

the mission
Provide Educational
Scholarships

the commitment
Help Vermont
Students

the goal
Secure Brighter
Futures



We Helped Them. **THEY NOW HELP OTHERS.**

We are proud to announce that the Curtis Fund Credentials of Value Program has completed its second year. This initiative was launched to provide financial support for those pursuing careers that do not require a college education yet are just as valuable to a vital society. These careers include bookkeeping, nursing, welding, early childcare, auto repair, medical coding, etc. Our namesake, Mrs. Curtis, bequeathed her \$120,000 in 1912 making a point of including the words “post-secondary education.” This scholarship initiative is in keeping with those words.

Whether it’s a certificate or a 4-year college degree, education is important, not only for economic success, but also for the success of our society. Our recipients are making a difference. Please meet three of our grantees—all dedicated nurses with a selfless passion for helping others.

Tyler Wright

Tyler is a nurse working with a team of professionals who are providing direct care for those affected by Covid-19. “The many obstacles have been overwhelming to experience, but I am honored to be a part of the response and to be able to use my skills to make a difference.”

Tyler is currently studying for a Stroke Nursing Certification and making plans to return for a Master’s degree in Nursing Education. Inspired by her grandmother who was a nurse, Tyler finds nursing a profession that allows her to learn something new every day from her educators, peers, patients, and her own curiosity.

The Curtis Fund impacted Tyler’s dreams and goals, not only because she was able to manage her school payments, but also because she was able to travel. She had opportunities that included going to Africa to help build an orphanage, to Vietnam for a Humanitarian Affairs Global Conference, the Philippines for a community outreach and to teach a health training program for locals, and Nicaragua to assist with mobile healthcare clinics for the underprivileged.



“I am incredibly grateful for the help I received from the Curtis Fund. It made education a true possibility and helped set me up for where I am in my life today—I own a home, I have a full-time job as a Registered Nurse, I have a beautiful German Shepard.”

“I am incredibly grateful for the help I received from the Curtis Fund. It made education a true possibility.”



Wendy Longmoore

“I am very proud and thankful that I was chosen to receive this scholarship. This scholarship means that there are other people out there who believe in me.”

Nontraditional students face unique challenges. Wendy Longmoore says the most important factor in overcoming them is drive. She quotes a fellow adult student, “You can do whatever you want, but you have to really, really, really want to do it.”

Wendy grew up on a family farm and continued with farming instead of finishing high school. When her body started protesting the physical demands of farming, she decided she needed to do something else. She turned to her mother’s career, nursing. Agriculture is still her first love, but Wendy has found nursing a great second choice.

Wendy knows firsthand how hard a mid-life career change can be. A major challenge for Wendy was technical skills. A career in farming left her unfamiliar with computers. But, her background in farming helped her succeed in other ways. She had a solid understanding of anatomy from working with animals, she was familiar with putting in long hours, but most importantly she had a strong work ethic. That’s key to making it work as a non-traditional student, she said.

Wendy hasn’t given up on agriculture. She and her husband maintain a hobby farm, but she’s focused on the end goal now—a degree and a new, fulfilling career.

Meghan Lewia wants to help people stay healthy. Meghan just graduated with honors from Vermont Technical College and passed her LPN exam to get her license. Meghan doesn’t plan to stop there, however. She’s considering getting a BA to become an RN, and eventually getting the required education to become a nurse practitioner.

Her career dreams were born from tragedy. Meghan’s son died as an infant, and she was inspired by the professionals who cared for him while he was sick. Meghan has held jobs previously outside of the medical field that

also involved helping people get the care they need. It’s work she finds rewarding.

As a nontraditional student, Meghan has extra balls to juggle while she pursues her career dreams. In addition to her studies, Meghan works part-time at a nursing home and is a single mother of a 10-year-old boy and a 2-year-old girl.

When asked about her accomplishments, Meghan says, “You just have to stay focused and really want it, because good things don’t come easy. You have to work hard for good things.”

Meghan Lewia

“You have to work hard for good things.”



OUR MISSION

Looking back over the one hundred and ten years of our existence I cannot find a period when we did not have a challenge to our mission. The Great Depression, several recessions, wars, and flu epidemics have been constant, but they have not deterred our focus on providing educational opportunities to those who are worthy and in need. In the clear light of day, we see those who strive for something better and are willing to make the sacrifices and work hard to achieve economic independence and break the chains that bind them to poverty.



Covid-19 will also not deter us or our grantees from this single-minded purpose. Adversity is something we share, though I do not pretend to know the depths of their hardships, particularly in these times. What I do know is that they need our help, and there is nothing more we like to do than find ways to help.

I'm so proud of our new program, The Credentials of Value scholarship, we launched in the fall of 2018. We have completed our second year and I'm pleased to report that we have awarded \$94,244 to 74 learners through April 13, from all 14 counties in Vermont. These learners are enrolled in 31 separate certificate programs ranging from Certified Production Technician, to Medical Coder, to Early Childhood Educator. The Curtis Fund could not have done this without the help of a \$300,000 grant from the Hoehl family and their Foundation, with additional support from the Mitiguy family, the Northfield Savings Bank, and so many others who contributed time, talent, and treasure to get this off the ground.

We'll look back at this time, as we have other crises, as a learning experience, more confident in our ability to weather whatever adversity comes our way. We'll know that we are prepared to respond with a full measure of support for the learners who depend on us to provide the financial assistance they need to get through to a better future.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our mission.

Joseph Boutin,
*Chair, Curtis Fund
Board of Trustees*

ARE YOU A CURRENT
OR FORMER RECIPIENT OF
A CURTIS FUND GRANT?
Share Your Story!

GO TO
[www.thecurtisfund.org/support/
share-your-story](http://www.thecurtisfund.org/support/share-your-story)



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BURLINGTON, VT
PERMIT NO. 399

The Curtis Fund
General Education Fund Inc.
3 Court Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

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 Joe Boutin at 802-233-6272.

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

Your Contribution WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Please consider making a donation to the Curtis Fund today, so more aspiring learners can succeed. The Curtis Fund needs your help to continue its mission. Every donation makes a difference and changes the lives of very deserving students.

Please consider making a gift today.
Thank you so much!

Make a Gift. Make a Difference!

*All contributions are tax deductible to the limit of the law. Please donate online at <https://www.thecurtisfund.org/donate> or send your check in the enclosed envelope.
Thank you!*

