THE MISSION—
Provide Educational Scholarships

THE COMMITMENT—
Help Vermont Students

THE GOAL—
Secure Brighter Futures

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT
for the Curtis Fund!
See how on page 4!

Providing Scholarships to Vermont Students Today, For Success Tomorrow.

WINTER 2014

The Curtis Story

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

The real story of The Curtis Fund is best told through its recipients. In this issue of the newsletter we want to share four stories.

Molly GREAVES
Duquesne University —
Graduated 2004
BS in Leadership Management

“I knew that getting educated was the best and only way to attain the freedom and flexibility in life that I wanted.”

As a first-generation, college-bound student, understanding how to pay for college was not fathomable for my parents. The Curtis Fund, combined with other scholarships, grants and loans got me where I needed to be so I could attend my school of choice. It is important to note though, that The Curtis Fund in particular, was very instrumental in my ability to go to college, because without it, I would not have had enough financial aid. And without college, I would not have been able to pursue my dreams like I am today.

I have chosen to donate to The Curtis Fund. It’s important to me to give back to The Curtis Fund because, without the fund,

I may not have even gone to college. I have no idea where I would have come up with the extra money otherwise. Thankfully, I was able to go to college and now have a great career that affords me the opportunity to give back to those who have helped me along the way.”

Kelly STETTNER
Union Institute & University through Vermont College –
Graduated 2009
BA Liberal Studies and Environmental Science

“There’s a line in a country song, ‘I’m the girl who changed her mind and changed her world.’ That’s precisely what The Curtis Fund has meant to me.”

“My husband and I are a one-income family with two kids. I’m celebrating my 19th year working for a local telecommunications engineering firm and also looking forward to my 14th year directing the Black River Action Team (BRAT), the grassroots, not-for-profit group that I founded in 2000.

The Curtis Fund was an invaluable tool allowing me to return to school while still working. My husband is a stay-at-home father home-schooling our kids, so without scholarships like the Curtis Fund, I would be much deeper in debt. Receiving the Curtis Fund Grant also helped me realize that other people have faith in me, believe in my dreams and goals, and want to help me pursue them toward a better future for my river and my community. I feel ‘validated,’ if that makes any sense. Here I am, 43 years old, a mother of two, and I’m finally seeing myself as a watershed professional.

Photographed by Greg Bulosky

“SHOW YOUR SUPPORT for the Curtis Fund! See how on page 4!”

In theIR oWN WorDS

Molly GREAVES
Duquesne University —
Graduated 2004
BS in Leadership Management

“I am living in Austin, TX working for VMware, Inc., a software company Forbes magazine just ranked number three, beating companies like Google and Amazon, in its 2013 list of the world’s most innovative companies. It’s really cool to think that I graduated with 32 kids in Danville and I am now working for a huge tech company.

My parents didn’t go to college. I went to college for more opportunity. I loved living in Danville—it’s a beautiful town with a great community, but I knew that if I wanted to achieve anything beyond the $7-an-hour high school job, college was a must.

As a first-generation, college-bound student, understanding how to pay for college was not fathomable for my parents. The Curtis Fund, combined with other scholarships, grants and loans got me where I needed to be so I could attend my school of choice. It is important to note though, that The Curtis Fund in particular, was very instrumental in my ability to go to college, because without it, I would not have had enough financial aid. And without college, I would not have been able to pursue my dreams like I am today.

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The self-esteem and personal achievement I got from finishing my degree have been deeply satisfying. The work I put in to earn that piece of paper is worth so much more than the final diploma. I’m able to relate to our home-schooled daughter, using my own raw and honest journey of academic discovery to inspire her even a little bit as she begins her high school journey, on her way to college-level courses.”

William “Liam” DANAHER
Saint Michael’s College —
Graduated 2009
Double Major in Political Science and American Studies; Minor in Peace and Justice; Cum Laude

“I’m happily employed by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) and moving into my fifth year there as a Career Planning Counselor. I work in a statewide outreach and marketing capacity offering workshops, trainings and lessons on post-secondary achievement, financial aid literacy and college planning, and more.

My education guides my thoughts, my actions, shapes my world view and led me to my vocation – working to make education more accessible. Higher education is incredibly expensive. I know that too well in a personal and professional capacity. To thousands of students around Vermont, and our nation, $1000.00 could be the difference between a lifetime guided by scholarly achievement and a lifetime spent without one. There is poverty in our society and the best way to eradicate it is to give people the access to education. Without the Curtis Fund, and other organizations, I would not have been able to afford college. Without a doubt, I am a product of my education.

I’m just getting started pursuing my dreams and my education is the fuel that allows me to move forward. Without it I’d be lost and with it I will continue to better myself. I am grateful to live and work in a state where so many people believe in the power of education and the value of charity.”

Amanda CHURCHILL
University of Vermont —
Graduated 2003 BA Major in French and Minor in Business Administration, 2009 MSW in Social Work

“I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and the Statewide Director of the Youth Development Program (YDP), which provides transition and aftercare services to Vermont foster youth. I have been working with transition-age youth for twelve years now.

I was a first-generation college student from the small town of Cabot, Vermont. Having a college education was critical for making the transition to independent living and financial stability. I had always hoped and planned to go to college but didn’t know if it would be a possibility for me given the high cost of a college education. I knew that my family would not have all of the resources to pay for the high cost of tuition and other expenses. My family was eligible for financial aid, but it wasn’t nearly enough to cover all of the costs.

Without the Curtis Scholarship each year, I would have incurred major debt to graduate from UVM. I suspect that if I didn’t receive the scholarship, I may not have been able to cover costs, and I probably would have left college before finishing.

When I was in college, I wasn’t entirely clear on what I wanted to pursue for a career, but I knew that I wanted to do something important and engaging. Through employment and course work, I learned that I wanted to work in social work, a field and profession that I wasn’t aware of growing up in rural Vermont.

Being a recipient of the scholarship allowed me to attend a competitive college, to access health insurance, transportation, independent housing, and employment. I had the opportunity to develop long-lasting friendships and networks of support. Lastly, it was a completely life-changing experience.”
A FEW THOUGHTS GIVING BACK

In 1918 the Boston Red Sox celebrated their first World Series victory in Fenway Park. That same year The Curtis Fund was not even ten years old and had not even given out the first fifty scholarships to worthy Vermont young men and women.

My grandfather, also named Joe Boutin, was a Red Sox fan back then. Becoming a scout for the organization later in his life, my grandfather would comb the northern New England countryside looking for young talented baseball players. He scouted city leagues, small colleges and universities, pick-up games—he went wherever baseball was played. Scouting was not my grandfather’s full-time job. Just like the players, he worked two, even three, jobs at a time, because like the players, he loved baseball.

At one time, The Curtis Fund’s scout was much like my grandfather. It was one person, David Webster, for many years. He would leaf through thousands of applications and choose those individuals he thought were the most “worthy and in need,” the two primary tenets Emma Eliza Curtis designated in her will. He did this work in his spare time and he loved doing it because he loved helping young men and women take that next step in their lives.

In 1995, our trustees entered into an agreement with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) to use their “scouts”—over 35 dedicated guidance counselors working throughout the school systems in Vermont. Using the criteria for our scholarship as their guide, these outreach counselors nominate students they have been working with since junior high school.

We have over four hundred scholars currently pursuing a degree—the majority are first-generation, college-bound students. We do this with no staff, relying on professionals outside our organization to help us fulfill our mission allowing us to allocate more of our funds to scholarships.

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Joseph Boutin,
Chair Curtis Fund Board of Trustees

Donations to The Curtis Fund make a difference for a lifetime

With your donation to The Curtis Fund, you can make a positive impact on the lives of Vermont students, just as Emma Eliza Curtis did. Every gift—large or small—is tax deductible and helps Vermonters achieve their dreams for education and a better life.

All contributions to The Curtis Fund are tax deductible to the limit of the law.

Donate by going online to www.thecurtisfund.org/support/donate-now, or by sending your check to:

The Curtis Fund
Merchants Trust Company
P.O. Box 8490
Burlington, VT 05402-8490

Are you a current or former recipient of a Curtis Fund Grant? SHARE YOUR STORY!
Go to www.thecurtisfund.org/support/share-your-story
As you read the stories of our former grantees in this newsletter, you learned how The Curtis Fund changed their lives. The Curtis Fund needs your help to continue its mission. Whether you are a former grantee, a family member of a recipient, or a friend of the Fund, you can make a difference.

Please consider making a donation to the Emma Curtis Fund today in whatever amount feels right to you. You will be helping a student when help is needed most. Thank you so much!

Your Gift Will Make a Difference!