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Trust Funds for Higher Education

Keene, NH ... Would you be interested in helping a neighbor go to college or technical school? Many generous citizens of Keene have created scholarship funds that help Keene High School graduates seek further education. Since 2004, the income from these trust funds has provided assistance to over 250 graduates in need of financial aid. Now totaling over \$2.8 million, these funds are administered by the Keene School District's Trustees of Trust Funds. It is the only school trust fund of its nature in New Hampshire. The Trustees hope to encourage new donations, both large and small. The current Trustees are Robert M. Mucha (CPA) Chair, John C. Norton (attorney) and Richard K. Fox (retired educator).

The Trustees manage the funds, but do not select the graduates who are to receive financial aid. The recipients of the scholarships are chosen each year by a committee selected by the school's administration.

In past years, most of the funds came from bequests made by generous citizens or businesses. Many people are familiar with the Fuller-Bartlett Fund, which accounts for about 80% of the total endowment funds. This year 36 students received substantial scholarships made possible by this Fuller-Bartlett Fund.

There are 37 other separate funds that also help graduates to seek higher education. These funds have been created by interested individuals, families, businesses or community groups, and others to perpetuate the memory of a deceased family member or friend, to honor a special event like a birthday or class reunion, or to honor an educational achievement. Many donors continue to make additional contributions to an existing fund, from year to year, to increase the fund's ability to help one or more students.

Since the income earned from the present funds does not cover the financial need
(More)

of Keene's graduates and with the ever-increasing cost of higher education, the Trustees are embarking on efforts to encourage individuals, families, businesses and community groups to add their own generous gifts to those already made. Recently, the Trustees created a separate fund, comprised of numerous smaller gifts previously made in memory of loved ones, or to celebrate special occasions. This new fund is called the Keene Memorial Scholarship Fund ("KMSF") and already consists of over \$40,000. Each gift will be permanently remembered and noted each year in the Annual Report of the Trustees. Over time, the combination of these many smaller, but meaningful gifts, will create a significant fund that will generate the income needed to assist KHS graduates who might otherwise be unable to pursue higher education.

The Trustees welcome gifts or bequests of any size that will provide financial assistance to the graduates of Keene High School.

Your gift to the Trustees for purposes of a scholarship is tax deductible. Persons interested in making a gift to the Memorial Fund, or in creating a named fund, are invited to contact the Business Administrator, John R. Harper, at 603-357-9002 (ext. 202), John D. Wrigley, attorney and legal counsel to the School Board, or their own attorney.

All inquiries will be treated in strict confidence and there is no expectation or obligation. For more information or to see a list of the current scholarship funds, please visit www.sau29.org/trusteesoftrustfunds291.html