

Turning Promise into Achievement

Not long ago, a local high school senior sat down to complete a scholarship application. He had the grades, the drive, and years of experience balancing schoolwork, family responsibilities, and community service. He also had a dream: to study law and expand access to legal resources for marginalized communities. What he lacked was a way to pay for college. Today, that student is preparing to enter the University of Chicago. In his own words, “Your generosity is not only financial assistance but also a source of encouragement that motivates me to pursue my goal of becoming a lawyer and bringing more inclusive legal resources to marginalized communities.” His story is not unique; it is the story Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation exists to make possible.

“Turning Promise into Achievement” is once again the theme of RSF’s fall fundraising campaign. For 60 years, Rossmoor residents have helped promising students overcome financial barriers and pursue advanced education. Since 1965, RSF has awarded more than \$5.5 million in scholarships to nearly 2,500 graduates of local high schools and community colleges. This year, RSF will provide \$626,500 to 141 students whose hard work and determination have earned our support. Many will be the first in their families to earn a college degree. For these students, RSF scholarships open paths to careers in medicine, education, engineering, law, and entrepreneurship, and to community leadership.

This campaign launches RSF’s scholarship cycle. In late fall, students from Antioch, Concord, Deer Valley, Mt. Diablo, Pittsburg, and Ygnacio Valley high schools, and Diablo Valley and Los Medanos colleges, apply. By February, three-member teams of RSF trustees interview qualified applicants, weighing academic performance, financial need, and personal attributes. The Board of Trustees then decides on final funding.

RSF stands apart among nonprofits because its trustees personally cover all administrative costs, so every donated dollar goes directly to scholarships. RSF’s endowment also continues to grow through generous gifts and legacy donations from Rossmoor residents.

Local businesses show what is possible when the community invests in students’ futures. Leftovers Thrift Shop has once again contributed \$20,000, and Gott’s Walnut Creek twice has contributed 10% of one day’s proceeds toward RSF scholarships.

The strongest evidence of RSF’s impact comes from students. One recipient wrote, “This award is bigger than just a check. As a first-generation student ... I’m able to pursue molecular and cellular biology at UC Berkeley.”

Another student shared, “With this support, I can dedicate more time to building the skills I need to become a nurse so I can care for others and give back to my community.”

The need remains, and so does the opportunity to help. Every dollar raised can mean another scholarship and another dream advanced. Give online at www.rossmoorscholarship.org by clicking “donate.” To give by mail, send a check to Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 2056, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. You may also consider a legacy gift by naming RSF as a beneficiary in your estate plans.

Together, we can continue turning promise into achievement, one student at a time.

Submitted by: Bob Miller, President, Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation