As The Curtis Fund begins another century of awarding scholarships to Vermont students, the Board of Trustees wanted to find out if and how the scholarships over the last century impacted the lives of the recipients. The mission, commitment, and goals of the Fund have been to provide educational opportunities through scholarships for students who might otherwise not have the means to pursue a post-secondary education. The question of whether these investments made a real difference in the lives of grantees, not only during, but also after school, had been assumed but had not been measured.

In order to get answers, Joseph Boutin, The Curtis Fund Board President, called upon the Social Science Research Center at Saint Michael’s College to conduct a study of recent recipients. Drs. Vincent Bolduc and Herbert Kessel found the project irresistible and this past spring embarked on the study.

The Results?

88% graduated with either a 2-year, 4-year, or advanced degree even though the national graduation rate is only 40 – 65%

95% felt they had a better overall quality of life

“Studies show that over the past decade, between 1.4 million and 2.4 million students have been prevented from going to college for financial reasons—about 50 percent more than during the 1990s. And, of course, in the present climate of universal fiscal crises, it is also about to get a lot worse”

— WILLIAM DERESIEWICZ, THE NATION, MAY, 2011

This is what we heard, a hundred times over, when we conducted our survey last spring to learn how the Curtis Fund might have helped students attending college. We were overwhelmed!

We learned that a grant helps so many ways...not only does it help pay the bills, but it also tells a student all the struggle and effort are worthwhile. It says we have great expectations for our grant recipients, and it says “have courage...you will succeed!”

When we called, so many of our grant recipients said they were thrilled to finally have a way to say thank you.

We want to offer you another way to say “thank you.” Would you consider making a donation to the Emma Curtis Fund today, so another aspiring student can succeed? Just like your grant, it’s not just the money—it is the trust, encouragement, and high expectations that will make your gift so special. Please consider making a gift today, in whatever amount feels right to you. You will be helping a student when help is needed most. Thank you so much!
We Need Volunteers!

THE WAY TO HELP

Critical to the fundraising effort is raising awareness of the Fund. We’ve developed this newsletter to broaden our outreach and we need past grantees to help us with future editions. If you are interested in saying thanks by helping out, please contact The Curtis Fund by going online to www.thecurtisfund.org/support/volunteer or call 802-865-1827.

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/done-now, or by sending your check to:

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

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WE WANTED TO KNOW! continued from page 1

- 88% felt that college changed them in significant ways
- 90% felt that their philosophy of life was different because they attended college
- 75% said they would not have attended college without the financial assistance they received
- 75% said they worked harder in school because of the scholarship
- 72% felt that their standard of living was higher than their parents

The Board of Trustees of The Curtis Fund couldn’t be more excited with the positive results of the study and feel encouraged that the mission and goals are indeed being achieved.

It’s clear that Mrs. Emma Curtis’ bequest has had and will continue to have an important impact on the future of Vermont students. But, it’s also clear that with the current economic climate and rising tuition costs, financial assistance will be critical. Continuing to help Vermont students is the challenge for the next 100 hundred years.

Help us save on postage and sign up for our e-newsletter at www.thecurtisfund.org/e-newsletter

The Curtis Fund NOW HAS A WEBSITE!

The new website for the renamed Fund was launched at the beginning of December 2010. The website has been designed to provide an interactive place for current and former grant recipients to share their stories, for donors to make contributions, and for you to get updates and news about the Fund. Learn more about the history of the fund, about some of the success stories, and how you too can make a difference by going to www.thecurtisfund.org.

September 2, 2011

I was moved to tears when I got the newsletter from the Curtis Fund. I finished my undergraduate degree over 10 years ago with significant help from what was then called the Emma Curtis General Education Fund. Back in my first semester of college I was very confused about why I was getting this “free” money when I first got the letter and called the fund. It was explained to me that I had been identified as a worthy student who would need this money to be successful in college. The person I spoke with also said that the expectation was that, should I eventually have the means to give back to the fund, they hoped I would.

My success in life has been all due to the opportunity for an excellent education. I have both an undergraduate and graduate degree from the University of Vermont. I have a successful and growing career and am financially self-sufficient. These are huge successes due to the help I received from this fund. I am so happy to be able to give back and share my story.

Thank you so much!

Kristy Brown

Thanks to Our Scholarship Recipients for SHARING THEIR STORIES

A WEBSITE!

NOW HAS

CHECK OUT THE SUCCESS STORIES

March 30, 2011

I wanted to let you know personally how grateful I am to the General Education Fund for the Emma Curtis Memorial scholarship, which I received during my attendance at Norwich University, from 2000 to 2004. It came at such a crucial time in my life and it enabled me to get a Master’s Degree in Architecture, something that I value beyond words. Your encouragement and support played such a major role in my life and gave me the confidence to go to college and to pursue my dreams of becoming an architect. I have been here, in Los Angeles for the past two years, and although the economy has been very challenging due to the current halt in construction, I am managing to remain useful to the community and to continue to hone my skills. I am in charge of the redesign of a non-profit center in South Central Los Angeles, named “A Place Called Home.” It services children from troubled neighborhoods who suffer from gang violence, increasing peer pressure to join gangs, and to turn to a life of crime. Here, they are able to get the resources that they need to study for the SATs, participate in performing arts, and to see a better future.

I wanted you to know what a significant difference your contribution has made to my life. I feel a strong desire to use my architectural training to give back to the world, especially at such a needy time as the present.

Again, thank you for your investment in me, and God Bless you.

Sincerely,

John Zeichner

Are you a current or former recipient of a Curtis Fund Grant?

SHARE YOUR STORY!

Go to www.thecurtisfund.org/support/share-your-story

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TO DONATE

www.thecurtisfund.org/support/donate-now

TO VOLUNTEER

www.thecurtisfund.org/support/volunteer