



Avon

**Dollars for
Scholars®**

2021 Awards Night

May 25, 2021

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to John Carmon and the Carmon Funeral Home and Family Center for making it possible for us to hold a virtual Awards Night again this year.

The Board of Directors expresses our thanks to all our generous donors!

We are grateful for the many members of the Avon community, including past recipients and their families, who have contributed to Avon Dollars for Scholars.

AWARDS NIGHT PROGRAM

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Mardelle Peña – President

2021 Award Presentations

Announcers

John Carmon

Pasquale Cirone

Catherine Knaus Indomenico

David Kotler

Heather Maguire

Ritu Saxena

Heather Toyen

Closing Comments

Mardelle Peña – President

ABOUT AVON DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Avon Dollars for Scholars has been the local chapter of Scholarship America for almost 45 years since November 5, 1975. We were founded by leaders of The Rotary Club including Donald B. Studley for whom one of our scholarships is named. Students graduating from Avon High School or any other school if they are residents of Avon are eligible to apply. Scholarships are provided to selected eligible applicants for post-high school education or training.

Through the generosity of the citizens, businesses and civic organizations of Avon, approximately \$1.8 million in scholarships is estimated to have been awarded to more than 2,000 students since inception, and more than \$700,000 has been awarded from 2013 through this year to 720 of our most deserving students.

2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

AVON DENTAL GROUP SCHOLARSHIP: The Avon Dental Group--Drs. Robert Breckinridge, Peter Knowles, Daniel Geelan, Gregory Solof, Clare Fagan and Akram Rafla--has provided this award to a graduating senior pursuing a degree in the Medical Sciences or Nursing.

AVON GIRL SCOUTS SCHOLARSHIP: The Avon Girl Scouts Scholarship recognizes a current or former Girl Scout based on her leadership skills and service to the community.

*** AVON HIGH SCHOOL PTO SCHOLARSHIP:** This scholarship is awarded to students exemplifying commitment to AHS through involvement and participation in an Avon High School extra-curricular organization, club, sport or volunteerism for all four years of their high school experience. The students demonstrate engagement with Avon High School through committed membership in a variety of activities, volunteer work and enthusiasm for and collaboration with peers.

*** AVON LEO CLUB SCHOLARSHIP:** Avon Lions for young people, the LEO club encourages students to develop leadership skills, foster teamwork and collaboration and grow social awareness. This scholarship goes to a deserving member of the Club.

AVON LIONS CHARITIES SCHOLARSHIP: Since 1951, the men and women of the Avon Lions Club have served the community, country and world in the challenge of vision related needs, disaster relief and improvement of quality of life. The recipient of this scholarship demonstrates commitment to these needs through actions in providing service to the community.

AVON LIONS CHARITIES RAYMOND ZACCHERA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship, recognizing community involvement in Avon, was established in memory of Ray Zacchera, a long-time Avon resident who passed away in 2007. Ray continually gave back to his community, helping to found the Avon Lions Club and serving as its first president. A WWII veteran and an active member in VFW Post 3272, he also served on several town building committees, as town selectman and town police constable.

THE AVON LITTLE LEAGUE BRIAN COLLINGS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: The Avon Little League Scholarship, given to a former Little League player, is in memory of Brian Collings, who coached and dedicated his time and talents to provide our youth an outlet of healthy activity and training in an atmosphere of community participation.

AVON PRIME MEATS SCHOLARSHIP: Avon Prime Meats has given gracious support to Avon Dollars for Scholars activities and their annual fundraising efforts have made this scholarship available.

*** AVON SCHOOL SPIRIT SCHOLARSHIP:** This scholarship has been made possible by a fundraiser in March 2021 setting up a friendly competition among Avon's public schools. The intent was not only to raise funds for an additional scholarship but also to broaden the awareness of the mission of Avon Dollars for Scholars among students and parents at all grade levels. We would like to thank everyone who participated and congratulate Avon Middle School Ruby Team who raised the most followed by Roaring Brook School and Avon High School Class of 2024.

JOHN G. BERNETICH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship is awarded to a senior going into the field of Special Education or the medical field.

MICHAEL BRIGHENTI '74 SCHOLARSHIP: Michael graduated Avon High School in 1974 and became a successful Avon businessman. He wants to help make a college education possible for current Avon seniors.

DOUGLAS SHALLCROSS BROWN & MARILYNNE FOSTER BROWN SCHOLARSHIP: Douglas Shallcross Brown, Jr. was an attorney, legal publisher, and humanitarian, who had a strong passion for music. When Doug passed suddenly in 2009, this scholarship was created to honor and preserve his legacy. It is awarded to an Avon senior pursuing a career in music and/or music education, who is dedicated and hardworking, and shows promise in the field of music.

CARMON FUNERAL HOME & FAMILY CENTER OF AVON SCHOLARSHIP: Given to a student who is pursuing a career in a care-giving profession such as funeral services, emergency services, counseling, nursing, religion, etc., based equally on academic excellence and community service.

JOHN & LINDA CARMON SCHOLARSHIP: Given to a deserving student who demonstrates academic excellence and community service.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SCHOLARSHIPS: These scholarships recognize students with high academic standing who are well balanced with involvement in school activities and community service.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF JOANNE BEERS AND EARL CREE: This scholarship is given in honor of Joanne Beers, Immediate Past President, and her husband Earl Cree for their leadership and commitment to Avon Dollars for Scholars.

DUBIEL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP: Richard Dubiel, AHS '73, and former member of the Board of Directors of Avon Dollars for Scholars has established this scholarship, along with his aunt, the late Madelyn Dubiel, who was a teacher for many years at Huckleberry Hill Elementary School in Avon. The recipient is pursuing a degree in engineering or education, is a first or second-generation immigrant, or will be attending Trinity College in Hartford.

FRIENDS OF AVON MUSIC EDUCATION (F.A.M.E.) SCHOLARSHIP: The F.A.M.E scholarship award is given to an Avon High School student who has consistently demonstrated passion and dedication for Music throughout his or her high school experience. The recipient shall submit a letter of recommendation from the Music Department. The award will go to a student who has actively participated in the Band, Orchestra, Choral or Musical Theater programs at Avon High School. The recipient's application and essay should reflect passion for music and the impact that the Avon Music Program has had on his or her high school experience.

IN HONOR OF CLAIRE FISHER BONTI '08 SCHOLARSHIP: Claire Fisher Bonti was a 2008 graduate of Avon High School. This scholarship, given by her mother Ann Fisher, recognizes a student who has worked hard to persevere when confronted with one or more obstacles, such as medical, family or personal. In addition, the recipient must demonstrate a strong commitment to the well-being of others and to the betterment of the community.

DR. EDWIN J. FOLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Dr. Edwin Foley was a medical doctor who graduated from Syracuse University Medical School in 1930. He served in the US Army Medical Corps during WWII, obtained the rank of Major and participated in campaigns in Africa and Europe. After the war, he became a successful business executive and retired as VP and Chief Medical Officer of Winthrop Labs (later Sterling Drug). Dr. Foley was also an accomplished pianist whose love for music extended through his lifetime. He was a true gentleman who valued educational achievement and epitomized humility, piety, self-discipline, and service to others.

GARDEN CLUB OF AVON SCHOLARSHIP: Organized in 1944, the Garden Club of Avon aspires to stimulate interest in gardening and related activities to beautify the community. They are responsible

for beautifying the grounds at various town buildings. This scholarship recognizes a student who plans to pursue studies of horticulture, plant biology or environmental studies.

*** BRADFORD SCOTT GEYER '83 TRACK & FIELD SCHOLARSHIP:** This scholarship is given in loving memory by Brad's family and Brad's Avon fellow track alumni, including his brother, Greg. Brad, a prolific athlete and supportive teammate, represented the work ethic, joy of sport, and team-first mindset that we all value. Those same qualities that he embodied in track were carried on and extended into a full and rich life with a loving family and many friends. Brad set many milestones during his four years at Avon High School, including 3 school records he still holds. But what we remember most is his smile, work ethic, energy, and his heart that lives on through us all.

RALPH & ELLEN GOBELL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP: The Gobell family is grateful to live in a town as nice as Avon. Ralph and Ellen's children, Lauren and Brenden, attended Avon schools from kindergarten through high school, as did Ellen. This scholarship is just one way for them to give back to their community. It recognizes a student who has been active in community service and excelled in academic achievement.

CARYL & LEONARD GOLDBERG EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP: Caryl Goldberg was a teacher for over 30 years. She retired after 18 years in Avon, serving as the district's Coordinator of Preschool Special Education Services. Her long career was dedicated to providing students with the highest quality educational opportunities available and building meaningful parent partnerships. This scholarship is given to a student pursuing a career in teaching at any level to help support the continued development of this important profession.

CHRISTINE PAPPALARDO-GREIF SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship honors Christine Greif, Class of 1987, who has overcome tremendous odds since sustaining a traumatic brain injury caused by a drunk driver. She was a scholar athlete and recognized for her community service work at Avon High School. Since her injury, even though she has limited use of only one hand, she draws and creates note cards from her artwork. She has donated three works of art to Avon Dollars for Scholars for note cards.

KELLY ANN HAHN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Kelly Ann Hahn served in the capacity of para-educator at Roaring Brook School for 8 years. She graduated from Avon High School and subsequently attended UCONN. Kelly resided in Canton with her husband Dave and 2 children, Billy and Samantha. Those who worked closely with Kelly were profoundly affected by her dedication to students and staff of RBS. Her enthusiasm for teaching students impacted those around her to strive to be better as educators. She has left a legacy of teaching materials and modifications that continue to be used for assisting students. The recipient of this award shows compassion, dedication and a willingness to help others.

RUSSELL C. HAHN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: This award has been established by Steven and Gwendolyn Hahn, both of whom have served on the Board of Directors of Avon Dollars for Scholars, in memory of Steve's father. The Hahn family believes very strongly in giving back. With the cost of higher education, it is their desire to help where possible. This scholarship is for a student who demonstrates a high level of dedication to the community through charitable activity and service as well as an exceptional level of academic effort.

CYNTHIA R. HOPPER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Until her death in 2015, Cindy Hopper was a long-time resident of Avon. She was also a long-time member of the Board of Dollars for Scholars. She was involved in many other volunteer, charitable, political, and church organizations in the local area. She was a loving mother, wife and homemaker who always referred to her other occupation as being that of a "professional volunteer". This award goes to a graduate who has shown a strong commitment to

volunteer activities throughout his or her high school career as well as exhibiting integrity, good citizenship, and good scholarship.

JILL A. HOPPER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Jill, a graduate of the Class of 1988, will be remembered for her fervent motivation, passion for academics, concern for others and promise for the future. She was the highest caliber of scholar and humanitarian. She touched all she knew with her grace, exceptional character and sheer zest for life. The scholarship recipient is an Avon High School student who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement, high moral character and a zest for life.

WADE H. HORSEY IV MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Open to students pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, mathematics or finance.

JACOBSON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship was established by Barry Jacobson, a past member of the Board of Directors of Avon Dollars for Scholars, and his wife, Mari. It recognizes a student with strong academic achievement and a passion for the arts or athletics.

SANDY JAREM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship is in memory and honor of Sandy Jarem, a kind, spirited, creative, and thoughtful wife, mother, and friend. Sandy was a familiar face in the office for Pine Grove School families and staff for over two decades and was always quick with a smile or a hug. She was a selfless individual who dedicated her life to helping others in countless ways. Her friendly, welcoming attitude and deep love for family and friends set an example for all to follow. The recipient of this scholarship will share in these attributes.

BETTY KARAMPELAS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Basil Karampelas was valedictorian of the Class of 1983. He will always be grateful for the financial support AHS provided him. He hopes to do the same for others by giving a scholarship honoring his family, especially his late mother, Betty, who was a single parent during much of Basil's time at AHS. The recipient of this award demonstrates both excellent academic achievement and strong character.

JAMES KEARNEY MEMORIAL LACROSSE SCHOLARSHIP: Jim was the founder of the Boys' Lacrosse team at Avon High School which he coached until his untimely death. This scholarship is given annually to a senior who exemplifies the highest ideals of sportsmanship, character, and commitment to the team – the ideals that Jim held most true.

RUTH HOGAN KOTLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Ruth died in 2011 after a valiant battle with breast cancer. Her husband David and children Nathan and Hannah established this scholarship in memory of Ruth, an accomplished Physician Assistant in Neurosurgery, to go to a student who has been affected by breast cancer and yet persevered.

SHERRIE KREVOLIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Sherrie Krevolin was a loving daughter, sister, sister-in-law and aunt who taught elementary math and science for 31 years in the Dallas, Texas school system. She was a tremendous educator and was passionate about her students to the point where she would go to the children's homes to help them with their homework. Sherrie loved watching all sports, especially her Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers. She loved traveling the world with her family and friends. This scholarship is dedicated for young women who are interested in math, science or teaching.

THE JAMES A. MACNEIL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP: This award is given by AHS Class of 1970 graduate Douglas MacNeil in memory of his father, James A. MacNeil. This award is given to a student with outstanding academic achievement who has a passion for and is pursuing a degree in one of the natural sciences. This is a multi-year scholarship, with an award given at graduation from high school and again as a college senior who will graduate with their degree in one of the natural sciences.

COLLEEN MARTIN SCHOLARSHIP: Miss Martin was a physical education teacher and field hockey coach at Avon Middle School for 26 years. She was known not only for her robust spirit, but also for the compassion, empathy, and support that she gave to others. Miss Martin did not look for recognition. She did things just because it was the right thing to do. The recipient of the Colleen Martin Memorial Scholarship is a student who does things for others without looking for recognition.

MARTINEZ CHILDREN SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship is given by Cathy Martinez in recognition of the outstanding high school educational experience her nine children received at Avon High School preparing them for their college and post graduate experiences. During their collective 20 years at AHS, 1998-2018, all the Martinez children participated in band, AP classes, sports teams, mentoring programs and a variety of clubs and activities fostering school and community spirit. This scholarship is awarded to a student from a family with more than 2 siblings who has excelled both academically and culturally in the arts. Most importantly, this student has demonstrated a contribution of “self to others,” the foundation of Ms. Martinez’s parenting philosophy.

THOMAS J. MCGUFF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Tom McGuff was a successful engineer and executive who fervently supported youth, education, the sciences and engineering. Honoring his memory, his family has established this scholarship which is awarded to a student pursuing a degree in engineering or science.

JEREMIAH F. MCWILLIAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship honors the memory of Attorney McWilliams, a long-time Avon resident who, along with his wife Miriam, volunteered their time and generosity to the Avon community. Jeremiah McWilliams served on the Avon school board from 1976 to 1979, served on the Avon board of selectman from 1979 to 1981, and graduated from the Avon police citizens' academy program. Eligible students should demonstrate an interest and commitment to public service with the intent to pursue a law degree and/or government studies to support that commitment.

MOORTHY FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship goes to a top academic performer planning to pursue a STEM education, preferably a student who has been a active performer in the Avon Robotics program.

THOMAS MURPHY, JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Thomas Murphy, Jr. was an individual committed to his community, his religious beliefs, multiple charitable works and his profession. Well-accomplished in his field of public accounting, Thomas strived to extend his expertise to students and was considered a mentor to many. This scholarship, among others at various educational institutions, would have brought him the greatest pleasure. The recipient of this scholarship exemplifies Mr. Murphy’s standards and has a commitment to exuding the highest integrity in every aspect of life.

ELAINE OLTHIUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Elaine was an active member of the Avon Junior Women’s Club serving in numerous capacities. Community Service was paramount to Elaine. This scholarship goes to a young woman who has exhibited active participation in community service.

DAVID & MARDELLE PEÑA FAMILY COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP: Given by David and Mardelle Peña and their family who have been extremely active and generous in giving back to the Avon community. This scholarship recognizes a student who has actively and extensively been involved in broad community service.

DAVID & MARDELLE PEÑA FAMILY PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP: Given by David and Mardelle Peña and their family who have been extremely active in the Avon community and generous in giving back. This scholarship recognizes a student pursuing a degree in the performing arts.

DAVID & MARDELLE PEÑA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF THE AVON VFW GILDO T. CONSOLINI POST 3272: Given by David and Mardelle Peña and their family in honor of the members of the Avon-Canton VFW Post 3272. This scholarship is offered to a student pursuing some type of military focus in their college studies.

PEOPLE'S UNITED BANK SCHOLARSHIP: People's United Bank is proud to support the Avon community and Avon Dollars for Scholars. They are happy to provide this year's scholarship recipient with funds to help further their college education and congratulate the Class of 2021.

PMP CORPORATION SCHOLARSHIP: This Avon manufacturing company, located on Security Drive, gives this award to a student pursuing a career in engineering.

REISKIN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP: Given by Dr. Allan Reiskin to honor his wife and daughter, who are both Social Workers, this award goes to a student with demonstrated service and leadership and who plans to pursue a career in Social Work, Social Justice or related helping professions.

MARK ROBERTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Mark Roberts was a loving, supportive father, uncle and husband. His life was unexpectedly ended in his early 30s due to a driver taking his eye off the road "for just a second" and in that moment lives were changed forever. Mark graduated in engineering from a state university—NC State. In his honor, this scholarship is to be awarded to a student attending the University of Connecticut.

ROTARY OF AVON-CANTON BILL NOBLE SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP: Members of the local Rotary started the Avon Dollars for Scholars Chapter in 1978. Yearly, the Rotarians fund scholarships for both college and post-high school technical or vocational training school. This scholarship, in honor of Bill Noble, is awarded to a student involved in community service and who adheres to the Rotary Motto – "Service Above Self".

ROTARY OF AVON-CANTON DONALD B. STUDLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship, given by the Rotary and the Studley family, honors Mr. Studley, who presented to the Rotary the idea of starting an Avon Chapter of Dollars for Scholars. By 1978, it was a reality. He led the chapter for many years and remained as Chairman Emeritus until his passing in 2005. He believed in "giving back" and volunteered not only in Avon, but also in service to our country.

DANIELLE ROTHSTEIN CREATIVE WRITING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship honors the memory of Danielle Rothstein, a 2010 graduate of AHS. Danielle was bright, spirited and creative with a gift of the written word. She graduated from University of Miami in 2014 with a degree in creative writing, but her great potential was cut short by her untimely death in 2017. Her family wants to keep alive her love of creating and writing by providing an opportunity to a student sharing Danielle's talent and passion for creative writing.

MIRIAM G. SAHL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship is awarded to a student with a passion for music performance who is planning to continue to perform after high school. The student is a good friend to others; is a good listener, and has a good sense of humor.

*** SHOPRITE OF CANTON, THE JOSPEH FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP:** This scholarship is presented to Avon residents graduating from high school who plan to continue their education at vocational or technical schools and other specialized training programs, as well as students enrolling at traditional two- or four-year colleges or universities with a preference given to a ShopRite associate over other applicants. The recipient must be in good standing within the community.

LAURA SULLIVAN HONORARY SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship is given by Pam and Eric Rosow to honor Laura Sullivan, an AHS school counselor, in recognition of her extraordinary dedication to her students. The scholarship will go to a deserving first generation college student who has high moral character, strong work ethic and has contributed to the AHS community.

AMY E. TOYEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Amy attended Avon schools from kindergarten through her graduation in 1995. She was a loyal, caring friend who was concerned about others. Not only did Amy achieve high academic success, she also was involved in the arts, playing the piano and drawing. Further, she was active in community service. The recipient of this award should have a variety of interests as well as involvement in the community.

JOYCE WILSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship is given by Donald Mark Wilson to honor his mom, Joyce B. Wilson, who passed away on February 26, 2019. She was a substitute teacher and tutor in the Avon Public Schools from 1973-2017. Joyce was admired and respected by educators and students. Her work ethic, dedication, and desire to help educate generations of Avon students will be missed.

*** Scholarships newly created for 2021** - We are grateful to the wonderful donors for their generosity in creating these new scholarships for 2021.

2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Rifaqat Ahmed	Imabong Ebana	SJ Obie
Benjamin Angus	Maxwell Eckerlin	David Parry
Emma Barnes	Alyssa Goldstein	Jordyn Platz
Tucker Beaudin	Noah Gordon	Hanna Pomaski
Haley Bertsch	Colin Hamilton	Rodrigo Portal
Skyler Blackinton	Delia Hogan	Noelle Powers
Christian Boudreau	Caitlin Ith	Kelli Raines
Jacob Bredice	Kerry Karlin	Vidya Rajahraman
Mason Bussiere	Halle Keane	Monisha Raju
Jared Butler	Taemin Kim	Tej Raman
Madison Carr	Cameron Little	Allison Rinehart
Elise Casey	Lucie Lopez	Nicholas Rodriguez
Kathleen Casey	Hayley Luby	Isabelle Russo
Krishna Cheemalapati	Kevin Mansfield	Zuizz Saeed
Luke Choi	Matthew Marshall	Miles Satlof
Hannah Cote	Anthony Milardo	Dhananjai Senthil Kumar
Daniel Cuyler	Marissa Mills	Desirae Sin
Nicholas DeLuca	Brynna Morris	Jocelyn Sobolewski
Delaney Denegar	Thejas Nair	Abigail Svelan
Jessica Dong	Navya Navnith	Haylie Thompson
John Donlin	Gina Nunziata	Mitchell Umansky
Ilana Dryfe	Tyler Nyberg	James Vicente

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE JAMES A. MACNEIL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP:

Kendall Held '15, Robert Nardella '16, Oisharya Dasgupta '17,
Ayushi Hegde '18, Hannah Boruchov '19, Alec Purcell '20

AVON DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Board of Directors 2020-2021

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Avon Dollars for Scholars is a proud member of the Avon Chamber of Commerce