

WOMEN'S CLUB OF GREAT FALLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SCHOLARSHIPS TRANSFORM LIVES



SALLY ANNE ANDREW-PYNE

WOMEN'S CLUB OF GREAT FALLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND, PRESIDENT
2022/2023

I am pleased to share the Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund Inc (501c3) 2022/2023 **NEW** Community Report, which reflects our explosive **GROWTH**, **TRANSFORMATION** and **SUCCESS**! Our strategic plan has steered our course, with numerous **NEW** initiatives outlined in this report which will continue to shape our future and connect organizational resources with our vision and goals.

It's been a record-breaking fundraising year, with our Fall and Spring events that have raised a total \$115,000, thus enabling us to award additional scholarships and assist more students.

Collaboration is the key component to our path and by building awareness with our community, donors and sponsors and the support of The Women's Club of Great Falls, we will continue to help deserving Northern Virginia students prepare for and complete their educational goals in a timely and financially prudent manner.

The Board and I are so very grateful for the HUGE support and effort of our committees, The Women's Club of Great Falls (our sister organization), our community, and our sponsors, and donors.

This 2022/2023 report serves as our Final Report for our year-end which is: August 2023.



MISSION

Through fundraising and the provision of scholarship support, the Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund continues to pave educational pathways for students in Northern Virginia

OUR VISION

To ensure students achieve their greatest potential by pursuing higher education

TAG LINE

SOWING THE SEEDS FOR SUCCESS!

ABOUT US

AND OUR RICH HISTORY

In 1980 a group of women led by Doris Irwin Fisher joined together and organized The Great Falls Woman's Club, Chartered in October 1980 as a nonprofit, non-federated and non-political social club.

In 1982 The Woman's Club established The Scholarship Fund to extend financial support as its major service project. The Scholarship Fund was incorporated separately as an exclusively educational and philanthropic organization. The Fund has no members and its Executive Board are all members of the Women's Club who have been appointed annually to serve the Club through the Fund. The Fund Board controls and supervises the Fund, performing all the administrative duties, fundraising, receiving contributions,

investing monies, and selecting appropriate recipients to receive the annual scholarship awards. (See our website and Tea program for additional history).

For our 40th Anniversary Fall Event, which was a Tea in 2022, The Fund provided a retrospective of The Past, Present & Future of The Funds 40 years. Our **NEW** tradition going forward for recognition at our Annual Fall Event is to present Lifetime Achievement Awards to deserving women who have demonstrated leadership and served The Fund and The Women's Club. Jointly the Fund & Women's Club pay for the Awards and both President's present the Awards to the recipients. (Please see our YouTube account for the presentation clip).

SHAPING THE FUTURE FOR SUCCESS

In the Fall of 2021, The Board made an important decision that the Fund would offer ALL students, regardless of gender, an opportunity to receive a scholarship! The impetus of this decision came from the direction and guidance from our partner schools, Northern Virginia Community College, and George Mason University, both of whom are following current academic trends toward a stricter adherence to Title IX's non-discrimination policies. We saw this as an important step forward, both practically in our approach and philosophically, and informed our community in our Fall Newsletter.

To shape the future of the Fund, in the Spring of 2022, we launched our **NEW** Vision, Mission & Tag line enabling us to forge forward with our plan for growth.



THE STUDENTS WE SERVE

Today's students are faced with a myriad of barriers they must overcome to achieve higher education access and ultimately success, particularly for students from underrepresented populations and low-income backgrounds. The rising cost of a college degree coupled with an increase in living expenses in our area; the ability to juggle part-time or full-time work on top of a degree; transportation challenges; and balancing children and familial obligations are examples of barriers that impact students' ability to access higher education and persist through graduation.

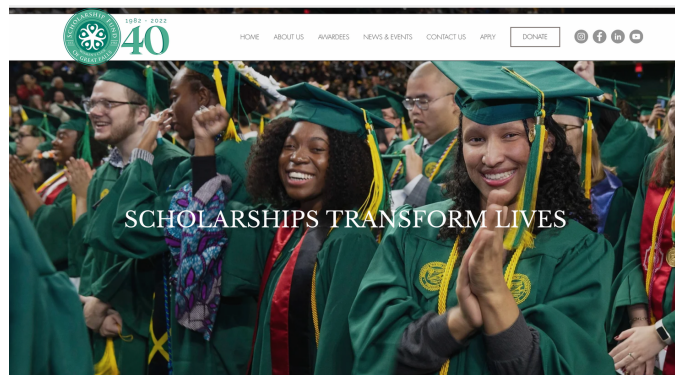
OUR SOLUTION

The Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund raises money to fund yearly scholarships that help deserving Northern Virginia students prepare for and complete their educational goals in a timely and financially prudent manner.

COMMUNICATIONS PR & MARKETING

An important part of our plan is to heighten the awareness of the Fund, to The Women's Club members, our community, supporters, and donors of our cause. Our monthly contributions to The Women's Club newsletter, include updates and pictures. In the Fall of 2021, we decided to launch our FIRST quarterly newsletter, which offers more in-depth insights of our progress, and is offered to ALL Women's Club members via a sign up to receive communications from the Fund. The distribution list of supporters, donors and sponsors has now grown exponentially, and on a quarterly basis, via email, a quarterly newsletter is sent to our subscribers. (Please see past newsletters on our website).

Our **NEW** website was launched in April 2023, offering the Fund the opportunity to further provide updates on a monthly basis to our audience, via our blog, and social media platforms. Our content is **NEW** and we have added videos, housed on the YouTube platform, which include our marketing video, interviews of students, GMU & EIP faculty, board members, sponsor and both President's of each of the organizations.



[Click Here to watch more Scholarship Fund videos](#)

OUR COMMUNITY

NEW opportunities have provided the Fund to be involved in The Great Falls community. This past year we have shared opportunities with The Women's Club to participate in several ways: Become involved with Celebrate Great Falls Foundation by providing collateral for the Welcome Wagon packages, the 4th of July Home Town Parade (that we now will participate each year with our SF banner, car, and committee), a booth at the event, and participation at the Celebration of Lights. Each organization has shared costs for printing and promotions for these events. Additionally, the Fund co-sponsored and shared costs with The Women's Club to support The Grange / Forestville Schoolhouse, (an historical

campus / event space in Great Falls). A Fund Board member & the Women's Club President, serve on The Grange Board to assist with the steering of The Grange's future.

NEW for us is greater press coverage; to include the cover of The CONNECTIONS several times, as well as other coverage on our initiatives and successes.

- The Holly Kuga Planned Giving initiative raising \$32,500.
- Katie Kuga's student recipient for the Holly Kuga Endowment with the Board.
- 2022 Fall Fundraiser & 40-year celebration.
- 2023 Spring Fundraiser, breaks all fundraising records.
- Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund creates NEW scholarship.



FUNDRAISING

NEW to the Fund in 2022 was the establishment of an Annual Spring Fundraiser which would be open to the Great Falls community. A new experiential design was created for guests to enjoy "Havana Night". Sponsorship levels were established for corporate underwriting, and live and silent auction items were procured from local businesses and donors to maximize the fundraising potential. The event was open to The Women's Club and all members of the community and was attended by over 150 participants. Our fundraising efforts, surpassed all other year's achievements, raising \$53,000 thus providing us a successful blue print to build upon for the following year.

The Fall Annual Tea in 2022, held at River Bend Club celebrated the 40-year history of The Scholarship Fund and celebrated our Past, Present & Future. Past presidents, student recipients and over 125 guests attended. Sponsorships were offered, along with raffle opportunities. The Fund supported The Women's Club Philanthropy group by purchasing The White House ornaments for table gifts as well as the sale of ornaments at the event. GMU & EIP faculty attended the event, and two checks were presented to their organizations to fund the 13 scholarships and the NEW GMU Early Identification program scholarship. This scholarship is now named The Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund EIP Scholarship.

NEW levels of sponsorships were offered for our Fall fundraiser, which was a Tea. For the first time, sponsorships were offered and our TOP Sponsor, Roald Nashi spoke of the importance of education. This event raised \$15,000 and is the most successful fall fundraiser, The Fund had produced thus far.



(Clickable links available above in digital version)

2023 SPRING FUNDRAISER

MIAMI VICE

Our Spring Fundraiser, Miami Vice was held on May 6, at River Bend Club and to date, we can proudly say is RECORD BREAKING! The \$100,00 raised is due to an incredible team who have worked tirelessly to achieve this goal, who are made up of the Event Committee, the SF Board, The Women's Club, the Great Falls community, our donors, and sponsors. Our website, social media, and newsletters share all our updates and the wonderful momentum and success that has been achieved.



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FUNDRAISING EVENTS

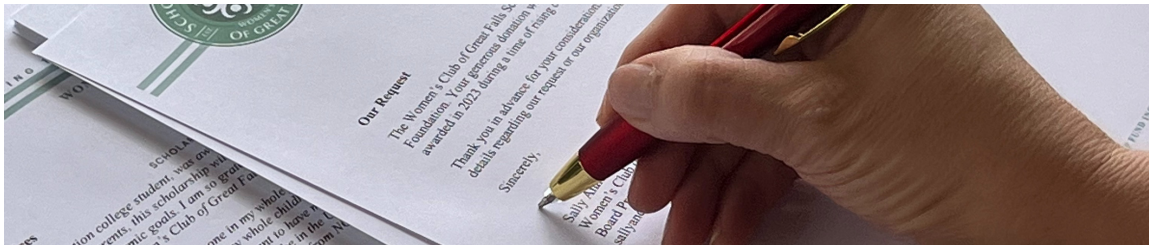
2023/2024

Our fundraising events are vital for the Fund's success. The Board has done advance work in planning ahead and The Women's Club Board has also provided calendar approval to promote these dates for our future events which are as below:

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
ANNUAL FALL EVENT 2023	OCTOBER 22, 2023	RIVER BEND CLUB
ANNUAL SPRING FUNDRAISER (KENTUCKY DERBY THEME)	MAY 4, 2024	RIVER BEND CLUB
ANNUAL FALL EVENT 2024	OCTOBER 20, 2024	RIVER BEND CLUB

GRANT INITIATIVE

Our **NEW** initiative for our fundraising goals was to focus on building a grant committee and create a plan for outreach to Foundations that support Education. Our Board elected to hire a consultant to work with our newly formed Grant Committee to steer this effort for a three-month contract, thus enabling us to create a grant infrastructure as well as create an outreach to new donors. Over 30 letters were sent to potential donors in the first phase of this undertaking and our efforts continue with additional work on our donor packages and outreach to foundations in the Fall. Our goals for the grant committee are twofold: A. Scholarship Grants. B. Program Grants. This is a significant undertaking and achievement in ensuring the Funds potential growth with the goal to not only assist more students, but eventually hire a Part Time Executive Director to work with the Board.



PLANNED GIVING

NEW to The FUNDS initiatives is the opportunity for estate planning. If one would like to leave a legacy in one's name, or in memory of a family member. (This is **ONLY** if you are or have been a member of The Women's Club). The Fund Board and GMU will work with you to create a Scholarship.

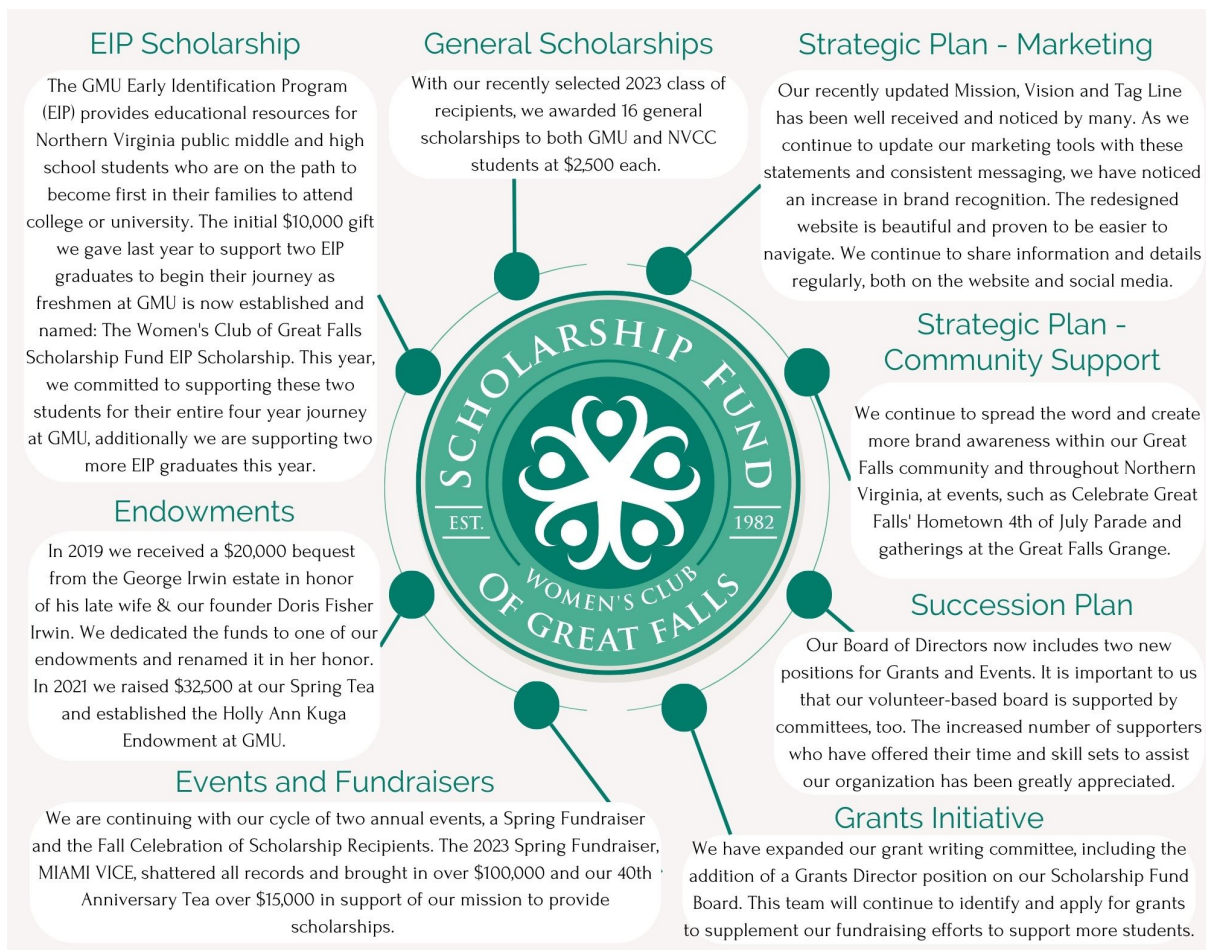
PLANNED GIVING

The establishment of the Holly Ann Kuga Scholarship was established in 2021, in memory of Holly, a long-time member of The Women's Club of Great Falls and the Scholarship Fund. To ensure her legacy over \$32,500 was raised from contributions from the Fund, members of The Women's Club, friends and family. In 2022 Katie Kuga Wenner introduced her student of choice to be awarded her Mother's Scholarship for 2022/2023.



GROWTH, TRANSFORMATION & SUCCESS

HERE IS A SNAPSHOT OF OUR EXPLOSIVE GROWTH AND THE
MANY ACHIEVEMENTS ACCOMPLISHED



SCHOLARSHIPS

2022-23

Our **NEW** initiative was to raise the value of the scholarships from \$1,500 to \$2,500.00 and at our 2022 Fall Tea event we announced that we had awarded scholarships to 11 deserving students at George Mason University, to include three endowed scholarships: —Women’s Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund Endowment.” The Doris Fisher Irwin Endowment and the Holly Ann Kuga Endowment. Many of these students attended our Fall event, along with the GMU and EIP leadership.

Additionally, we identified the Early identification Program (EIP) as a new path to support. EIP’s mission is to equip younger middle school students with the knowledge, skills, and intellect to become lifelong learners, leaders, and responsible global citizens. This program allows us to come full circle in developing relationships with younger students and reward their accomplishment of graduating from EIP and going onto George Mason. It is a perfect step.

\$10,000 was given to create a **NEW** scholarship for Early Identification Program graduates who will go on to attend George Mason University. The name of the scholarship is the Women’s Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund Early Identification Program Scholarship and the scholarship was awarded by EIP in the spring 2023 to two program alumni attending Mason. The EIP Executive Director & Director of Advancement, University Life, GMU also attended our Fall event.

To read more about the scholarship click here: <https://www.gmu.edu/news/2023-01/masons-early-identification-program-establishes-new-scholarship-gift-womens-club-great>



JABED HOSSEN
Computer Science



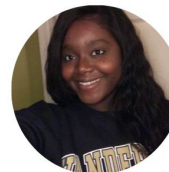
IQRA MIAN
Nursing



NADIA RIZVI
Autism Spectrum Disorder



JENNIFER DAVID
Accounting



FAITH ENNIN
Social Work



SARA MICHELS
Government & Policy



2 GMU EIP
Recipients



CHRIS AYALA
Business Admin



SUJIN JEUNG
OT



SAFA IDELBI
Government



MONICA CASTILLO RODAS
Finance



CHENELLE A. THOMPSON
Criminology, Law & Society



AMANDA TORRES OGISI
Higher Education

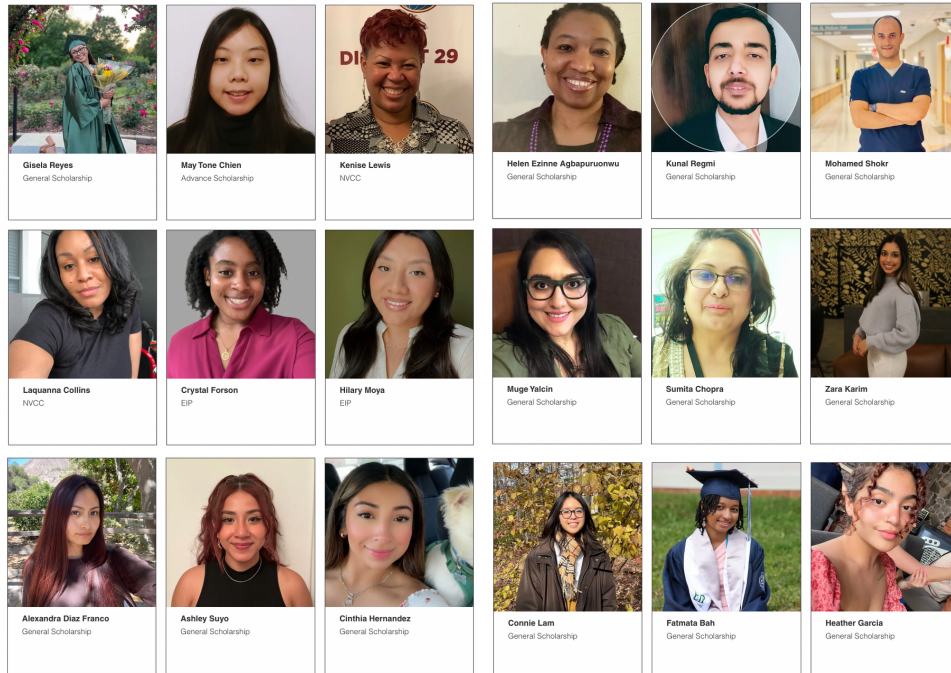


HELEN EZINNE AGBAPURUONWA
Early Childhood Dev

SCHOLARSHIPS

2023-24

In August of 2023 the Board elected to continue to fund \$2,500 scholarships, and thoughtfully selected 16 students, each of whom met the Scholarship Fund's criteria. Additionally, the Board decided to add a **NEW** initiative and elected to continue to fund our two EIP alumni graduates for support for an additional **THREE** years as well as fund two **NEW** students in Spring 2024.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

A tax extension was filed and accepted for tax year 2022 (June 1 2022 – May 31 2023) on behalf of the Fund for a later filing of the Fund's taxes and a transition of the Board's Treasurer position occurred mid-year due to a career change and family obligations. A **NEW** Treasurer was appointed to the Board and due to the Fund's growth, it was necessary to hire a CPA firm who would work with the Treasurer to prepare and file our taxes. An investment in QuickBooks software was also made, for the creation of operating/events/year end budgets and reports. The Fund's fiscal year is currently June 1 to May 31 and our Spring Fundraiser was on May 6. Moving forward our fiscal year filing will follow the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). This will eliminate timing differences in annual reporting between fundraising events and associated scholarship awards.

History of Filings:

- The 2020 tax returns (June 1 2020 - May 31 2021) were filed as a postcard filing by Jayana Garvey former Treasurer of The Fund. (This was filed electronically and accepted).
- The 2021 tax returns (June 1 2021 - May 31 2022) were filed as a 990-EZ by Bauer & Scott.
- The 2022 tax returns (June 1 2022 – May 31 2023) were filed as a 990-EZ by Bauer & Scott, on September 20, 2023.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

With **NEW** financial growth comes the responsibility to provide up-to-date, and accurate information to the Women's Club, our community of supporters, sponsors, and donors. GuideStar, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations provides online access on every nonprofit registered with the IRS as tax exempt, as well as provides data on nonprofits. This online platform offers the Fund, the opportunity to share our rich history, our student stories, and our financial picture, which offers additional transparency throughout the year. To date, we have reached the **GOLD** level seal with goals to reach to the **PLATINUM** level as we continue to grow. This platform will be used in continuance of each leadership year of the Fund Board and will be updated by the Treasurer.



(Clickable link available in digital version)

INSURANCE

ARTICLES OF INC & BYLAWS/INSURANCE/ATTORNEY/CPA

The Fund was established in 1982 as the philanthropic arm to the Woman's Club and is a separate VA nonstock, nonprofit (501c3). The Fund Board serves as the governing body, vested with the fiduciary obligation to ensure the best interests of the Fund.

Because of The Funds success and financial growth, a **NEW** step for The Funds successful steering was to add an Attorney and CPA to our professional team. Additionally, Clarke & Simpson our insurance company, filed an endorsement which amended on 4/16/2023 our insurance to reflect the updated name of The Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund for the Directors & Officers Liability and Event Insurance Policy which is carried as a separate policy with The Women's Club. The Fund pays the Women's Club for the policies payment.

In early 2023 a **NEW** initiative was undertaken to tackle updating the original Articles of Incorporation and the outdated (2015) version of the Scholarship Fund's Bylaws to reflect more accurately, current operations, timeline of activities, board structure with collaboration with The Women's Club and updated laws. Smolen & Plevy was also included in these documents as our Registered Agent for all VA SCC and IRS tax filings. At the August monthly board meeting the board approved all changes and updates to both documents which have been filed and are on record with the VA SCC.

Bauer & Scott, CPAs, LLP
16027 Comprint Circle
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Clarke & Simpson Inc
228 South Washington Street,
Suite 200,
Alexandria, VA 22314

SmolenPlevy
Attorneys & Counsellors at Law
Fifth Floor
845 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA
22182

COMMUNITY REPORT

NEW to our plans for communication and transparency is our **FIRST** Community Report, designed as a tool for building trust and creating transparency. As The Fund continues to grow, this is a report that is in-depth and shows the Fund is accountable and demonstrates to the Women's Club, and our community of supporters, sponsors, and donors, our achievements and financial status.

This Community Report now serves as our **FINAL END OF THE YEAR REPORT** which has been updated, since its first distribution via email and print to The Women's Club Board in May for their year-end meeting. A copy of the updated Community Report will be housed on the Scholarship Fund website. Additionally: Our updated bylaws reflect that each year the Fund Board will provide an annual Community Report outlining the Funds accomplishments and financial status to the Club Board on or before May 31st, which shall be presented by the Club Board at the Club's annual meeting.

SUCCESSION PLAN

2022/2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUCCESSION PLAN FOR 2023/2024 & MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

A succession plan had been formulated in the early part of the year with many Board members deciding to return for another year. Our plan for growth was shared at the Fall Tea event overviewing our intention to add two additional members to the board for 1. Grants 2. Events. In July & August, The Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund Board and The Women's Club Board provided their **FINAL** input and approval for the 2023/2024 slate of new officers.

NEW to the Fund plan has been the formulation of our own Fund Committee to assist with the many tasks and leadership needed to produce the fundraisers, grant initiatives as well as historical knowledge. Through cultivating relationships and training women who have an interest in supporting the Fund, we will continue to implement a well thought out succession plan for our future leaders of the Fund to ensure its continued success. Two **NEW** committee recognition events are now held in the Spring & Fall to acknowledge the committee's contributions as well as celebrate our growth and achievements which have been held at The Forestville Schoolhouse, in Great Falls.

NEW to the Funds planning is the end of the year Annual Meeting and Board Installation Ceremony of the 2023/2024 Board, as well as a celebration, where committee members will be acknowledged for their contributions to the success of The Fund.

2022/2023 OUT GOING BOARD



2023/2024 NEW BOARD



FUND BOARD LIAISON

TO THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF GREAT FALLS

As set forth in the 2023 Women's Club bylaws, the Scholarship Fund Representative/Liaison is a voting member of the Club Board. Each year a new Fund Board Liaison is selected by The Scholarship Fund to attend The Women's Club Board monthly meetings to update their initiatives and provide transparency of their plans and collaborate with The Women's Club. The minutes of those meetings that overview The Fund reporting for 2022/2023 are on the password protected Women's Club website Under About Us/Minutes: <https://womensclubgf.org/>

The Scholarship Fund Board holds a closed session monthly board meeting.

SOWING THE SEEDS FOR SUCCESS 40 YEARS

The Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund, Inc
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<https://www.womensclubgfsf.org/>

scholarshipfund@womensclubgfsf.org

[Document Creation & Design [KYGO.TECH](#)]

