

# Knoxville Panther SCHOLARSHIP Foundation



## OVER \$1,000,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS!

The twenty-first Annual Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation Awards Ceremony was held May 8th at the Knoxville Performing Arts Center. Members of the Knoxville High School Class of 2024 were awarded over \$84,000 in financial aid by both Community Scholarship donors and by those who donated through the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation.

The Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation was founded on the principle that every KHS graduate that applies for a scholarship through the Foundation will receive at least one scholarship. In the Foundation's 21 years, 1,611 KHS graduates have applied for a scholarship and every applicant has received a scholarship.

At this year's award ceremony special mention was given to two long time donors. Mr. Bill Liike, a member of the KHS class of 1950 and a member of the Athletic Hall of Fame, was recognized for his generous support of our graduates since the Foundation was established in 2004. To help commemorate his support, Wayne Johnston, a member of the senior class who will be attending DMACC in the fall to pursue a career as a lineman, came on stage to receive a \$1,000 Bill Liike scholarship. The awarding of that scholarship brought the total award amount provided to graduating seniors from Knoxville High School graduates by the Foundation over the past twenty-one years to just over **ONE MILLION DOLLARS.**

The Foundation also provides scholarships to our graduates who are in their second, third and fourth year of post-secondary education. Another long-time donor, Frances Kirkwood, was also honored at the awards ceremony. Frances passed away last year at the age of 100. Frances loved our young people and remembered them in her estate by providing for a new endowed scholarship in her name. The first recipient of the Frances Kirkwood Memorial Scholarship was in attendance to receive this new scholarship. Morgan McKay, a member of the class of 2023 and a Ag Business student at DMACC received the scholarship from past Board President Kevin Crawford.

With the award of the Frances Kirkwood Scholarship, the total financial awards to second, third- and fourth-year KHS graduates over the past twenty-one years reached \$890,000. Bringing the total financial support of our graduates since the Foundation was established to over **ONE POINT NINE MILLION DOLLARS.**

In addition to the Frances Kirkwood Memorial Scholarship, we awarded several new scholarships for the first time. The Bill and Celia Harvey Burger Family Scholarship was funded by Bill and Celia Harvey Burger, members of the KHS class of 1956. The Philip Smethers Memorial Scholarship was funded by a bequest from Mr. Smether's estate. The Coach John Carle and the Excellence in Education endowed scholarships were funded by the family of Paul and Lori Husted. Paul is a member of the KHS Class of 1971. Paul also organized his classmates who worked together to fund the Panther Pride Class of 1971 Endowed Scholarship.

The family and friends of Clyde Pritchard Sr. donated funds in his memory to establish the Clyde Pritchard Sr. Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded annually to a student pursuing a career in education. New scholarships were also provided by Knoxville Dental Associates and by Cushman Construction.

The Board of Directors would like to thank the businesses, organizations, individuals, families and alumni who have made this all possible. A very special thank you goes out to Don and Margaret Long who have supported every KHS graduate entering their second year of post-secondary education for the past eleven years with at least a \$500 scholarship.

You can watch our 2024 Scholarship Awards Ceremony at the following link: [https://youtube.com/live/Vzk\\_cjGnwQs?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/Vzk_cjGnwQs?feature=share)



If you are interested in donating to the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation, go to our website at [kpsfoundation.org](http://kpsfoundation.org) to donate online. If you choose to mail in a donation, you can use the enclosed donation card and send it with your donation to KPS Foundation at P O Box 302 Knoxville, IA. 50138. For more information concerning how you can help our graduates by establishing a scholarship, contact Board President Curt Froyen by phone at 641-891-7170 or by email at [irishsciguy@hotmail.com](mailto:irishsciguy@hotmail.com).



## Frances Kirkwood Memorial Scholarship

The Board of Directors of the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce a new endowed scholarship that has been established to honor the life of Frances Kirkwood.

Frances was a member of the Knoxville High School Class of 1939. She worked as a telephone operator for Bellamy Telephone Company and later as an employee of Community National Bank. For fifteen years Frances and her husband Tommy owned Modern Cleaners Dry Cleaning.

Frances was one of the first scholarship donors when the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation was formed in 2004. She established the Tommy Kirkwood Memorial Scholarship to honor her husband's memory and was an avid supporter of the Foundation from the outset.

In 2022 Frances was honored by the Foundation at the annual scholarship awards night with a birthday party just prior to her 100th birthday. The speech she gave that evening was a testament to the love she felt for the young people of our community.

Frances Kirkwood devoted her life to a selfless desire to help others and to bring joy to those who were fortunate enough to know her. She was an avid volunteer in her many community activities. However, it was her devotion to working with youth that was her passion.

She served as a den mother for Cub Scouts, was an active member of the school district PTA program, and a Sunday school teacher. Frances touched the lives of the young people of our community with her wisdom and kindness.

This scholarship has been funded by donations made by her family and friends at the time of her passing and by funds Frances had designated from her estate. She made sure that her desire to help the students she loved like her own would continue to receive her love and support for generations to come.

## Philip Smethers Endowed Scholarship

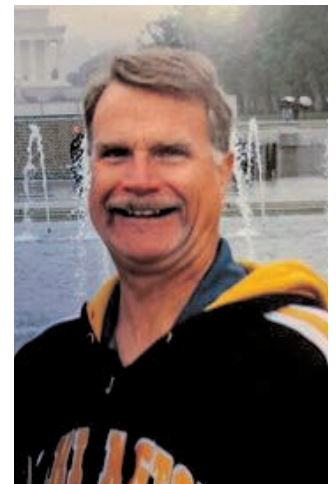
The Board of Directors of the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation is announcing the establishment of a new Endowed Scholarship in memory of Philip Smethers.

This scholarship will be awarded annually to a Knoxville High School graduate entering their third or fourth year of college pursuing a career in pharmacy, veterinary medicine/animal care or social work.

Philip grew up in Decatur, Illinois and worked as a pharmacy tech while attending St Teresa High School. After graduation he attended Illinois State University before transferring to Drake University to get his Pharmacy degree. He worked as a pharmacist in Des Moines for many years before working in Knoxville. He loved the area so much he moved to Knoxville where he made many friends and spent the last 25 years of his life.

Philip loved taking trips on his motorcycle, fishing, and the companionship of his 2 dogs, Odessa and Shelby. His greatest joy was helping family, friends, and neighbors with anything they needed. He was a great friend to all and generous with his talents. He was on the board of Crisis Intervention Services and did many odd jobs to help support their clients. Philip had a big heart and loving spirit.

The trustee of Philips estate is pleased to carry out his wish to help support future Knoxville High School graduates as they pursue their educational dreams.



## Clyde E. Prichard, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

The family of Clyde E. Prichard, Sr. has established a \$500 memorial scholarship to be awarded annually in his honor through the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation. The scholarship is awarded to a 3rd or 4th year post-secondary student pursuing either a career in education or educational administration.

Upon graduation from high school in Pacific, MO. in 1957, Clyde obtained his undergraduate degree in education at SW Missouri State University (now Missouri State University) in Springfield in 1964. This was followed by earning a master's degree in educational administration at the University of Missouri – St. Louis in 1971. Clyde began his career in education in 1964 working first as an elementary teacher and then as an elementary principal.

In 1974, Clyde and his family moved to Knoxville where he was named principal of East Elementary. He remained in that role until 1993 when he moved to the West building as the middle school principal, until his retirement in 1995.

Clyde met his first wife, Martha Ann Hogan in high school and they were married on August 16, 1958. Clyde and Martha had 3 children: Clyde Jr. (Pam) of Knoxville; Vince (Richele) of Pleasant Hill; and Amy Smith (Jeff) of Knoxville. All three of the Prichard children are graduates of Knoxville High School. Clyde and Martha enjoyed 41 years of marriage until her death in 2000. Clyde was later blessed to meet Maxine Joyce Slykhuis and they were married on January 29, 2005. Clyde's family included six grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.



Clyde was an active member of the community especially as a member of First Covenant Church in Knoxville, and former member of the First United Methodist Church. He was known as an interested conversationalist and a selfless family man. The Prichard Family is proud to offer this scholarship in honor of Clyde's memory and in support of the Knoxville community that has meant so much to the growth and maturation of the entire family.

## Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD'S)

For those of you who are required to take a minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA, making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a smart strategy that allows you to get a financial benefit from your charitable contributions and still take your full standard deduction.

A QCD allows you to transfer money from your IRA directly to a charity such as the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation. The amount you donate counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) and reduces the taxable amount of your IRA distribution. You lower your adjusted growth income and taxable income without reducing the amount of your standard deduction.

This article isn't intended to give tax advice, however, if you believe this strategy might work for you, contact your tax advisor and consider funding either an endowed scholarship, or an annual named scholarship, as a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

Over the past four years, fourteen new endowed scholarships have been established by individuals and families using Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRA accounts. It is important to remember that an endowed scholarship of \$15,000 can be funded by a series of contributions over two or more years. Once the endowed scholarship has been established, no further contributions are required and a scholarship for a minimum of \$600 will be awarded annually for perpetuity. Several of our new scholarships have been funded in this manner rather than by a single contribution in one year. Additionally, some individuals and families are in the process of adding a second and third endowed scholarship by continuing to make annual contributions using required minimum distributions from their IRA's.

## Bill and Celia Burger Family Scholarship

The Bill and Celia Burger family have been making annual contributions as part of their Required Minimum Distribution for the past several years.

Both Bill and Celia's families modeled and instilled the importance of valuing and serving in their communities. In that spirit Bill and Celia have focused much of their giving and volunteerism on education, libraries, equity and community service over their 64 years of marriage.

Remembering their roots, the Burgers have supported elementary education over the past few years by establishing three endowed scholarships in honor of Celia's mother, Sarah Harvey. This year they completed donations toward a fourth endowed scholarship, the Bill and Celia Burger Family Scholarship. Celia's mother had a long teaching career in Marion County rural schools and in schools in the cities of Pella and Knoxville. The Burgers believe that education is fundamental in a democracy. Celia's father Dwight Harvey served on the Knoxville School Board in the 1950s, as well.

Bill and Celia Burger graduated from Knoxville High School in 1956. Bill is the son of Betty and John Burger, and Celia is the daughter of Dwight and Sarah Harvey. After graduation, both attended Parsons College in Fairfield. In 1960, they were married in Knoxville at the First United Methodist Church and started their marriage in Tipton, IA where Celia taught English, speech and drama while Bill attended law school at the University of Iowa.

With their first child born in 1962, the family moved to Waterloo where Bill was employed as a trust officer at the National Bank of Waterloo and Celia continued her career as an elementary teacher there. She continued her education as their family increased in size and earned a master's degree and Doctor of Education from UNI.

While in Waterloo, Bill was president of the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, was appointed by Governor Ray as Chairman of the Iowa Development Commission and served 17 years as a member of the Waterloo Library Board. Celia served as president of the Junior League and was a member of the Community Playhouse Board.

In 1990 they moved to Iowa City when Bill was hired by a local bank which eventually became part of US Bank, NA. Bill finished his banking career in 2007 as local market president in the US Bank system. Celia was the assistant principal of West High School and then was selected as the principal of Weber Elementary in 1994. She finished her career as managing editor with a McGraw Hill company.

Bill and Celia have 4 children and 6 grandchildren. Bryce (Landscape Architect and Contractor) and Tracy are graduates of Iowa State University; Matthew and Gina (both United States Air Force 2-star Generals) graduated respectively from the USAF Academy, and from Penn State; Ben (Senior Partner in a Media Firm in Washington, D.C) and Susan are graduates of the University of Iowa; and Sarah (medical scheduler and receptionist for the Orthopedic Institute) is a graduate of Santa Fe Community College.

If you would like more information about how you can support our Knoxville High School graduates through the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation, visit our website at [kpsfoundation.org](http://kpsfoundation.org) or contact Board President Curt Froyen by email at [irishsciguy@hotmail.com](mailto:irishsciguy@hotmail.com) or by phone at 641-891-7170.



Bill and Celia Burger Family

# Creative Landscaping Scholarship

The Board of Directors of the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce an additional scholarship will be awarded in 2025 by Creative Landscaping of Knoxville. This business, run by Bob and Teri Hardman and their son Ryan, has been providing a scholarship to Knoxville High School graduates for the past five years. The Hardman's have recently decided to offer an additional scholarship each year beginning in 2025.

Bob and Teri purchased Creative Landscaping in 2006 from Jerry and Jay Weldon. For the past eighteen years they have provided landscaping services such as seeding, sodding, tiling, construction of retaining walls and placement of patio pavers. Creative Landscaping also provides exceptional lawn care including, mowing, fertilizing and weed control.

Ryan is a 2004 Knoxville High School graduate who has been actively involved in the business since graduating from high school. Bob and Teri's daughter, Aubrey is a 2006 KHS graduate who is involved in the business as a bookkeeper.

Over the years, the Hardman family has been actively involved with the youth in our community. Bob has been active in Boy Scouts and, along with his son Ryan, have served as Hunter safety instructors. They work with youth through the Marion County Sportsman's Club.

Ryan currently serves as the coach for the Knoxville High School Shooting Club and is employed as a school bus driver.

When asked why the Hardman family is involved with providing scholarships for our graduates, Bob said, "Our family has always done whatever we could to help with the youth in our community. We have been active in supporting our school organizations and sport teams over the years. Providing scholarships through the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation is just another way we feel we can help our students as they pursue their future dreams."



## Scholarship Recipient Profiles: Caleb and Megan Moore Hall



Caleb and Megan Moore Hall are proud Knoxville Panther graduates, Megan graduated in 2018 and Caleb in 2019. Megan continued her education at Iowa State University, where she majored in Agronomy. She earned her degree in the fall of 2021 and began her career at Eocene Environmental Group as a lead agronomist. In this role, she manages a team dedicated to providing on-farm sustainability reporting for producers across the United States. Her team's efforts help producers understand their operations, assess risks, and plan for future generations.

Caleb graduated in 2019 and pursued an apprenticeship with Elder Cooperation in Des Moines. In 2022, he completed his apprenticeship and became a journeyman heavy equipment operator. Upon completion of his apprenticeship, Caleb has hired on with Elder Corporation and continues in their employment.

Caleb, the son of Richard and Tracy Hall and Megan, the daughter of Blair and Dolly Moore, were united in marriage on November 16, 2024 and recently purchased their first home in Knoxville.

Caleb and Megan stated, "Purchasing a home in Knoxville was a fitting choice given the support we have received from our family and friends over the years. At just 24 years old, we could only afford our home thanks in part to the generous donors of the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation. We each received scholarships from the Foundation during our four years of post-secondary education. The support of the donors to the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation helped us to graduate debt-free, enabling us to move forward and start our own family.

One day, we hope to give back to the next generation of students. We hope to help future graduates, whether they choose to enter a trade or pursue higher education, just as the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation supported us. The Foundation's impact on our lives was truly transformative."

## Student Voices *Each year we receive dozens of thank you cards from students who have received financial support from our donors. Here a just a couple examples.*

Dear Board of Directors,

Thank you for the scholarship you have awarded me this year. I greatly appreciate the generosity of Foundation donors and of your support. This financial support will be very helpful in my final year at the University of Iowa. I will be starting my senior year this fall studying marketing and graphic design. I just finished my first year interning with the Facilities Management Department at Iowa and am going to continue working with them this school year. In addition to my job and classes, I am a member of the Tipple Marketing Institute, Women in Business, Fools Magazine Editorial Board, and Alpha Chi Omega. Your financial support allows me to have more time to get involved with these organizations while continuing to work toward my academic career goals. Thank you again for all the hard work you have done for the Foundation to make this possible. It means a lot to me to be supported by my hometown.

**Anna McDonald Senior University of Iowa**

Dear Board of Directors,

I am writing today to express my sincere gratitude for being chosen to receive a scholarship from the Foundation. I am currently studying Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Cornell College with aspirations of attending medical school after my graduation in 2025. Currently, my goal is to become a specialty surgeon, hopefully focusing on pediatric patients. As I begin the MCAT battle this year, please know your support is tremendously helpful and a constant reminder that I am not in this alone. I cannot adequately express the appreciation and pride that comes from being able to say that I will always have the support of my hometown community as I embark on my journey.

**Josalin McKeever Senior Cornell College**

