

GFFN Scholarships Fund Update – October

On Friday, September 13, GFFN began another year at their annual “kick-off” luncheon held at Riverbend Country Club. It was a wonderful showcase for the GFFN Scholarship Fund and its recent recipients. Mary Lou Christy, the new Scholarship President, expressed gratitude toward Missy and Erin, and their respective boards, for fostering a terrific spirit of cooperation and support of our scholarship efforts.

Mary Lou welcomed the 2019-2020 Scholarship Fund board:

Christie Lavin, Candace Bovee, Lissa Carter, Adrienne West, and Kathryn Tucker Rutkowski.

Approximately 60 ladies attended the luncheon as well as reporters from The Great Falls Connection and The Sun Gazette. Please read their articles on the event! A 50/50 raffle was held by the Philanthropy group resulting in sales of \$696 of which they graciously donated 50% to the GFFN Scholarship Fund. A great way to start out our year!

This year, the Fund awarded 12 scholarships (up from 7 in previous years) totaling \$17,500. “We could not have increased the number of scholarships without the commitment and support of GFFN,” Mary Lou reiterated. GFFN membership strongly supported our Spring Tea fundraiser, held in April 2019, from which we raised over \$9,000 for scholarships.

Mary Lou acknowledged Doris Irwin, one of the founding members of GFFN, whose estate bequeathed \$20,000 to the scholarship fund. Nothing has changed from the days when Doris and the other founding members started our fund and developed our mission – *Women Helping Women Succeed*. In 1983, the goal was to support women in their academic journeys because their stories inspired us. We wanted to make a real, tangible difference in the lives of other women. These goals are still alive today. This year, we continue our fundraising efforts as a 501(c)3 organization providing scholarships to more women.

Of the 12 scholarship recipients this year, four students attend George Mason University and 8 students attend Northern Virginia Community College. Administrators from both colleges and one scholarship recipient were able to attend the September luncheon. One of the most exciting things about the scholarship recipients this year is the diversity of the careers they are pursuing. They are working toward degrees in Nursing, Education, Accounting, Interior Design, Business Administration, Information Technology, Biochemistry, Computer Science, and Liberal Arts. Despite these varied pursuits, our recipients have much in common – perseverance, impressive goals, tenacious pursuit of their dreams, ambition, and hard work. They inspire us every day.

Each of our award recipients demonstrated a financial need and has maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Many of them are working full or part time while attending school and caring for their families. All the recipients demonstrate the power of determination, perseverance, and tenacity.

To learn more about our current and past recipients, visit our website: <https://www.gffnsf.org/>. Additionally, look to this newsletter as we will highlight one of our 12 recipients monthly!

We look forward to your continued support so more women can pursue and fulfill their dreams. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients!!!