



THE MISSION—
Provide Educational Scholarships

THE COMMITMENT—
Help Vermont Students

THE GOAL—
Secure Brighter Futures

Providing Scholarships to Vermont Students Today, For Success Tomorrow.

SUMMER, 2014

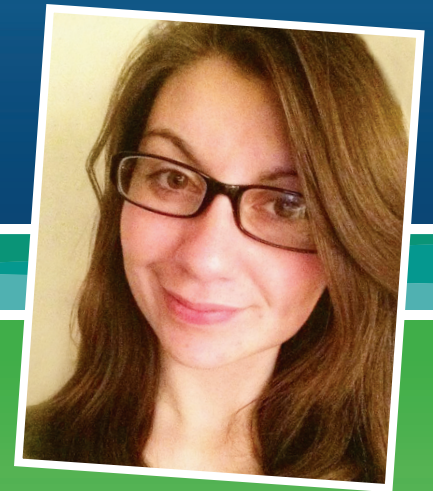
Former Grantees Give Back in a Big Way!

During the holiday season, we put out a request to former grantees asking for their help to create an additional scholarship. We asked for individual contributions of \$5.00 or more. Well, we were thrilled that you listened and responded by contributing over \$4,000! Thank you! We are endlessly proud to hear how our grantees are leading successful, fulfilling, and meaningful lives and we are gratified that they have shown appreciation for the help they received by giving back so someone else could benefit from the gift of education. We are profoundly grateful to everyone who donated. You are truly making a difference.

With assistance from VSAC (Vermont Student Assistance Corporation), Outreach Counselors used the following criteria to select a student:

- **HIGH FINANCIAL NEED**
- **CHALLENGING LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES**
- **A DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMICS**
- **A CLEAR DIRECTION WITH BOTH EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHS**

VSAC stated, “We are delighted that there is an additional Curtis Fund scholarship available this year due to the generosity of donations by former scholarship recipients. This Fund has allowed so many Vermont students of modest means to attend a college of choice which would not have been an option without scholarship funding.”



Special Thanks to Our Former Grantees. Dreams Will Come True for Tesia Lewis

Tesia Lewis is attending Hartford High where she is involved in Debate and other extracurricular activities. So far, she has taken four college classes through CCV (Community College of Vermont) plus Intro to College Studies. She plans to attend Juniata College in Pennsylvania in the fall. About her selection, her VSAC Outreach Counselor Stacey King says, “Tesia is an extraordinary young lady and is the embodiment of how education can transform family circumstances and she is uniquely aware of it.”

Like so many other first-generation, college-bound students, Tesia worried about how she would afford school. It

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SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

for the Curtis Fund! See how on page 4!

“All of my goals revolve around having a college education, so without it I cannot fulfill my dreams, and without the Curtis Fund, I cannot even start to afford college on my own.”

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was on one of these “money-panicking” days that she went in to see Stacey at VSAC and learned that she was chosen for a Curtis Fund scholarship. Tesia says, “I nearly cried. One step closer. ‘I’m going to be okay in the end, aren’t I?’ Stacy always says ‘yes.’”

“All of my goals revolve around having a college education, so without it I cannot fulfill my dreams, and without the Curtis Fund, I cannot even start to afford college on my own,” Tesia says. Her top choice for college is Juniata and without the financial help from The Curtis Fund, she adds, “I wouldn’t be going to the college of my dreams. I would still go to college but since finances are such a key part in today’s world, I would have had to make the decision to go to a cheaper school that didn’t have everything I was looking for. I cannot imagine the number of seniors who will be forced to make that choice this May, but I am grateful and lucky not to be one of them thanks to this Fund.”

No one in her family attended college. “I need a way to better my life,” Tesia says. “I have watched my parents make choices that I hope I never have to make and I have lived through the consequences of those choices. Now, it’s not to say that I think college will save me from hard times, or tough decisions, just that the opportunities I have access to will be far greater and in higher abundance than those of my parents.” She goes on to say, “I am taking a big leap not just for me, but for my family. I hope that I can also be a positive role model for my younger brother who is 12.”

With dreams, goals, and ambitions that include travel, experiencing new places and foods, and, most of all, meeting new people, she hopes for a job in communications, possibly with an emphasis on peace and conflict studies, so she can “work with people and help them in ways that last.”

We are proud to add Tesia Lewis to our family of Curtis scholars and we see a bright future ahead.

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

SHARE YOUR STORY!

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

A FEW THOUGHTS

Have you been to Asheville, NC? I was there recently on my way back from a trip south. I stopped to see the Biltmore estate, the home of the late George Vanderbilt and his family whose descendants still own it. The place rivals *Downton Abbey* of Masterpiece Theatre fame. It is the largest home, 250 rooms, ever built in America. George completed it when he was only twenty-six years old with funds he inherited from his grandfather, Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Millions of people from all over the world have toured the home, the 8,000 acres, and the village that encompass the property. If you get the chance it is well worth seeing. I had an uneasy feeling, though, while walking the cavernous halls of the great palace. Cornelius Vanderbilt was an enormously successful man. He reportedly borrowed \$100 from his mother to start a small ferry company off Staten Island, which grew into one of the greatest transportation companies in the world, worth over \$100,000,000 by the mid-nineteenth century.

I have no doubt that his heirs have done great things with some of the wealth they inherited, but it gave me pause to think of all the scholarships I could grant with just a fraction of the wealth used to build this enormous structure. It was completed a decade before Emma Eliza Curtis decided to leave her modest estate—\$120,000—to help young Vermont men and women pursue a post secondary education. Thousands of students have been given a chance to change their lives thanks to Emma's generosity. Today we have over 500 students enrolled in accredited post secondary educational institutions and The Curtis Fund has grown to over \$30,500,000.

You've read about how a few of you gave \$5, and some considerably more, over the holidays to help make it possible for one more student to go to college this fall. Emma would be proud of you for adding a little more to her legacy. Let's just say you added another room to Emma's "Biltmore." Thanks.

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:

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TO DONATE

www.thecurtisfund.org/support/volunteer

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 Dan Stanyon at 802-865-1827.

The Gift That Changes Lives and Futures!

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 for a student just like Tesia Lewis.

Please consider making a donation to the Emma Curtis Fund today in whatever amount feels right to you. Every contribution—large or small—matters and you will be helping a student when help is needed most. Thank you so much!

All contributions are tax deductible to the limit of the law. Please donate online at www.thecurtisfund.org/support/donate-now or send your check in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you!

*Your Gift Will Make
a Difference!*

