



2023

YEAR IN REVIEW



Helping people in recovery take **The Next Step** in their education.



Andrew

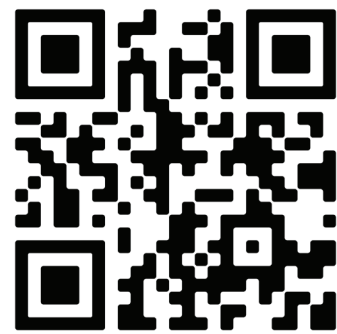
took the next step in his education and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Missouri - Columbia.

Watch his story at vimeo.com/thenextstepstl

Do you know an individual in a 12-step recovery program who wants to take the next step in their education? We can show them how education helps people rise above addiction and support them in achieving their educational goals. It's never too late to receive an education!

For more information, call or text us at **314.719.2880** or email us scholarships@thenextstepstl.org.

Apply by April 1, 2024



thenextstepstl.org/apply

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Gina May Wiese Scholarship

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Message from the Board

We are so excited to share all of the exciting things that happened this year at The Next Step! Most importantly, we awarded a record-setting \$247,450 in scholarship funding to 73 outstanding individuals in 12-step recovery programs. This achievement is a testament to our commitment in not only helping more people, but increasing the size of scholarships we awarded. Our average scholarship award has risen to \$3,200, a number we hope only continues to grow!

Additionally, we are proud to share the Annual Scholarship Celebration was the most successful one to date, raising over \$425,000 to fund scholarships. We were able to bring together our students, donors, and supporters to celebrate the success of our program and the achievements of our scholarship recipients.

We are also excited to announce that our Ambassador program has grown significantly this year. Our Ambassadors play a crucial role in spreading awareness about our scholarship program and engaging with our community. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, we have been able to reach more individuals in recovery and provide them with the support they need to pursue their education.

Finally, we moved to a new office to better serve our community. Located at 10097 Manchester Rd, Suite 207, we now have a dedicated space for our staff and board to work, and to meet with our donors and students.

We can't wait to see what 2024 brings! Thank you as always for continuing to support our mission.

With gratitude,

Darcy Glidewell

Executive Director and Board President



\$3200

AVERAGE
SCHOLARSHIP
AMOUNT AWARDED



39

AVERAGE AGE OF
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS



30

AVERAGE NUMBER OF
MINUTES TO COMPLETE
THE APPLICATION

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

An overview of the scholarship funding and recipients for the 2023-24 academic year

73

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

38

FIRST TIME RECIPIENTS



\$247,450

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AWARDED



DEGREE PROGRAMS

52

UNDERGRADUATE

14

GRADUATE

4

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

2

PHD PROGRAMS



3.46

AVERAGE GPA

AGES

21-63

29%

BIPOC REPRESENTATION
(BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR)



41 ZIP CODES REPRESENTED

78%

RECIPIENTS WORKING FULL TIME WHILE GOING TO SCHOOL



22

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

11

SINGLE PARENTS



Our Mission

To provide tuition assistance to individuals active in a 12-step recovery program from alcohol or substance use disorder who demonstrate financial need and are pursuing an academic or vocational education.

Our Vision

We want to help all individuals in the St. Louis bi-state metropolitan area, who are in a 12-step recovery program and meet defined scholarship criteria, achieve all of their educational goals.

Our Values

We believe education is one of the best ways to rise above addiction.

We have respect for diversity: individuals of all backgrounds, ages, and educational interests are welcome to apply for a scholarship.

We want to help those who are already helping themselves.

About the Scholarship Program

- Since 2005, The Next Step has awarded 832 scholarships and over \$1.9 million in funding.
- Candidates must be active in a 12-step recovery program, have at least one year of recovery by the April 1st application deadline, show financial responsibility and need, be gainfully employed at least part-time, and live in the St. Louis bi-state metropolitan area.
- All qualified applicants have an interview with two board members.
- Scholarship recipients must maintain a 2.0 GPA, provide schedules and transcripts each semester, and complete service work for The Next Step.
- Scholarship funds are applied to tuition and books and are given directly to the educational institution.

Grace

Current Scholarship Recipient
Psychology/Pre-Occupational Therapy
Maryville University



Grace's path to recovery began with a frightening experience that ended in the emergency room. Her struggle with substance use had reached its most severe point, endangering her life on many occasions. She struggled to function on a personal and academic level. With the help of a strong support network of doctors, her therapist, partner, and sponsor, Grace has been sober since November 2019.

Like many others in the scholarship program, Grace started her college education, but her struggles with addiction prevented her from excelling. She was in and out of college for three years, facing many obstacles in her academic progress. The money her parents had set aside for her education was instead used for in-patient rehabilitation services. Grace was determined to finish her education but would need financial support to achieve her goals.

"Receiving this scholarship made it possible for me to attend Maryville University as a full-time student," stated Grace. "I already work part-time but couldn't take on more hours without reducing my course load. Now, I'm going to be able to graduate on schedule in Spring 2024 from Maryville's Pre-Occupational Therapy Program with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology."

Additionally, Grace was a recipient this year of the Gina May Wiese Memorial Scholarship (pg 15), which provides additional funding to students who demonstrate classroom excellence and respect and caring for others.

"I am so grateful for both The Next Step and Gina May Wiese Memorial scholarships. I believe I was meant to be an occupational therapist and will provide exceptional care to all my patients. I could not have done it without your help."

I am so grateful for the financial support I needed to achieve my goals.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS



Step 1 Confirm Eligibility

Candidates must be active in a 12-step recovery program, have a minimum of one year of recovery by the April 1st application deadline, show financial need, and be employed full or part-time. Applicants must live in the St. Louis bi-state metropolitan area, but can attend school anywhere.



Step 2 Apply by April 1, 2024

Scholarship applications are accepted until midnight on April 1, 2024. Candidates will answer questions regarding their recovery program, employment, educational goals and background, and financial history and need. Candidates must provide a sponsor letter of recommendation and proof of employment.



Step 3 Applicant Interviews

If qualified, applicants will be invited to have an interview with two board members, which will occur in mid-April. This interview helps further determine eligibility and financial need, and helps us get to know the candidate. Interviewers complete a point-based evaluation form to help determine scholarship awards.



Step 4 Scholarship Awards

After interviews, the scholarship committee determines awards for each candidate using the evaluation forms. The average award is \$3,200. Applicants are notified of their awards by the end of May. New recipients will meet in person in June to learn about the scholarship process and service work opportunities.

HOW TO HELP

Your support of our mission is critical in helping students in recovery improve their lives. But it goes beyond that. You are also helping their families and the St. Louis community. **Your support truly makes a difference!** Here are some ways you can help.

GIVING

A 100% tax-deductible donation at any level helps students in recovery take the next step in their education. This can include:

- Individual Gifts
- Monthly Recurring Donations
- Stock Donations
- Employer Matched Gifts
- Planned Giving
- Named Scholarships

Make a donation on our secure website at thenextstepstl.org/donate, or contact us at 314.719.2880 to discuss how to make the most of your charitable contribution.

GATHERING

Sponsor and attend our events! Save the date for **October 5, 2024**, to attend our Annual Scholarship Celebration. It's the best night of the year!

ADVOCATING

Help an individual take the next step in their education by encouraging them to apply for a scholarship. Check out how on this page, or explore our scholarships at thenextstepstl.org/apply.

Want to take your advocacy up a level? Join our **Community Ambassador** program to spread the word about our scholarship! Find out more about this program at thenextstepstl.org/ambassadors.



Ronald

Alumni

Addiction Studies Certification
Saint Louis Community College

Ronald spent most of his adult life struggling with heroin addiction. At the age of 65, by the grace of his higher power, he became clean and sober.

Early in his recovery, Ronald committed to giving back what was freely given to him. He already had an Associate's degree in General Studies but learned that he could get a certificate in Addiction Counseling from St. Louis Community College. He didn't even have an email address when he first applied to school.

—“
I am so grateful for the life I have today, and to be able to help others in their recovery journey.
”

After receiving a scholarship from The Next Step, he dove into his studies. He navigated the college system after being out of school for so long, all the while volunteering tirelessly at his senior living community and maintaining his sobriety. Ronald says about the scholarship he received, "I wouldn't have been able to go back to school without the scholarship. I was on a fixed income, and the scholarship paid for my books and tuition. And thanks to the scholarship and not having to worry about funds, I was able to graduate with a GPA of 3.7."

Ronald received his certificate in Addiction Counseling in the Spring of 2019. He now works as a Peer Support Specialist at Adapt/Compass Health. His role includes sharing his lived recovery experiences with others, sharing and supporting recovery tools, and modeling successful recovery behaviors.

"My education gave me the opportunity to help provide the hope of recovery to other people," states Ronald. "I'm helping save lives, just like mine was once saved. It's a wonderful and fulfilling career!"

Congratulations!

2023-24 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Tina

Current Scholarship Recipient
Human Services
St. Louis Community College

Neil A., Fire Administration
Tiffany A., Business Administration
Ariel B., Consciousness
Chavid B., Human Services
Christopher B., Criminal Justice
Dana B., Public Administration
Daniel B., Social Work
David B., Art Therapy Counseling MA
Jayeson B., CAD/C Certification
Patrick B., Social Work
Rian B., Business
Sarah B., Dental Hygienist
Seth B., Master of Divinity
Tina B., Human Services
Todd B., Addiction Counseling
Wanda B., Organizational Leadership
Crystal C., Human Services
Jimmy C., Hospitality Management
Josh C., Master of Business Administration
Zeth C., Social Work
Jennie D., MFA of Creative Writing
Mark D., Political Science
Alyson E., Paralegal Studies
Caitlin E., Psychology
Joshua E., Construction Management

Denise E., Accounting
Cameron F., Computer Science
Darren F., Psychology
Jessica F., General Transfer Studies
Michael F., Healthcare Administration
Sarah F., Social Work
Ilkim G., STEM Transfer Studies - Biology
Karl G., Rehabilitation Counseling
Laszlo G., STEM Transfer Studies
Allizandra H., Clinical Mental Health Social Work
Amber H., Psychology
Hannah H., Psychology
Jeremy H., Nursing
Jessica H., Nursing
Teri H., Behavioral Health
Kristin I., Masters in Social Work
Edward J., Welding
Grace J., Psychology - Pre-Occupational Therapy
Heather J., Social Work
Ryan J., Business Administration
Jamie K., History
Tyler K., Associate of Arts and Sciences

Paige K., Nursing
Keith L., Behavioral Health
Henry M., General Studies
Janis M., Nonprofit Management
Lizzy M., Communications
Meagan M., Associate in Arts
Corey P., Nursing
Jane P., Masters in Social Work
Teresa P., Nursing
Christopher R., Master of Health Administration
Elesia R., Nursing
Joey R., Business
Matthew R., Nursing
Tyler R., Emergency Medical Services
Avanish S., Doctor of Pharmacy
Chavette S., Human Services
Jean S., Social Work
Lili S., Social Work
Mikayla S., Business Management
Parker S., Information Systems Technology
Simone S., Social Work
Nicholas W., Business Administration
Regina W., Pre-Nursing
Molly Z., Nursing

Tina was an alcoholic for most of her life and a drug addict for more than half. She found herself facing life in prison and chose to go to drug court. It took her a very long time to get it together, but today, her sobriety is at the forefront of everything in her life. She prays, mediates, talks to her sponsor daily, sponsors other women, and does service work. Tina is also in the process of getting approved to take meetings into the county jails.

Tina's educational goals are simple: to complete the certifications and licenses she needs to help others live their best lives. "My ultimate goal is to give back to others," said Tina. "I have something unique and special to share with the world, and I'm determined to do that."

Tina received her first scholarship this year and enrolled in classes at St. Louis Community College. She is working towards an Associate's degree in Human Services. "I will need a degree and training to achieve my goals. This scholarship is giving me the financial support to do just that."

Tina's inspiration for returning to school came from her husband, Patrick, who is also one of our current scholarship recipients. Patrick is attending the University of Missouri - St. Louis to get a degree in Social Work, and works for Criminal Justice Ministries. Tina said, "I see the work that Patrick does, and it fulfills him in a way that neither of us saw coming. I am not dissatisfied with my life, I just want more of it. I want that type of fulfillment."

I have something unique and special to share with the world, and I'm determined to do that.

PRESENTING SPONSORS

SpiritJets

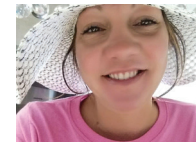
Soaring above and beyond for students in recovery.



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In Memory of James M. Smith



In Memory of Laura Heydens

STORYTRACK

THE WOOL FAMILY

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2023 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION

The Next Step held our Annual Scholarship Celebration on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel. 500 guests joined us and helped raise more than \$425,000 to fund future scholarships. We are so grateful to our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for making this the most successful event yet!

The evening, emceed by Tim Ezell, held many wonderful moments of celebration. We had 63 students and 18 alumni join us to celebrate their accomplishments. The recipients of the Barbara Murphy Single Parent Scholarship (pg 13) and the Gina May Wise Memorial Scholarship (pg 15) were also recognized for their achievements.

We'd like to give special thanks to Andrew, Amber, and Christopher for sharing their stories. Visit vimeo.com/thenextstepstl to watch their stories and the event recording.

Save the date for 2024: **Saturday, October 5**, at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel.



Hannah H.

Tina B. and Amber H.



Thank you to **Jeanie Liautaud Photography** for the amazing event photos! Scan the QR code to view the entire gallery or visit her website at:

gallery.jliautaudphoto.com/thenextstep2023



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Christopher B.

Thank You to Our Donors

We would like to acknowledge our donors from **11/1/2022 - 10/31/2023** for supporting the educational goals of students in recovery.

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\$500 - \$999

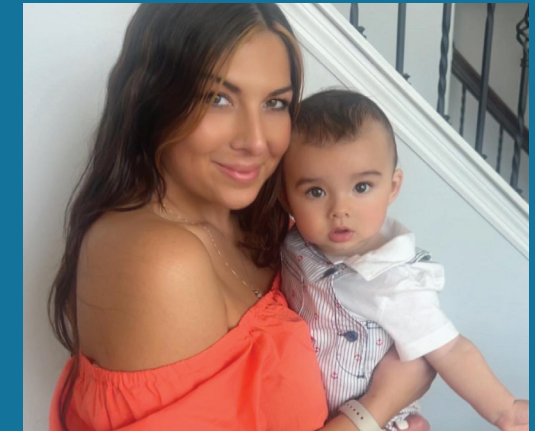
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Barbara Murphy Single Parent Scholarship

The **Barbara Murphy Single Parent Scholarship** was founded in 2019 and is awarded annually in October at our Scholarship Celebration. Jim and Nancy Murphy created this scholarship in honor of Jim's mother, Barbara, which provides an additional scholarship to a single parent who is balancing recovery, parenting, and education. These funds can be used for anything that will help ease the burdens of single parents.

The 2023 awardee was **Alyson E.** Alyson is a single mother of one who is working part-time while attending St. Louis Community College for Paralegal Studies.

Make a donation at thenextstepstl.org/murphyfund.



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 Henry Ollinger
 Harold and Mady Ott
 Ted Pavlovich
 Patrick Paynter
 Jason Peters
 Kris Peterson
 Patrick Phillips
 Emily and Scott Pickel
 David Portzelt and Ruth Anne Kimbrough-Portzelt
 Chris and Lisa Puyear
 Michael Quinn
 Miriam Rand
 Joe Richardson
 Spencer Richardson
 Stephanie and Christopher Richter
 Nancy Riemer
 Mark Roberts
 Liz Robison
 Dorothy Roland
 Paige Roland

Marissa Rosen
 Becky Rosteck and Craig Duckworth
 Jack and Kerri Rowe
 William and Andrea Rubin
 Donna Sanders
 Kathy Sanders
 Claudia and Randy Saul
 Marilyn Schallom
 Emmet Schmelig
 Bruce Schmidt
 John Schneider
 Eric Schroeder
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 Cheryl Shaughnessy
 Barbara Shechter
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 Bob Weinstein
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 Len Wiggins
 Catherine Williams
 Jay Winig and Emily Nishi
 Edward and Georgene Winkelmann
 Carrie Winn
 Marcus Woodson
 Tom Woolsey
 John and Michele Yancey
 Ronald Yancey
 Kathleen and Dave Ziegler
 Mary and Mike Zorich

Gina May Wiese Memorial Scholarship



The **Gina May Wiese Memorial Scholarship** was founded in 2022 by Ron Wiese in honor of his late wife, Gina. Gina was a grateful member of the recovery community and was kind, caring, and giving her entire life. Gina's scholarship aims to make a difference in people's lives by funding tuition, textbooks, and supplies in addition to their scholarship from The Next Step. Eligible students meet criteria focusing on classroom excellence and respecting and caring for others.

Ron has committed to funding \$20,000 for this scholarship every year. Make a donation or learn more at thenextstepstl.org/gmwfund.



2023 Gina May Wiese Scholarship Recipients

Grace J.
 Bachelor's Degree | Psychology/Pre-Occupational Therapy, Maryville University

Neil A.
 Bachelor's Degree | Fire Administration, Liberty University

Kristen I.
 Master's Degree | Social Work, University of Missouri - St. Louis

In-Kind Donations

2023 Golf Raffle
 Jim Bahlinger, Meadowbrook Country Club
 Crimson Callahan, Champaign Country Club
 Todd Callahan, The Legends Country Club
 Glenn Davis, Algonquin Golf Club
 Phil Fusz, Old Warson Country Club
 Darcy and Dan Glidewell, Westwood Country Club
 Gary Gorsuch, Crown Pointe Golf Club
 Tim Grossman, Glen Echo Country Club
 Josh Inman, The Club at Porto Cima
 Ryan Johnson, Sunset Country Club
 Doug McCollum, Boone Valley Golf Club
 Evan McGinnis, The Country Club of St. Albans
 Ted McNulty, Bellerive Country Club
 Anna Poger, Norwood Hills Country Club
 Steve Johnston, St. Louis Country Club
 Mark Leadlove, Persimmon Woods Golf Club
 John Oliver, The Dalhousie Golf Club
 Chris Puyear, Forest Hills Country Club
 Mike Sandy, Old Hickory Golf Club
 Jeff Wist, Winghaven Country Club
 Carter Wood, Westborough Country Club

2023 Scholarship Celebration
 Bob and Peg Callahan
 Steve Finerty, Monteta Group/The Finerty Team
 Darcy and Dan Glidewell
 Lindsey Hager
 Natalie Herzberg, The Capital Grille
 Eric Hoffman
 Eric Humes, Lift-STL
 Clay and Lynn Jenkins
 Frank Kane, Citizen Kane's
 Josh Keck, 801 Local
 Paul Manno, Paul Manno's Restaurant
 Austin Martin, 801 Fish
 Jim and Shelly O'Day
 Ande Pietoso, Napoli 2
 Ian Rockwell, Fleming's
 Blair Schrautemeier, 801 Chophouse
 Jake and Sara Sciales, Sciales Catering
 Dawn Smith
 StoryTrack
 Ron Wiese
 World Wide Technology Raceway

2023 Golf Raffle Winners
 James Brennan
 Jill Garlich
 Mike Sandy

2023 Dream Raffle Winners
 Jeff Wist
 Linda Huber
 Sue Hartley



Our strong financial health and ongoing accountability and transparency have earned a **Four-Star 99% Rating** from Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized independent charity navigator. This is the highest possible rating and demonstrates that our donors can give with confidence knowing their gifts will be used responsibly.

We have also achieved the **Platinum Seal of Transparency Rating** on Candid (formerly Guidestar), the world's largest source of information on non-profit organizations. This rating puts us in the top 0.1% of charities nationally regarding transparency.

Give with confidence today at thenextstepstl.org/donate.



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Saint Louis, MO 63122
314.719.2880
info@thenextstepstl.org



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Important Dates

Friday, April 1, 2024

Scholarship Applications Due
Apply at www.thenextstepstl.org/apply

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Annual Scholarship Celebration
Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel
Doors open at 5:30 pm

*Make sure you don't miss out on updates!
Sign up for our email communications at*
thenextstepstl.org/contact



Give Monthly!

Give the gift of higher education to individuals in 12-step recovery programs year-round by joining

The Next Step's monthly giving program! Your monthly donation helps us do long-term planning, ensuring that we can continue to increase the number of scholarships we provide to individuals in recovery each year.

Take **the next step** in your giving and commit to a monthly donation today!



Learn more and donate:
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