majoring in engineering. These funds will be a great asset for my college endeavors, and I'm thankful for your consideration."

Isaac Roop | Recipient of the Sam & Maud Turner & Carole Anne Turner Memorial Scholarship

Thank You



"Thank you for this incredible blessing. I plan to use the scholarship to attend my dream college, Liberty University. With an Aeronautics degree, I hope to inspire others to shoot for their dreams. Thank you once again for helping my dream come true."

Savanna Hughes | Recipient of the Billy Eugene Richmond Memorial Scholarship

"I am sincerely grateful and honored to be chosen for this scholarship. Thank you for your extreme generosity in which now I will further my education at Concord University in the fall. This award will allow me to achieve my dream of becoming a teacher and I am so thankful for that. I hope your lives are full of love."



Mia Bennett | Recipient of the Sam & Maud Turner & Carole Anne Turner Memorial Scholarship



"I really appreciate your scholarship. Thanks to your support, my dreams of achieving a higher education are finally coming true. I will be attending WVU Tech this fall to pursue an electrical engineering degree which will open a new realm of possibilities."

Forrest Stover | Recipient of the Sam & Maud Turner & Carole Anne Turner Memorial Scholarship

STUDENTS FIRST GRANT PROGRAM

Starting in 1996, BAF designed the Students First Program to provide funding for creative and innovative instructional projects in Raleigh County. Since inception, over \$345,000 has been distributed to K-12th grade classrooms. Last year, BAF supported 69 projects up to \$500 each.

Thank you to the Carter Family Foundation for their continued partnership and thank you to the volunteers who serve on the Students First Committee.



"Both semesters, students were able to grow and eat their own vegetables. Some of the students had never grown these vegetables or tasted them before. We had a salad day so they could taste all of their hard work. Additionally, many students have chosen to take seedlings home to begin their own summer vegetable garden with their families."

Dr. Jill Wood | Science Teacher, Independence High School



3,732
Students
Impacted



22
Schools
Impacted



\$28,278.00 Total
Awarded

KAPLAN FAMILY FUND EDUCATOR TRAINING

Dr. Seth and LaRinda Kaplan established the "Kaplan Family Fund for Learning Disabilities in Southern WV" to support educators pursuing training in reading programs with a focus on dyslexia methodologies. This summer, BAF held its first Kaplan Family Fund Educator Training!

The two-day training was held at the Historic Black Knight, and supported 28 educators who received the Orton-Gillingham Multisensory Phonics Training from Marshall University's H.E.L.P. Center Coordinator, Laura Rowden, MA.



"After our daughter was diagnosed with dyslexia, we searched for a school that could offer the help she needed to succeed. By establishing an educational fund to train teachers in identifying & educating children with dyslexia, our hope is that no one has to leave their hometowns or separate their family because of learning differences."

Dr. Seth & LaRinda Kaplan



SUSAN LANDIS

YOUTH PHILANTHROPISTS

The SLYP Program provides curriculum-based, hands-on experiences in volunteering, fundraising & grantmaking, the three pillars of philanthropy. Comprised of Raleigh County students, SLYP awarded \$6,000 in May 2022, to 7 local organizations with projects that help youth experiencing poverty. SLYP generated this money from a 5K fundraiser, which occurred in Spring 2022.



"SLYP will help me down the road after acquiring nonprofit business management skills. I have learned how to handle monetary donations, as well as professionally contact & communicate with nonprofit business owners and sponsors. I will use my knowledge from SLYP functions and meetings to do further volunteer work in the future and help my community in any way that I can. Being involved with BAF is something I can see myself continue doing down the road."

Taylor Poe | Senior Cohort Member, SLYP



WYOMING COUNTY LITERATURE FUND WRITING CONTEST

Every spring, Wyoming County residents are encouraged to show off their writing skills in response to various prompts about our culture, community, and world affairs.

The Literature Fund provides students and adults from Wyoming County the opportunity to submit their best original works. The writing contest is coordinated through the Wyoming County Planning Commission, the Wyoming County EDA, the Wyoming County Board of Education, and local judges.

In July 2022, the Wyoming County EDA celebrated the winners of the Wyoming County Literature Fund Writing Contest. The awards are made possible by Lonnie Bailey, of Pineville, who created the Literature Fund for Wyoming County through Beckley Area Foundation.

The Wyoming County EDA announced 7 winners for the 2022 Writing Contest. One adult, two high school students, one middle school student and three elementary students; totaling \$1,900!

"Great, Sunny Wyoming County Days
On the porch, Sun glaring down,
Steak on the grill, people having a thrill.

Old trucks roll by, worn by time.
Coal trains thundering through, chipped paint all over.
Mountains everywhere, trails wide open.

Kids playing in the mud, not a care in the world.
Parents on the porch, looking at the scorching sun.
Steak is cooked, peoples' days are booked."

Austin Criss | 8th Grade Student

Lonnie Bailey is the author of 19 books, 18 of them being composed of poetry. His poetry has been published in 93 anthologies and his songs have been included on five CDs; he also had a play performed by the Mullens Community Theater. On more than 170 occasions he has had material published in various newspapers and magazines. Lonnie Bailey's work, both prose and poetry, has received dozens of national and international honors.

RALEIGH COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

It is our honor to help sponsor this event each year with Raleigh County Schools, to publicly recognize the talented educators in our area.

While many qualifications are considered in selecting nominees for teacher of the year, the most important is a superior ability to inspire the love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 Raleigh County Schools Teacher of the Year Finalists: Tiffany Lynch (Stanaford Elementary), Jennifer Workman-Doss (Clear Fork Elementary), Cameron Shannon (Crescent Elementary), Brad Bostic (Shady Spring High School), Debbie Barr (Independence High School), and Stephanie Wright (Fairdale Elementary).



Pictured:
Cameron Shannon

Out of almost 800 teachers in the entire county, Cameron Shannon, Physical Education Teacher for Crescent Elementary (PreK-5th grade) was chosen as 2022, Teacher of the Year!

"It is truly a blessing," Shannon said of the opportunity to work with children. "I never knew that a gym teacher could have an impact on children in ways that don't even relate to gym or physical activity. It blows my mind how the Lord can use someone in any position to have an influence."

Cameron was the recipient of the John T. Scott II Memorial Scholarship in 2012. Congratulations to Cameron and the many hard-working teachers in our community!

Photography by
Jenny Harnish
Register-Herald

RALEIGH COUNTY SERVICE PERSONNEL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

It is our honor to recognize these outstanding individuals for their contributions to their schools and communities. They have demonstrated exceptional dedication in their jobs, thereby earning them the respect and admiration of their community. Each year, the finalists are presented awards from BAF as an expression of gratitude. These awards are made possible by the Ford Family Fund.

- Winner:
- Russell Shrewsberry, Maintenance Department, Custodial Maintenance

Finalists:

- Christopher Berry, Daniels Elementary, Aide
- Paul Landy, Transportation Department, Bus Operator
- Erma Taylor, Ridgeview Elementary School, Child Nutrition
- Russell Shrewsberry, Maintenance Department, Custodial Maintenance
- Garnet Mooney, Transportation Department, Office-Clerical

RALEIGH COUNTY SENIOR SCHOLARS

Each year, seniors from Raleigh County schools are recognized at a Senior Scholars Luncheon for graduating top of their class. BAF helps celebrate these achievements by supporting the luncheon each year with funds to hold the event. This is made possible by the Karen Berg Gallagher Fund.

Congratulations to the seniors who have shown exceptional skill and determination throughout their high school education and we wish them luck as they pursue their higher education and careers.



Beckley Area
FOUNDATION

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