



The Curtis Fund
General Education Fund Inc.
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SUMMER 2017

the mission
Provide Educational
Scholarships

the commitment
Help Vermont
Students

the goal
Secure Brighter
Futures



First-Generation College Students MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Many of our Curtis Fund scholars are first-generation college students like Chelsea Martin, profiled below. First-generation college students often face an uphill struggle and unique challenges. These challenges are not only financial. Often these students face a lack of college readiness. They have to figure out how to apply for financial aid, register for classes, and manage the other necessities of undergraduate life knowing they can't turn to their families for guidance based on experience.

By partnering with VSAC (Vermont Student Assistance Corporation), we try to position our grantees to succeed despite the challenges. Thanks to your support, The Curtis Fund's grantees are making a difference in their families and in our communities.

Attending college was important to Chelsea. "I wanted to go to college so that I would be able to find fulfilling work and a career that I love. I am a first-generation college student. Being able to go to the college that challenged me and gave me a wonderful education was life-changing for me and my family."

“My motivation [in going to college] was to create a great career that I loved. As a first-generation college student, I also wanted to inspire my siblings to attend.”

Chelsea credits the support of VSAC and The Curtis Fund for her success. She says, "Without the support from VSAC and The Curtis Fund, I would not have been able to attend college due to the cost. The Curtis Fund scholarship was a huge factor in my decision to go to college because it helped with the amount of loans that I had to take out, so I graduated without a large amount of debt. I would not have been able to attend college without this important financial assistance."

Her other support has been her family. "My family has been a huge influence on me. They inspire me every day and have supported me through my college and career journey." Being the oldest of four, Chelsea hoped to inspire her siblings. "Both my sister and brother are currently in college and my youngest brother will be a senior in high school in the coming year and will be doing his senior year and first year of college at CCV next year. All of my siblings and I have been involved in VSAC and have also received Curtis Fund scholarships."

Chelsea says, "The VSAC program and The Curtis Fund are so important in being able to help low-income, first-generation students and so many other students afford college. Without a college education it is so difficult to create a career that you love and that can support you. Having a scholarship fund, like The Curtis Fund, that helps people achieve their education and career goals, is an incredibly important fund to have."



UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT, 2014, MAJOR: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES, MINORS: SOCIOLOGY AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE WORKING AS AN EARLY INTERVENTIONIST

Chelsea Martin is currently working in central Vermont as an Early Interventionist. "I work with children from birth to 3 years of age who have developmental delays or medical conditions. The children that I work with every day continue to amaze and inspire me."



Welcome to all of our new and former
CURTIS FUND GRANTEES, FRIENDS & FAMILY!

Help Us Do More!

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.

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!

Your Gift Will Make a Difference!

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

Thank you!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Donate today!

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 Joyce Cellars, Director of Advancement, at 408-500-5304.

Joyce Cellars Joins The Curtis Fund as Director of Advancement



JOYCE CELLARS

PHOTO BY: ABBY PORTMAN

Joyce Cellars has been hired as Director of Advancement. Her appointment represents the very first hire in The Fund's 107-year history and reflects the goal of The Curtis Fund's Board of Trustees to substantially grow the funds in order to provide more financial assistance for more Vermont students seeking a postsecondary education.

With an extensive background working with non-profits in California and Vermont and with expertise in donor relations, marketing and communications, community engagement, and public relations, Joyce will build and strengthen relationships with donors, grow major gifts to the Fund, and increase visibility of the Fund's work.

Joyce lives in Burlington with her husband and baby girl and is very excited about this new opportunity. Joyce says, "I am honored to be part of The Curtis Fund's inspiring work helping more Vermonters get the education they need. I am looking forward to increasing The Fund's ability to assist more students. You will be hearing more from me in the coming months as I get to know The Curtis Fund's community of grantees and supporters. You are amazing!"

THE CURTIS FUND: *By the Numbers*



The Curtis Fund was **FOUNDED IN 1910,** WITH A **\$120,000** bequest from **Emma Eliza Curtis,** a physician's wife, who wanted to **HELP VERMONTERS ACHIEVE BETTER LIVES.**

In the past 107 years, we have grown Mrs. Curtis's gift to **\$30 MILLION,** and distributed over **10,000 SCHOLARSHIPS** to young women and men.



Every year, we provide between **\$1,400,000-1,750,000** in scholarships to **450-525 LOW-INCOME AND FIRST-GENERATION VERMONTERS.**

Your support helps us to **LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD** so that every Vermonter has a chance to achieve **THE EDUCATION OF HER OR HIS DREAMS** after high school—regardless of family background, income level, or birthplace.

THANK YOU!

We Welcome Joyce Cellars



We have good news!

The Board of Trustees is delighted that Joyce Cellars has joined The Curtis Fund as our first-ever Director of Advancement.

The Curtis Fund Board wants to help more students achieve their dreams of higher education and, with the costs of education increasing every year we need to provide more financial help. Now it's time to do more.

In our last newsletter I talked about the critical need in our country to have a well-educated work force that is ready to meet the changing job market in an ever-changing world. We are proud that with our financial assistance our grantees have been able to achieve so much.

The Curtis Fund wants to play a bigger role in helping Vermont students, and to do that, we need to raise more money. With Joyce's help and your support, we hope to substantially grow The Fund over the coming years.

This is an exciting new phase for The Curtis Fund and we are so delighted to welcome Joyce on our team!

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-the-fund/donate

or by sending your check to:
The Curtis Fund, P.O. Box 2078
South Burlington, Vermont 05407-2078

Legacy of Hope

SUPPORT FUTURE CURTIS FUND SCHOLARS

By remembering The Curtis Fund in your will, you leave a legacy of hope that supports the next generations of Curtis Fund scholars.

You don't have to be wealthy to make a bequest to The Curtis Fund—even people of modest means can make an incredible difference!

For more information, please contact Joyce Cellars, Director of Advancement, at joyce@thecurtisfund.org or (408) 500-5304.