

THE GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
FOR THE SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

All Scholarships will be awarded to Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools High School graduates based on specific selection criteria described in the respective scholarships. Unless stated otherwise, scholarships are non-renewable.

- Helen Houvener was born March 3, 1914, and lived in Augusta. She graduated from Augusta High School in 1932. Her father, Johnny Houvener, was described as the loveable, grandfatherly custodian at Augusta Elementary School in the 50s. Helen attended the University of Michigan for one year, then transferred to the Michigan State Normal School (later Eastern Michigan University). She is pictured in the Michigan State Normal School's yearbook *Aurora* in 1936. Miss Houvener taught at Augusta High School for at least a year, as she appears in a class photo from 1944. She eventually joined the faculty at Battle Creek Central High School, where she taught for 30 years while still living in Augusta for most of her life. She was active in Augusta village administration, serving on the McKay Library Board. Helen was responsible for compiling a history of Augusta called *How Dear to Our Hearts* in 1976. Her scholarship, research and coordination on this project produced a wonderful reference guide to the village's story. Helen was single and childless; she died in Kalamazoo on September 19, 1995. True to her love of education, she set up a scholarship for the children of the community. The **Helen Houvener Scholarship** will be granted to a candidate who plans to major in education or the sciences. Financial need, academic achievement (minimum GPA of 2.75) and participation in school and community activities are to be considered.
- June McNeil was born on June 19, 1902, in Barry County to Fred McNeil and Nancy Viola (Daisy) Rock. She had one sister, Maxine, born in 1913. Miss McNeil was a lifelong resident of Augusta, and she was employed as an occupational therapist at the Battle Creek Veteran's Administration Hospital. When she died on April 14, 2000, at age 98, a scholarship fund was endowed from her estate. The **June McNeil Scholarship** will be granted to a candidate who is of good character, has career plans, and has financial need.
- **The Lions Club** Scholarship will be granted to a candidate who plans to attend a technical school or community college. Financial need is to be considered.
- The **Lioness Club** established an endowed scholarship to be awarded to a female student of good character. Est. 2013
- The **Hester/Duggan Scholarship**, in memory of Judy and Jackson Hester and Bob Duggan, is for students who have excelled in academics and the arts, music or sports, and wish to continue their education at a four-year college or university. Est. May 2004/2014
- The **Alex and Sue Forrester** Scholarship was established in memory of this husband/wife. Career teachers at G-A schools, they were very involved with all age levels of education including design and participation on Building Committees for both the Primary and High School buildings. The recipient should be a good student athlete, yet one who may not be a shining star performer (one who warms the bench with good spirit). Est. 2006/2010
- A bequest in the amount of \$35,000 from the estate of **Violet VanSickler** established scholarships in the VanSickler name for "students **specifically not** in the top ten of their class scholastically, but who nevertheless have shown potential to succeed, desire to reach a specific goal, and have demonstrated the work ethic necessary to attain an expressed goal." Violet VanSickler was a career teacher in elementary education (at several schools-not G-A) and lived in the Galesburg area for many years. Est. 2007
- **MaryAnn** (retired G-A teacher) and **Al Bonine** were longtime residents of the Galesburg area and upon their death, funds were endowed to create a scholarship in their name to be awarded to a graduating senior who has shown service to his/her community and is planning to pursue education beyond high school. If there are no candidates fitting the above criteria, the scholarship will be awarded to a deserving senior pursuing higher education. Est. 2013
- **Thomas A. Plein Endowed Scholarship** - The Thomas A Plien Foundation endowed funds through the GACS Foundation for a scholarship to be awarded in memory of **Juanita and Wiley Holbrook**, long-time residents of Galesburg and firm believers in the benefits of education and the promise of our young people. The scholarship is to be awarded to a graduating senior of Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools who has demonstrated both a high degree of academic success and financial need and who is in pursuit of a college education at an in-state (Michigan) school. Est. 2011
- **G-A Foundation Scholarship** may be granted on the basis of academic achievement, participation in school/community activities, well-defined goals and career aspirations. Financial need may be considered

(One half of the award will be issued to the school upon proof of enrollment, and the second half after completion of the first term and upon proof of re-enrollment.)

(No alternates will be named. Any monies forfeited will be available to use for scholarships the next year.)