Meet some of the 2018 JRF Scholars you have helped support!

Stacey, Aleah, Tiffany, and Loreta!

In Loving Memory of George S. Koch, Jr.
October 30, 1926—July 26, 2018

We mourn the passing of George Koch on July 25, 2018. We also celebrate his life and the legacy of hope he provided for Jeannette Rankin Scholars. George Koch, along with his late wife Ruth Koch, were generous and dedicated supporters of Jeannette Rankin Women’s Scholarship Fund. Over the years, they helped more than 100 women finish their education. On September 11, 2001, American Flight 77 hit the Pentagon. Ruth’s daughter and George’s stepdaughter Leslie Whittington, her husband Charles Falkenberg, and their small children Zoe and Dana Falkenberg were on that plane. Zoe and Dana were the youngest victims of 9/11.

In memory of the Whittington–Falkenberg Family, George and Ruth turned this tragedy into triumph through scholarships provided to Jeannette Rankin Foundation. George and Ruth generously helped more than 100 Scholars through JRF. Through these scholarships, Leslie, Charles, Zoe and Dana continue to make an impact on women working to make a better life for themselves and their families. We mourn the loss of this wonderful family, and are so grateful for the legacy they’ve left and the impact they continue to make on our JRF Scholars.

And now, we mourn the loss of George, but know that he lives on through the lives of the women he and Ruth supported.

Thank you, George, for being such an incredible friend and supporter of JRF Scholars.
Introducing…the Scholar Resource Network

JRF is now able to supply each of our Scholars with a Scholar Resource Network. Much like an employer provided Employee Assistance Program, our Scholar Resource Network gives JRF Scholars a plethora of assistance in their day to day lives. From providing legal aid to counseling sessions to finding childcare, the Scholar Resource Network gives our women a helping hand in their busy lives! This new resource, provided by ComPsych, has already proven to be helpful for many JRF Scholars. We are excited to watch our Scholars succeed with this extra helping hand!

Volunteer Spotlight: Dr. Elissa Perry

Dr. Elissa Perry volunteered as a JRF Application Reader this year, and helped us select the newest class of Jeannette Rankin Scholars! She dedicated her time and energy into ensuring that every application was read thoughtfully. Elissa is a new friend to JRF, and has very quickly cemented her relationship with us! After reading applications, Elissa felt inspired to fund two scholarships this year - and took two women off our wait list with her generous donation!

She says, "Education and educational opportunities are core values for me and so it is gratifying to hear how this donation can be used to hopefully make a real difference in peoples’ lives." Thank you, Elissa, for your outstanding work as a volunteer and as a supporter of women in education!

Scholar Spotlight: Vikki P.

“Your kindness and generosity for choosing me as your scholarship recipient means the world to me, and there are not enough words to express how grateful I am. Thank you again for realizing how hard I have worked by contributing to my educational goals.”

Vikki, a JRF scholar enrolled at Northern Arizona University, is working toward her Bachelor’s in elementary education. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA while working and going to school full time. She faced an enormous hardship while during school, when her mother was diagnosed with cancer and passed away three weeks later. In spite of this challenge, she is persisting towards graduation!

Throughout her life, Vikki has always found herself in various teaching positions, such as employee training and teaching emergency care classes. She has an extreme love for teaching, so she has gone back to school to pursue her lifelong dream to be an elementary school teacher.

Scholar Spotlight: Marinda W.

“I am a single mother of 2, soon to be 3. It took a leap of faith to return to school for my next level nursing degree. I am pleased to announce that after many long days of studying, I successfully completed my classes and I finished strong. I am grateful for the scholarship foundation because I could not have done this without them!”

JRF Scholar Alumnae Marinda is a single mother, raising her two children. She recently graduated from Wiregrass Georgia Technical College with her Associate’s in nursing. Marinda is a natural caretaker and says she chose nursing, not for the paycheck but because she loves the feeling of helping others. She is passionate about nursing and wants to one day develop interactive teaching programs for nursing students.

Thank you to interns Tylanna Baker, Ellie Bramel, Maggie Officer and Ashley Waterfill, and thank you to volunteers Lisa Nunez and Vivienne Sturgill!