

Press Release

***Orange County Education Foundation Awards
Scholarships to Eleven OCHS Graduates***

June 11, 2013

A good year for the Orange County Education Foundation (OCEF) translated into a great year for 11 Orange County High School graduates during their Senior Awards Night program on June 10.

The Foundation awarded 11 scholarships, totaling \$25,500, to 11 different graduates. The Foundation's two-year-old General Fund Scholarship, which grew from \$1,000 in 2012 to \$5,000 this year, was awarded to Dale Jackson.

"Substantial community support and the incredibly diligent work of our Foundation Board helped us to quintuple our general fund scholarship in the past year," said Jonathan Chasen, OCEF Board member and chair of the Foundation's Scholarship Committee. "There was an audible gasp from the graduates when I was able to announce how much the scholarship had grown. And then there was an explosion of excitement when I announced the winner. Dale Jackson was a most deserving and gracious recipient as were the many other grantees of our named scholarships."

"I was very pleased to see that the overall response revealed an element of surprise at the amount and that it was given to such an excellent young man," added



Dale Jackson, pictured with Jonathan Chasen, received the OCEF general fund scholarship. This year this scholarship was increased to \$5,000.



Left to right: Kayla Robinson, Ashanti Demas and Brianna Holmes each were presented with the Anne Saunders Boyer & Julian Flint Boyer Award by Greg Woods.

OCEF Board President Bryan Hargett.

"This award will help my parents. It will help my whole family," said Jackson, who will be attending George Mason University. "I want to go into homeland security. I'll need so many certifications. They are so expensive and add so much to the cost. This scholarship is a big help."

This year's other OCEF awards included:

- Three **Anne Saunders Boyer & Julian Flint Boyer Scholarships**, each in the amount of \$3,000, were awarded to Kayla Robinson, Brianna Holmes and Ashanti Demas by Greg Woods, Orange Town Manager and Ex-Officio OCEF board member.

"I am speechless," said Holmes. "This is amazing. I am so grateful."

"I was so surprised when I heard my name," said Robinson. "This is beyond belief. Thanks so, so much."

"I am very happy, very excited, very blessed and very grateful" added Demas. "I am at a loss for words."

- The **Harry R. Graham, Jr. Memorial Scholarship**, in the amount of \$1,000, was awarded to

Erin Paxton by Shirley and Mark Graham, the wife and son of Harry R. Graham. "When I heard my name called, I felt so excited," Paxton said. "This scholarship will help me continue my studies at Tennessee Tech. This is just wonderful."

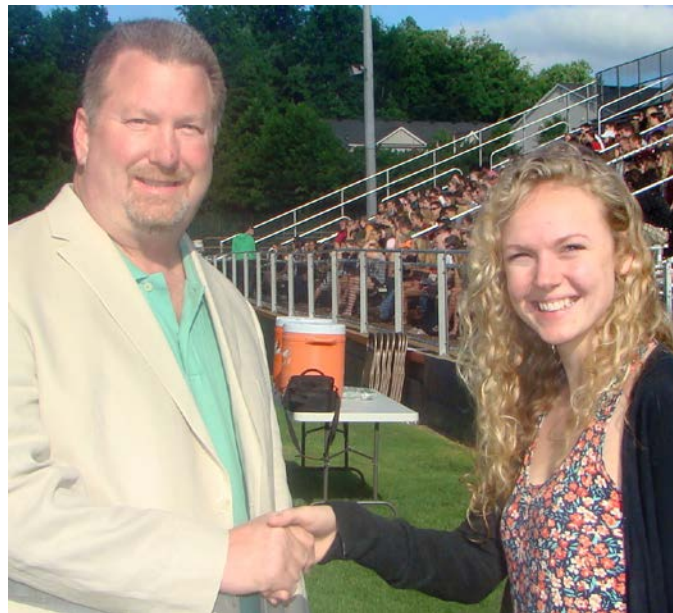
- The **CJM Kyle Scholarship**, in the amount of \$1,000, was awarded to Joshua Smith by Mary Goodwin. "This award will help me so much. I plan to continue my education by studying music at Virginia Commonwealth University," Smith said. "It means so much to be recognized for my passion for music. This makes we want to do my best."



Erin Paxton, pictured with Mark and Shirley Graham, received the Harry R. Graham, Jr., Memorial Scholarship.



Joshua Smith, pictured with Mary Goodwin, received the CJM Kyle Scholarship.



Laura Neely, pictured with Bryan Hargett, received the Jane Gwyn Robertson Zimmermann Scholarship.

• The **Jane Gwyn Robertson Zimmermann Scholarship**, in the amount of \$1,500, was awarded by OCEF Board member John Reid to Kim Harris, OCHS guidance counselor, on behalf of Laura Neely. "I am extremely thankful that I received this scholarship," Neely said later. "The money will help bring me a brighter future at James Madison University. Thank you very much."

• The **Joe Stanley Memorial Soccer Scholarship**, in the amount of \$3,000, was awarded to John Bosworth by Uva and John Stanley. "Receiving this scholarship motivates me to continue my education," said Bosworth. "It makes me want to build a life around helping others. I want to use this award to honor Joe Stanley. I am so thankful for this scholarship."

• The **Nora Pannill Brooking Scholarship**, in the amount of \$2,000, was awarded by Hargett to Mrs. Harris on behalf of Nicholina Lutterrodt. "It is a great pleasure to receive a scholarship like this," Lutterrodt said later. "This will really help me in so many ways. Thank you."

• The **Patricia Francis Scholarship**, in the amount of \$1000, was awarded to Whitney Henderson by Sheila Lewis. "This scholarship will make it so much easier for me to go to Bridgewater College," Henderson said. "I am so excited. I want to become a hematologist. This will get me started, thank you so, so much."

• **Taylor and Phyllis Grasty Medical Scholarship**, in the amount of \$2,000, was awarded to Abigail Foster by Sam Kessler, an OCEF Board member. "When I heard my name called, it took my breath away," said Foster. "I wasn't expecting anything. I was so surprised. I was just grinning from ear to ear when I went up to receive the scholarship. I am overjoyed. So are my parents. We are



John Bosworth, pictured with John and Uva Stanley, received the Joe Stanley Memorial Soccer Scholarship.



Nicholina Lutterrodt, pictured with Bryan Hargett, received the Nora Pannill Brooking Scholarship.



Whitney Henderson, pictured with Sheila Lewis, received the Patricia Francis Scholarship.

so grateful for this honor and opportunity.”

Chasen, Hargett and other Board members mingled with graduates and their family members during a reception prior to the awards program. Chasen used the reception as an opportunity to encourage all of the graduates to participate in a “cycle of philanthropy.”

“I want you to know that Foundation Board considers its scholarships to be investments in our young people,” Chasen told the audience. “And we expect a return on that in investment.

“Many of my fellow Board members and I were recipients of past grants and scholarships and it motivates us today,”

he added. “So I ask that you not rest on your laurels. You’ve done well so far, but keep it up. And return the favor by investing yourself into your communities, either here or wherever you may land.

“There are three ways you can do that,” Chasen concluded. “Time, talents and treasure. As young people, I’m guessing you won’t have much treasure, but you have plenty of time and talents. Just give what you have to improve the lives of those in need.”

Over the past six years, the OCEF has awarded 88 scholarships for a total of \$165,500. The Foundation awarded 13 scholarships for a total of \$20,750 in 2012, and 14 scholarships for a total of \$26,500 in 2011. It awarded 17 scholarships for \$24,500 in 2010; 16 scholarships for a total of \$26,500 in 2009; and 17 scholarships for \$21,000 in 2008.

“The ability of the Foundation to increase its general scholarship from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in such a short period of time is a true reflection of the progress made in the last few years,” Hargett observed. “I always enjoy seeing what high-caliber students our schools are producing. The Foundation continues to increase its role and its impact each year and we hope to continue our mission to provide assistance to our students and to our educators.”

Other OCEF Board members in attendance included John Reid, William Hepler, Sam Kessler, Carol Hunter and Bob Grimesey. Ex-officio member, Gregg Woods, also was in attendance.

The Orange County Education Foundation is a non-profit organization devoted to creating and sustaining opportunities for scholarship and advancement for students and teachers in all Orange County schools. The Foundation was founded in 1994 as a project of the Orange County of Chamber of Commerce. In 1996, it consolidated with the Orange County Public Schools Foundation and became a joint venture of the Chamber and the school division. It seeks to serve students and teachers in Orange County Public Schools, at Germanna Community College, and at Grymes Memorial School.

The Foundation also recently awarded 16 Innovation Grants to Orange County Public School teachers. In the fall of 2012, the Foundation collaborated with the Lake of the Woods Lions Club to provide Innovation Grants to 10 Orange County teachers.



Abigail Foster, pictured with Sam Kessler, received the Taylor and Phyllis Grasty Medical Scholarship.

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Further information about the Orange County Education Foundation’s Scholarship program may be obtained by contacting Matt Benefield, Treasurer, at (540) 661-4550, or info@ocedfoundationva.org.