



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO, KAREN STERK

Dear Friends -

What is the WHY of the Jeannette Rankin Foundation?

The answer jumped out at me while reading the Sunday paper.

Tara Westover, author of the book **Educated**, talked about her experience of putting herself through college in the 90's - a time when you could actually put yourself through college with summer and part time work. She received her first Pell Grant.

In those desperate years a few thousand dollars was enough to alter the whole course of my life. It contained a universe.

Know that this is what you do when you support JRF Scholars.

The Pell Grant was my first taste of financial security. When the program was established 50 years ago, the largest grant covered 79 percent of the costs to attend a four-year public college. Today it covers just 29 percent. It's not enough. What the grant offered me - security, peace of mind, a space in which to consider, for the first time, what sort of life I wanted - it no longer offers.

As little as two thousand dollars extra a year for non school expenses was cited by the Institute of Women's Policy Research (IWPR) as critical to a Scholar Mom's success.

That is precisely why you are critical to the success of JRF Scholars.

Because of you we were able to raise the amount of the Scholar Grant from \$2,000 to \$2,500 last year. ***Because of you*** we were able to support 57% more Scholars this year. (86 last year and 135 this year.)

Thank You Thank You Thank You!



Karen Sterk

[Read the article here.](#)



We Need You - Volunteer Application Readers

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP - 2/25/22



YOU have the opportunity to assist in selecting the incoming class of Jeannette Rankin Foundation (JRF) Scholars. In this act of volunteering (which you can do from your home) you are transforming futures by helping to select who will receive a JRF Scholar Grant in the fall of 2022. We need amazing volunteers such as yourself to help us read and carefully score each application that we receive. [Sign up here](#)

JRF Scholar Alum Barbara Teed Success

JRF Scholar Alum Barbara Teed wrote and produced a play for the History Theater in Minneapolis, MN. Kudos to Barbara for telling this important story. *Note - The play can be live streamed [here](#).*



Barbara Teed holds a photo of her father, Arnold Weigel, in her home in Bloomington. Weigel was a Realtor who was forced out of the business in the 1960s by a racist backlash when he sold homes in a white suburban neighborhood.



Welcome New JRF Associate Gloria Garcia

Helen Keller once said, "alone we can do so much, together we can do so little." This rings true for the Jeannette Rankin Foundation team, which welcomed a few new members in the new year! We're incredibly grateful to add Gloria Garcia to our staff. She is a senior at the University of Georgia pursuing a BA in Political Science. Gloria aspires to attend law school to become a criminal defense attorney and provide adequate defense to all. "I hope to help as many women regain their independence or become more empowered through education. Education is a fundamental right and I hope to spread JRF's mission," said Gloria.

JRF SCHOLAR ALUMS PAYING IT FORWARD

We celebrate JRF Scholar Alums paying it forward in December. Each of these Alums donated to support current JRF Scholars.

- Jenna, Vancouver, WA.** Your scholarships helped me become an RN--a career I am so loving. Paying it forward so others can realize their dreams!
- Roxanne, Swanville, MN.** Past recipient of JRF Scholar Grant from the 90's! Graduated, became a CPA, owned my own firm & now retiring. Motivation & financial support so needed!
- Rhonda, Honolulu, HI** I've been so blessed and feel incredibly grateful to you all for helping me reach beyond my wildest imaginings. I am grateful that I am now able to help another woman towards her goals. I will never forget all the generosity and support I received through the JRF.