

Commitment ♦ Compassion ♦ Community

Dear Friends and Family,

Our Summer Newsletter highlighted some of the recent work of The Family Foundation, Inc., focusing on a number of our targeted grants to programs that support children and families with mental health and educational needs.

Our Fall Newsletter focuses on examples of our commitment to identifying and recognizing individuals who are dedicating

themselves to working with children and families. First is an example of our Foundation's support for the next generation of mental health workers. The second part focuses on staff and volunteers from programs we support. These are individuals each program has identified as exceptional.

The Family Foundation Board

Service to Children & Families Award

Karla Arias

Alfred University School of
Graduate and Continuing Studies

*(nominated by: Kevin Curtin, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor, Division Chair)*

The Family Foundation Award for Service to Children and Families is given to a graduate student in the mental health and school counseling programs at Alfred University. Recipients have demonstrated exceptional dedication and skill working with children and families. The award is presented annually at Alfred University's honor's convocation and is affirmed with a \$250 gift.

In 2014, members of the Family Foundation and I collaborated to develop the award and construct carefully worded selection criteria. Officially, it is given to a counseling student who consistently demonstrates a high level of distinction as exemplified by the following qualities:

Displays compassion and commitment towards working with children and families.

Has the ability to forge strong, supportive relationships with children and families.

Exhibits a deep sense of social consciousness, self-awareness, and diversity competence.

Takes initiative for improving interpersonal skills.

Unofficially, *"the winner has to connect naturally with kids...you'll know who that is Kevin."* This was said to me by Sean McLaughlin, who felt strongly that the right person was selected. Having worked at The Frost School for over 17 years, I understood what he meant. For me, the winner had to be someone I could see working at Frost and following in the footsteps of its founders. I made sure Alfred University's selection committee understood this.

Alfred University has picked six winners since 2015, each having had strong nominations from fellow students, faculty, and internship supervisors. All previous winners clearly demonstrated academic excellence, which is actually unimportant. Most importantly, all showed tremendous ability to connect naturally with kids and families, evidenced by their interpersonal helpfulness, counseling skills, leadership abilities, sense of humor, compassion, and support for others.

Recipients held internship experiences in several urban and rural agencies and school districts across the southern tier, finger-lakes, and western NY regions. They were invaluable

in their provision of individual and group counseling, social-emotional learning, school-based family therapy, crisis intervention, and other services to children and families who presented with a variety of issues and needs.

Achievers do not achieve in a vacuum; it takes a substantial support to attain one's goals. Such support comes from organizations like the Family Foundation, who have made it their mission to help youth and families in need. It is gratifying that the Foundation also recognizes the importance of sustaining their mission by recognizing the good work that is occurring with the next generation of helpers. I am proud to say that, since their graduation, the recipients continue to embody the Family Foundation's core values of commitment, compassion, and community in their work in schools and communities. They truly are paying it forward.

Alfred University
OUTSIDE of ORDINARY

Previous award winners:

2020: Karla Arias

2017: Taylor Stabley

2019: Ashley Morey

2016: Ashley Ceravolo

2018: Dominique Lue

2015: Kayla Vossler

Staff Appreciation Awards:



Paul Bates Beyond the Spectrum, Inc.

(nominated by: Lora Carpenter, BSI Education Center & Clinic)

Paul is an incredibly valued member of our team. He works tirelessly in every aspect of our school and, despite being significantly affected by COVID-19, reports to Beyond the Spectrum every day. Paul is truly “one in a million”.



Susan Yoder National Alliance on Mental Illness—DC

(nominated by: Robert Thurston and Jean Harris, Board Members)

Susan has selflessly volunteered at NAMI/DC for the past four years in various acting staff positions including newsletter editor, health care policy observer, and assistant accountant. NAMI DC is in a stronger position largely because of Susan’s contributions.



Isabel Argoti Collegiate Directions, Inc.

(nominated by: Amma Fellix, President)

In just a year, Isabel has launched our Career Mentoring Initiative, deepened our organizational capacity, and created strategic partnerships. Her entrepreneurial spirit and inclusive leadership style make her a joy to work with and help her excel as our program manager.



Matthew Suddes Project Light of Manatee, Inc.

(nominated by: Elena Farkas, Program Director)

Matt has volunteered at Project Light since 2016 and continues to teach virtually during COVID-19. He is dedicated to his ESOL students and regularly goes above and beyond to assist their integration into life in a new country.



Vida Anderson ScholarCHIPS

(nominated by: Yasmine Arlington, Founder & Executive Director)

For ten years, Mrs. Anderson has been the most incredible, hard-working, and thoughtful volunteer and Board Chair I could ever ask for. Her unwavering commitment to our scholars’ education, wellness, and success is unprecedented, and rooted in kindness and her passion for mentoring, education, and our scholars.



Sarah Schwartz Independent Grounds Coffee House

(nominated by: Elena Farkas, Program Director)

Sarah’s volunteer efforts have been a tremendous asset to our organization. She’s recruited staff, written grants, and helped us get an annual appeal started. She’s a huge part of our program, and I’m so grateful for the opportunity to honor her efforts.



Emma Strothers LearnServe International

(nominated by: Scott Rechler & Sabine Keinath, Co-Directors)

Emma was the first LearnServe alumni hired in a full-time capacity and has done an incredible job leading our development efforts. She is respected as a peer leader on the team, keeping us all focused, heard, and grounded in the organization’s shared values.

Honor a Valued Staff Member

If you work with or know of a nonprofit organization that focuses on supporting kids and families working in the area of mental health and education, consider taking advantage of our two opportunities to honor a valued staff member: Staff Appreciation Award and/or Service to Children & Families Award. In addition to the framed award, the staff member receives a \$250 honorarium. Write to www.thefamilyfoundationinc.com for the simple application form.

#GivingTuesday

Mark your calendar for Dec. 1 for #GivingTuesday, a way to support nonprofits that you value. *“It is a movement to create an international day of charitable giving at the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season.”*

The Family Foundation’s Current Board Members

- Claire Cohen
- Karim Elhamti
- Gregory Headen*
- Sean McLaughlin*
- Ellen Miller*
- Richard A. Miller*
- Nisha Sachdev
- Carrie Trauth*
- Glen Willis

* Founders of The Frost School and The Frost Counseling Center