

## **Saratoga Springs Rotary Education Foundation awards \$85,000 in scholarships to local students**

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (July 10, 2023) – The Saratoga Springs Rotary Education Foundation held its twenty-third annual community service awards dinner on June 7, awarding scholarships totaling \$85,000 to fifteen local graduating seniors. Awards ranged from \$2,500 to the \$20,000 Rotary Club of Saratoga Springs Presidential Scholarship.

The Foundation also honored Double H Ranch – which provides specialized program and year-round support for children and their families dealing with life-threatening illnesses – for their contributions to the community.

Established in 1997, the Saratoga Springs Rotary Education Foundation raises funds to support the post-secondary education and vocational training of graduates from public and private high schools in the greater Saratoga community. The annual awards event, held this year at Skidmore College, is the Foundation’s major fundraiser and all proceeds go to fund future scholarships.

Beth Post, President of the Saratoga Springs Rotary Education Foundation, extended congratulations to Double H Ranch and thanks to attendees noting, “The Foundation is successful because of the generosity of people in the Saratoga Springs community – businesses and individuals, who have made contributions to benefit students.”

Post also extended a special message of congratulations to scholarship recipients on behalf of the Foundation, explaining, “Your hard work and dedication is incredibly impressive and we ask that you build upon your knowledge and expand your talents so you can serve your future communities by putting the notion of Service Above Self into action.”

Students’ academic performance, extracurricular and work activities, community service, and financial need are all considered when reviewing applications. The 2023 scholarship recipients are:

- **Justin Duscher, Saratoga Central Catholic High School, with plans to attend Vermont State University, Florence Andresen Memorial Scholarship, \$3,000**
- **Gregory McCauley, Saratoga Springs High School, with plans to attend Clarkson University, Scott Krulcik Memorial Scholarship, \$2,500**
- **Sara Wenke, Saratoga Central Catholic High School, with plans to attend the University of Hartford, William C. Young Scholarship, \$3,000**
- **Hailey Kopraski, Saratoga Springs High School, with plans to attend the University of Rhode Island, Don Lee Scholarship, \$2,500**
- **Claire Tearno, Saratoga Central Catholic High School, with plans to attend the College of the Atlantic, Pierce Scholarship, \$4,000**
- **Ella McGrath, Saratoga Springs High School, with plans to attend St. Lawrence University, Endowed Scholarship in honor of Edward A. Lenz, \$5,500**
- **Samantha Maurer, Saratoga Springs High School, with plans to attend Siena College, Cudney Endowed Scholarship in memory of James and Carryl Cudney, \$5,000**

- **Ryan McPhee, Saratoga Springs High School, with plans to attend the University of Vermont, The Endowed Newman "Pete" Wait Sr. Memorial Scholarship, \$5,500**
- **Luke Brynczka, Saratoga Springs High School, with plans to attend SUNY Oneonta, The Endowed Scholarship in honor of Charles V. Wait Sr., \$5,500**
- **Catherine Kelly, Saratoga Springs High School, with plans to attend the University of Virginia, The Joseph and Anne Palamountain Memorial Scholarship, \$5,000**
- **Braden Allan, Saratoga Springs High School and SUNY Adirondack, with plans to attend SUNY Oswego, Jane A. Wait Endowed Scholarship by Adirondack Trust, in her memory, \$5,500**
- **Ava Ginley, Saratoga Springs High School, with plans to attend the University of Vermont, Gerow McLuckie Memorial Scholarship, \$5,000**
- **Brooke Devizzio, Saratoga Springs High School, with plans to attend Western New England University, Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Scholarship, \$6,500**
- **Eliana Sage, Saratoga Springs High School, with plans to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, The Philly Dake Memorial Endowed Scholarship, \$6,500**
- **Haleliya Wilson, attending Saratoga Springs High School and BOCES, with plans to attend the Culinary Institute of America, Rotary Club of Saratoga Springs Presidential Scholarship, \$5,000 over 4 years for a total of \$20,000**

Attendees enjoyed a dinner from Skidmore College's award-winning dining services team and had the opportunity to participate in a silent auction with items donated by numerous local businesses and organizations including Northshire Bookstore, iRun Local, Holiday Inn, Allerdice/Ace Hardware, Caffé Lena, Stewart's, Yoga Mandali, Mountainman Outdoor Supply, Ben & Jerry's, Saratoga Candy Co, Skidmore College and Foundation Board Members.

Next year's award dinner will be held in June 2024.

#### **About Double H Ranch**

The Double H Ranch, co-founded by Charles R. Wood and Paul Newman, provides specialized programs and year-round support for children and their families dealing with life-threatening illnesses. Our purpose is to enrich their lives and provide camp experiences that are memorable, exciting, fun, empowering, physically safe and medically sound. All programs are free of charge and capture the magic of the Adirondacks. To learn more visit: [www.doublehbranch.org](http://www.doublehbranch.org)

#### **About the Saratoga Springs Rotary Education Foundation**

The Saratoga Springs Rotary Education Foundation invests in the potential of students through scholarship, further enriching the Saratoga community. Each year, the Foundation receives funds from both the Saratoga Springs Rotary Club and private donors. The Foundation has \$2 million in endowed funds, ensuring scholarships in perpetuity for local students. For more information about the Foundation and how to apply for scholarships visit [www.rotaryscholarships.org](http://www.rotaryscholarships.org)