



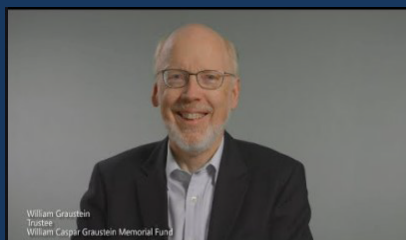
## **SCHOLARSHIP FUND GIVES \$400K+ TO NHPS GRADS**

The New Haven Scholarship Fund is proud to announce that it has awarded over \$400,000 in scholarships to graduates of New Haven Public Schools. Two hundred eleven students representing every public high school in the city were awarded \$326,000, and 87 students who applied for continuing scholarships were awarded an additional \$76,000. The all-volunteer Board of Directors is extremely grateful to all the generous people who value the work that NHSF does for our New Haven community. We feel sad that we were unable to have our Annual Award Ceremony due to COVID-19. We miss meeting with the recipients and their family members as the Ceremony has been an annual tradition.

For 60 years the New Haven Scholarship Fund has provided an excess of 11 million dollars to over 10,600 deserving graduates of New Haven Public Schools. NHSF scholarships continue to provide the financial support that helps young men and women from our city pursue their dreams.

This year, with the generosity of hundreds of donors including the Community Foundation and the Seedlings Foundation, the New Haven Scholarship Fund continues the work of supporting the students of the class of 2020.

We are grateful to all those who have a strong belief in the work of the New Haven Scholarship Fund. We believe that supporting our New Haven students who have strong academic potential and limited financial resources is critical to the growth and well being of our New Haven community. It is important to emphasize the fact that every dollar donated to NHSF goes directly to those who benefit most, our New Haven public school graduates who often struggle financially in their pursuit of their post high school education. Please visit [www.newhavenscholarshipfund.com](http://www.newhavenscholarshipfund.com) Help us make a difference and join us in our vital work!



## **HONORING WILLIAM CASPAR GRAUSTEIN**

I first got involved with the New Haven Scholarship Fund shortly after my wife and I moved to New Haven in 1972. One of our neighbors, whom we'd met at a cookout who was on the board, wrote us soliciting a contribution to the NHSF. It was the first time I had ever been asked by someone I knew personally who was active in the organization for which they were raising money. The personal connection made me curious. I had grown up hearing stories of my grandfather coming

to this country as a poor boy who was able to send his children to college, so I could relate the purpose and impact of the NHSF to my own family's experience. I sent in a contribution and asked for a copy of the annual report so I could learn more.

I was invited to join the NHSF board a year later. It was the first time I had been asked to join a board. I was still curious, so I accepted. Working with the NHSF was my first experience of a community coming together to improve the lives of those around them. The board was diverse in every dimension and united in a common desire to help young people develop to their potential.

The board members brought their hearts as well as their heads to their work together. There were (and still are) no paid staff, so board members took on all of the tasks of operating the NHSF, including interviewing every student who applied for support. The stories of some of the students I met at interviews in the 1970s still stay with me. In large ways and small, the NHSF has been a model for me of how people with differing backgrounds can find common purpose and build the relations necessary to sustain (for decades!) the work to reach that purpose.

The impact of the NHSF became more real to me one day as I was riding Metro North back to New Haven. Some college students got on, took the seat in front of mine, and started to share their experiences of the challenges of managing college. I overheard one telling her friends that she wouldn't have been able to attend college if it were not for the New Haven Scholarship Fund. I doubt I'll ever hear a more unsolicited or genuine testimonial.

I continue to give to the NHSF for several reasons. It makes a real difference in many students' lives, providing both financial support and hope. I have a debt of gratitude to those I came to know through working on the board for their wisdom and the ways they modeled multiple ways to contribute to and be part of the community where I live. At a time when our awareness of the depth of the divisions in the country has been so heightened, I am moved to support an organization that continues to practice ways of finding, and acting on, common purpose. I'm reminded of the words of a dear friend from our community, "I may not be able to change the world, but I can change the space in which people live their lives."



## HOW TO DONATE

### You can mail your donation to:

New Haven Scholarship Fund  
P.O. Box 8936  
New Haven, CT 06532-8936

OR

Donate by  **PayPal** or  
credit card on our website:  
[newhavenscholarshipfund.org](http://newhavenscholarshipfund.org)

OR



*When you shop on AmazonSmile,  
the AmazonSmile Foundation will  
donate 0.5% of the purchase price  
of eligible products to the  
charitable organization  
of your choice.*

## YOUR GENEROSITY IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER

The New Haven high school seniors who will apply to NHSF for scholarship awards in a few months continue to face challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic. They have been coping with full-time distance learning since March – and that means no in-person access to teachers and guidance staff for help with financial aid applications and college choices. College tours are limited or are conducted remotely. Social support from peers, faculty and staff – so important for encouragement with the decision to go to college and with the application process – is attenuated when it isn't available daily, in person.

The broader effects of the pandemic are also having an impact on students in urban districts like New Haven with high rates of poverty:

- The “digital divide” has meant limited access to reliable internet connections and electronic devices, making academic success more difficult for low-income students.
- High school students are often taking on the role of monitoring their younger siblings' schoolwork during distance learning.
- Food insecurity has increased dramatically in New Haven, just as it has in Connecticut as a whole.
- Covid-19 illness and mortality rates are higher for Connecticut's Black and Latinx residents than for whites. Unemployment rates are also higher for Black and Latinx workers.

At the same time, the unemployment rates during the pandemic are lower for workers with even some college education, and are lower still for those with a bachelor's degree or higher – making it even more important for New Haven students who will be graduating high school in June, 2021 to choose to pursue higher education. NHSF will make sure the graduates get the message that our scholarship assistance continues to be there for them.

We know that our donors have also been profoundly affected by the pandemic, and so we appreciate your ongoing generosity during these difficult times. Your generosity is needed now more than ever.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - *Keyla V. Higa*

NHSF played an important role in providing me access to a quality higher education. I am very blessed and grateful. NHSF was especially important during my first year of college because it was one of the important factors in my decision to pursue my bachelor's degree. Being selected as a multi-year scholarship recipient also motivated me to study harder and challenge myself in achieving new goals.

Despite the pandemic, I was able to graduate with honors from Lawrence University, double majoring in German and Global Studies. I am now pursuing a master's in Public Administration focusing on Governance of Migration and Diversity at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

My long-term plan is to be able to work for the United Nations, specifically UNESCO. I have always had a passion for access to quality education and I hope to make use of my education to support nonprofit organizations providing programs, services and advocacy to and for vulnerable populations.

An education opens doors to opportunities. My college experience allowed me to grow personally and connect with amazing people. I hope you can help NHSF to continue supporting students, giving them the opportunity to discover the world. Without you and NHSF support, I wouldn't be where I am today. I am grateful for your support and I hope you will start (or continue) to donate to NHSF to make more dreams come true.

