

Spring 2006 Newsletter



THE GREATER RAVALLI FOUNDATION
CHANGING LIVES EVERYDAY

We are so pleased at the unbelievable number of applications received this year! The interest in the Greater Ravalli Foundation scholarship program is growing rapidly. We are seeing an increasing number of applicants each year and estimate a 50 percent growth over last year alone. These scholarships, in the amount of \$4,000 each, for up to four years, are to assist each student pursuing his or her educational goals. The 2006 Scholarship Committee consisted of Barb Soloman, Becky Cote, Pat Moreland, Melinda Depp, Joanie Lodmell and Nancy Schueler. They had their work cut out for them. They carefully analyzed and reviewed each application, student essay and family financial data. The goal again this year was to select students who demonstrate the will and commitment to higher education but may not have the financial backing or additional means (to receive other scholarships.)

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 2006 Greater Ravalli County Foundation Scholarship Recipients! On Wednesday, May 10, 2006 the students, along with their parents and guests, enjoyed a celebratory scholarship banquet held at The Stock Farm Club.

Matt Guzik, General Manager of The Stock Farm Club and Executive Director of The Greater Ravalli Foundation welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending. Guzik continued the program by introducing and thanking the Executive Board, Co-Chairpersons Jim Cote and Jim Schueler, Barb Solomon and Wes Spiker. Board members not present; Secretary/Treasurer John Talia, Eff Martin, James McNerney, Craig Angelo, Charles Schwab, Roland Casati, Bill Vancanagan and Don Valentine. Special thank yous were extended to the 2006 Scholarship Committee consisting of Pat Moreland, Becky Cote, Melinda Depp, Barb Solomon, Nancy Schueler and Joanie Lodmell for their time and efforts in the selection process. Guzik then called on each student to introduce themselves and discuss their future plans for school. Co-Chairpersons Jim Cote and Jim Schueler addressed the students, congratulating them and wishing them well in their future endeavors. Later in the evening, the Scholarship Recipients were presented with their award certificates. The evening was a memorable event filled with camaraderie and joy.

Introducing the 2006 Greater Ravalli Scholarship Award Recipients

Taryn Chuter: Taryn has always known she would go to college. It was never an option of "if" she would go, just "where" she would go. Getting a college education is the most important goal in her life right now. Taryn is a very determined young woman and sees college as a life changing process: the most exciting challenge she will ever face in her life thus far. One of Taryn's teachers describes her as bright, curious and highly motivated. Both her peers and teachers respect and admire her. One of her finest traits is her intellectual curiosity. She is constantly engaged in gathering new knowledge. Taryn also gives great dedication not only to her schoolwork and activities, but also to the people around her.



Karalyn DeWalt: Karalyn believes that continuing her education is an opportunity that will help her to better herself as a person and present the chance to contribute back to her community. Karalyn is an active athlete and dedicated runner. She plans to continue her running career well into college and her life thereafter. Karalyn has been active in Youth Legislature and Model United Nations. Her teachers describe her as responsible, with great drive and determination. In the classroom she strives to excel and athletically, Karalyn has become an impressive distance runner since her freshman year. In every project she is involved with, Karalyn works very hard and gives her all.



Marcus Higgins: Marcus' dream is to follow his career path in automotive off-road design and fabrication. He plans to major in Mechanical Engineering at Montana State University in Bozeman. Marcus has been very active in Varsity Wrestling, Varsity Track and Field, Varsity Tennis and Student Council. Marcus' teachers describe him as energetic, willing, honest and cheerful. He is a good person with great potential for a successful future. Marcus brings out the best in people and is sought as a friend by many, and he is a loyal one. Marcus has also been described as devoted, reliable, and trustworthy with an exceptionally good attitude!



Kristen Morasko: Kristen is focused furthering her education. Her motivation is her first grade class that she teaches for an after-school program. The joy of learning has always been something that has put a smile on her face. Kristen believes the look of understanding on a child's face is something that will never get old, knowing that her dedication and hard work will make a difference in a child's life gives her the drive to continue her education and look forward to fulfilling dreams in her very own classroom one day. One of Kristin's supervisors conveys, "Aside from her outstanding abilities, intelligence, creativity and thoughtfulness, though, what truly makes Miss Morasko stand out is her steadfastly positive attitude, her ever present smile, and the warm influence that she has on both the students she works with and the after-school staff."



Kayleen Pings: Kayleen is an entrepreneur and a Montana native. Scholastics are very important to her. She is on track to graduate as the Valedictorian of her senior class as well as holding a position on both the Daly Mansion Jr. Board and the Farmers State Bank Jr. Board, managing the Victor Football Team for four years and attending Girls State. Kayleen plans to study architectural and interior design and eventually open her own business to become an independent contractor, using some of the leadership skills she has acquired over the years. Kayleen's work ethic is described by one of her teachers as dependable and honest which makes her an excellent candidate for any scholarship.



Lauren Tom: At a very young age Lauren realized she wanted to reach out to people through medicine and politics, which she is pursuing through her college education. She would like to use her life experiences to make a difference in the world by saving lives and impacting government policy. Lauren is described by a former teacher as a "learner and a thinker." He continues, "She is goal oriented and takes an active roll in her education. She is the only student I have ever met who has ever told me that her goal in life is simply to never stop learning." Lauren has also been described as a "one in a million student" by a former teacher who has known her since elementary school.



Susan Torre: Susan believes education is the key to success and with this thought she is motivated to continue her education. Susan has lived in the Bitterroot Valley all her life, taking full advantage of the recreational opportunities around her, mainly hiking, backpacking, cross country skiing, and rock climbing. With her academic goals she hopes to build the foundation for an independent life. After college Susan wishes to dedicate herself to her career as a technical illustrator. Susan has been described by one of her teachers as a model student: bright, thoughtful, diligent, an inquisitive person who loves challenges and learning. People who know Susan are always impressed by her integrity.



Carl Warych: Carl has a passion for cooking. Carl hopes to start his career in Seattle or San Francisco, make a name for himself and move back to the Bitterroot Valley to open up his own restaurant. Carl traveled to Seattle for the Best Teen Chef competition held by the Art Institutes of America. He took first place, earning a \$2,000 plane ticket to Fort Lauderdale for the national competition, where, if he wins, he could receive a full tuition scholarship to the Art Institute of his choice. Carl has been described as very attentive and eager to learn. He shows an outstanding ability to retain knowledge and techniques. He is a natural!



Kimberly Whiting: Kimberly is an admirable young woman with plans to receive her Masters degree in Social Work and then become a child advocate. Her heart belongs to helping children who have had to endure difficulties in their lives. Kimberly is an active student who works very hard at maintaining an outstanding GPA. She is described as having remarkable fortitude, resolve and motivation which are truly an example of her amazing human spirit. Kimberly has brought joy to the people she touches and will be greatly missed when she goes off to college.



Cody Woolley: Cody believes that every person has a chosen destiny and that there are certain circumstances in life that ultimately make or break one's intentions of fulfilling one's destiny. Cody will be the first in her family to graduate high school. Cody knows having a fulfilled life takes great determination and hard work. She also knows that a person with determination and the right influence can achieve great things. Her family is very important to her and has influenced her to take charge and be self-sufficient. One of Cody's teachers reports, "Students like Cody Woolley are the reason that many of us older teachers continue to look forward to coming to class. Her ebullience and drive inspire us to remember why we teach."



Meeting The Mission

The goal of TGRF is to financially support the growth and development of Ravalli County school children K-12, by addressing four specific needs which comprise the basic essentials of daily life in the Bitterroot: educational facilities, supplies and grass roots programs, scholarships for all levels of academic ability, sustenance, such as winter clothing, hot meals and other food programs, and various capital line items as they arise, such as cafeteria equipment and extracurricular program needs. Information and donation forms may be accessed on line at www.tgrf.org.

The Foundation's priorities are:

- Education: science labs, computers, books
- Scholarships for all levels of ability
- Sustenance in the form of lunches, clothing, jackets and boots
- Capital improvements

Some of the Organizations TGRF Continued to support in 2005 & 2006

Kiwanis Food Basket Program
Santa Smut-North Valley Santa
Santa Jerke-South Valley Santa
School District Meal Voucher Program
School District Teacher Reimbursement Program for out-of-pocket expenses
Bitterroot Youth Homes
United Way Ravalli Cares
B.E.A.R Scholarship Program
LVA Bitterroot Literacy Program



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