



## Scholarships Help to Offset the Rising Cost of Education

The Marshfield Area Community Foundation, The Buyers Guide, and area guidance counselors have collaborated to produce a Scholarship Bulletin for the last seven years. Each February, the Buyers Guide publishes scholarships available throughout our area.

Education is a cause that matters to all of us. The Community Foundation is proud to count 47 scholarship funds among more than 112 funds entrusted to the Foundation. We have scholarships for new grads, non-traditional students, and one for local dance students.

But the Scholarship Bulletin doesn't stop with our own scholarships. Altogether it lists about 400 scholarships available to students from Abbotsford, Auburndale, Colby, Columbus Catholic High School, Granton, Loyal, Marshfield High School, Neillsville, Pittsville, Spencer, and Stratford.

Why are we involved with this project? We aren't making any money at this. Nobody pays to have scholarships listed.

With the cost of a college education escalating and the economic downturn, scholarships are more important than ever. Nationally college will cost over \$30,000/ year. UW-Madison tuition and fees are \$10,403/year. These price tags show a 14% increase in cost over the past five years. Of course, that's not the total price. You still have to live somewhere, eat, buy books and supplies, and do your laundry.

The rising cost of a college education and the failure of federal grants to keep pace with the higher rates of tuition has led to increasing student debt. The average debt of a graduating senior from UW- Madison in Wisconsin was \$26,625. 51% of students had debt. Bottom line: College is expensive, and the price is increasing.

A scholarship is a way of helping pay the staggering costs today's college students are experiencing. The Marshfield Area Community Foundation publicizes the scholarships we and others offer to ensure that there is a good field of applicants and as a public service. That's what the Community Foundation is all about. Connecting people who care with causes that matter. We have published our scholarship Bulletin for the past ten years to help scholarship seekers find the money that is being offered by local community groups, individuals, foundations, and businesses.

We believe every high school student, every non-traditional student, should take advantage of the generosity our community offers through these scholarships. These groups see giving scholarships as an investment in the future of our community. The families, individuals, organizations, and businesses that sponsor these scholarships and are providing these opportunities should be very proud of the impact they are making on the lives of Central Wisconsin students. We all can be thankful these people have decided to make a real difference in the educational opportunities for the people who live here.

Scholarship Bulletin was delivered to local schools, inserted into the Buyer's Guide, is available at our office and on our website. Let's get the word out about scholarships!



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