Jeannette Rankin

WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Empowering Women Through Education

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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www.rankinfoundation.org

Jeannette Rankin Fund
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Athens, GA 30606

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> The Jeannette Rankin Scholarship's support reaches beyond just school expenses but also provides motivation and encouragement to women who are hoping for a better life.
>
> — *Nam Phuc*

SCHOLAR STORY: NAM PHUC

At the tail end of the Vietnam War, Nam Phuc's family faced expulsion from their home at the hands of government officials. Her parents lacked the necessary means to support their family of 13, so they resorted to desperate measures to make ends meet. For many of her siblings, their childhood was filled with long days on the streets selling rice cakes and candy or working in factories to raise money.

Due to cultural and traditionalist views, the girls in the family were forced to quit school while the boys were allowed to continue their schooling. An excellent academic record and strong support from teachers did little to convince Phuc's mother that she needed to be in school. In addition, the lack of public education funds further cemented her inability to access education.

Her dreams to gain an education were finally realized when she relocated to the United States. While in her new home, Phuc's passion for education development grew. She began coordinating youth development activities and promoting the importance of access to education in low-income communities. Moved by her own childhood experiences, she felt it her duty to not only give back but to also inspire and encourage children to lead a successful future despite their present circumstances.

Phuc later enrolled in Borough Manhattan Community College. Her volunteer work at her school's learning center and desire to make an effective contribution in the lives of children eventually fostered an interest in teaching. This newfound passion led her to change her major from Accounting to Mathematics.

"I hope to not only teach my students mathematics skills," said Phuc, "but to also especially encourage those living in low-income communities or those that have some special family situations limiting their access to educational opportunities."

Phuc counts the Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund as an integral piece in fulfilling her purpose to serve. As she strives to make an effective difference, the organization has joined her in that calling by providing the necessary support.

"The Jeannette Rankin Scholarship's support reaches beyond just school expenses but also provides motivation and encouragement to women who are hoping for a better life," stated Phuc.

Phuc is now a graduate of the Borough Manhattan Community College with an A.S. in Mathematics. Her goal is to make those who have invested in her success proud by continuing her education on a bachelor's level and eventually become a high school teacher.

> I want to not only inspire my children, but also give them hope for their—and their children's—future... The best way I can accomplish this is to use my education to do good for our increasingly threatened and fragile world.
>
> — *Cristina Bauss*

SCHOLAR STORY: CRISTINA BAUSS

Cristina Bauss' purpose is drawn from the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy that states, "in our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations." Her passion in environmental management reinforces this purpose as she is committed to increasing sustainability efforts that are centered on the long-term health of the communities she calls home.

Bauss always recognized the pursuit of higher education as a means to not only developing oneself, but also a powerful instrument in implementing societal change. As a mother at a young age, it took her a number of years to meet the requirements necessary for university admission. She worked to earn an associate's degree, often taking a few classes at a time while working and taking care of her children. She eventually enrolled at Humboldt State University—an experience she has described as transformative and inspirational for her family.

"I want to not only inspire my children, but also give them hope for their—and their children's—future," Bauss stated. "The best way I can accomplish this is to use my education to do good for our increasingly threatened and fragile world".

Bauss concluded her studies in December 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Geography and a minor in Geospatial Analysis. Maintaining an excellent academic track record, she earned an overall GPA of 3.75; was invited to join Gamma Theta Upsilon, the International Geographical Honor Society; and was awarded the Excellence of Scholarship Award from the National Council for Geographic Education. She was one of 20 interns selected from a pool of 800 applicants to join the research division of the National Geographic Channel at the National Geographic Society in Washington D.C. At her university's commencement, she was one of two students honored with the Outstanding Student of the Year award.

Through Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund, she was able to subsidize school expenses without taking on financial burdens. "I want to thank the Jeannette Rankin Foundation for the incredible support I received the last two years," Bauss said. "It enabled me to graduate with far less student-loan debt than I otherwise would have had".

Now that she has achieved this educational milestone, she hopes to one day work in environmental policy in Latin American developing countries. Her ultimate goal is to empower the indigenous populations of Brazil or Ecuador by tapping into their incomparable knowledge of their native environments.

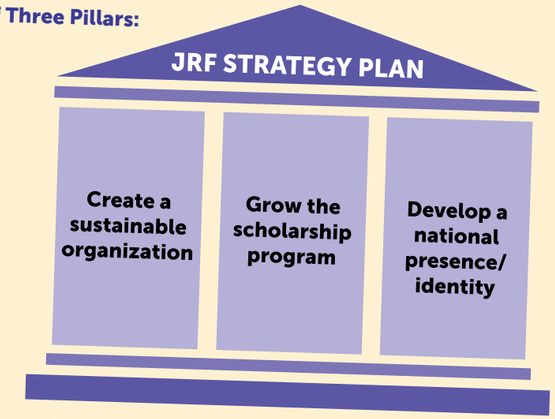
Dear Supporters and Friends -

Thank you for an incredible year!

Your support has made it possible for Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund (JRF) to provide critical funding to so many women who depend on us to finish their education and lift families out of poverty.

Our long term Strategic Plan consists of Three Pillars:

- Create a Sustainable Organization
- Grow the Scholarship Program
- Develop a National Presence and Identity



Create a Sustainable Organization
We evaluated the current infrastructure and identified critical needs to support growth. "Teamwork makes the dream work." The first priority was investing in human capital and assembling the right board and staff teams. We ended the year with a budget surplus.

Grow the Scholarship Program
The investments we made in sustainability help position JRF to grow the Scholarship Program. We are on track to provide more scholarships in 2016 onward. We changed our fiscal year to align with the scholarship cycle. This provides us the information we need to make a prudent decision on the number of scholarships to award as well as flexibility to award more scholarships if our fundraising results allow.

Develop a National Presence and Identity
We joined the ***Women's Funding Network***, an international group of women-serving organizations. We made connections with major national organizations as well as several regional women's foundations that are potential partners for JRF.

We are very excited and ready to expand our reach and deepen our impact as we build the critical infrastructure to grow JRF. Our goal is to provide more and more women and their families with the vital support they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Thank you for all you do to help make our mission possible.

Yours for Women and Education,

Karen Sterk
Executive Director
Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund

Courtney Davis
Board Chair
Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund

SCHOLAR STORY: PAM JONES

Pam Jones' career has been anything but traditional. Coming from a family where no one attended college, she got married and started working after graduating high school. She opened a small antiques and crafts business with her husband that she enjoyed and that brought on much success. Despite this achievement, she held a quiet dream to one day go to college and become a nurse. A busy life filled with three children at home and a small business to run forced her to put that dream on hold.

Her family's lives were forever changed on December 26, 2010. After a fun-filled day in the snow, her husband's shirt caught on fire while he was cooking soup to warm up the family. Jones recalls posting a message on Facebook moments before the accident that read, "A perfect end to a perfect day." They frantically struggled to remove his three layers of clothing as he was burning. Something clicked and she yelled, snow! Catching her cue, he ran outside and rolled in the cooling snow to put out the flames. The EMTs later said that the snow probably saved his life and diminished the effects of the burns.

At the hospital, they learned he had suffered third degree burns over 21% of his body and he spent the next two months in the hospital burn unit. While tending to her husband's wounds, his doctor and staff noticed that Jones had a knack for patient care and nursing. It was in those moments that her passion for nursing was revitalized. The doctors and nurses encouraged her to pursue a Registered Nursing degree and put her in touch with the hospital's nurse recruiter.

After her husband recovered, she closed the business, auctioned off all the contents, and never looked back. She enrolled in Athens Tech Associates Degree in Nursing program in 2011, completed nursing program prerequisites in 2014 and entered Athens Tech Registered Nursing program that fall.

Reflecting back on that day in 2010, she realizes that she's now a college student simply because of a home fire accident and the events that followed. "I knew I had found my life's calling, not in the way I would have chosen," said Jones, "but in a way that jolted me into the life I was destined for".

For Jones, her life began at the end of her comfort zone, and she believes that she has found real purpose and meaning while in school. She graduated with honors from Athens Technical College in May 2016 with an Associate degree in Health Science. She now works as a rehabilitation nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Athens, GA. She hopes to help as many people as possible in the same way she helped her husband recover from his life threatening burns. Turning this family tragedy into a personal triumph is her goal.

> "I knew I had found my life's calling, not in the way I would have chosen... but in a way that jolted me into the life I was destined for."
>
> — *Pam Jones*

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

$16K
in proceeds from Jeannette Rankin's property in Georgia became the seed money for Jeannette Rankin Fund.

$2M+
in scholarships awarded to 793 women.

$19,920
the median household income of Jeannette Rankin scholars with an average household of 3 people.

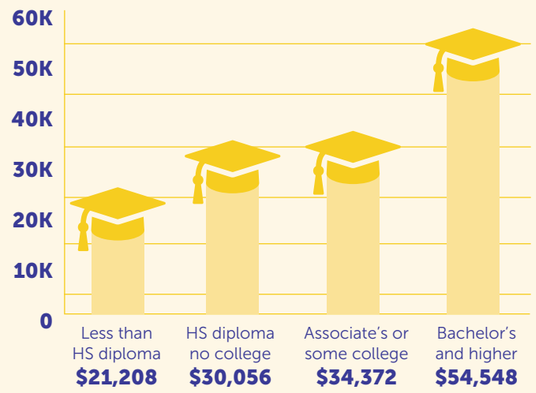
41.5% Poverty rate in the United States for single mothers who are head of households.

74.3% Jeannette Rankin scholars are heads of households; they are demonstrating the importance of education to their children.

47.1% Jeannette Rankin Scholar's are the first in their families to go to school, breaking the cycle of poverty and impacting future generations.

95.2% Alumnae respondents have earned a degree or certificate since receiving their scholarship.

SIGNIFICANT EARNINGS INCREASE for women with bachelor's degrees compared to high school diplomas.



40 YEARS
OF PROGRAM GROWTH

1976-2001 the first 25 years managed by volunteers
$300,250
in scholarships awarded

IDEAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A JEANNETTE RANKIN SCHOLAR

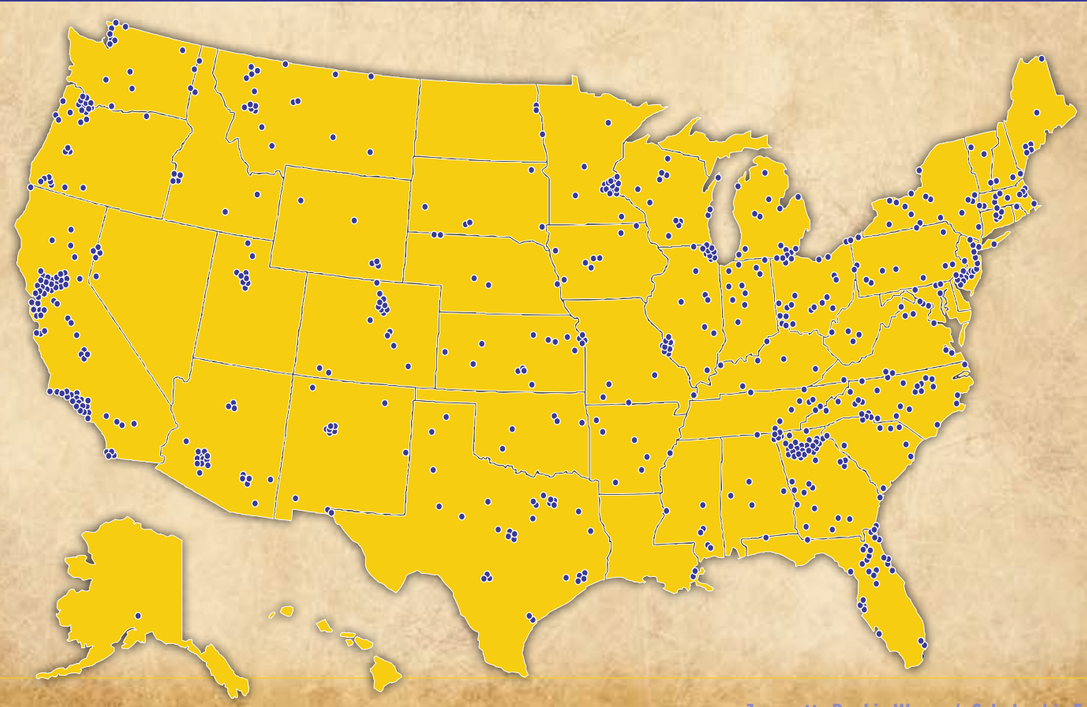
- She has clear goals – she's not in school for the fun of it; she's got a major with a career track
- She's described her plan for reaching her goals
- She's demonstrated ability to accomplish her goals through volunteer work, personal projects, family experiences, etc.
- She's shown ability and persistence in overcoming challenges and/or dealing with difficult situations
- She understands how her education will benefit herself, her family, her community

MISSION

Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund (JRF) provides scholarships and support for low-income women thirty-five and older across the U.S. to build better lives through college completion.

NATIONAL IMPACT

IN THE PAST 40 YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN 793 JRF SCHOLARS IN 49 STATES.



FOUNDER'S CHALLENGE

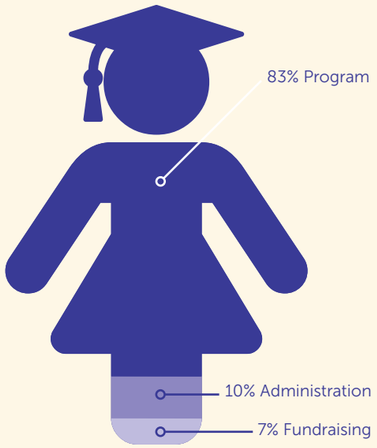
To commemorate 40 years of helping women achieve their goal of higher education, and to kick off the next 40 plus years, JRF presented the Founder's Challenge. Did you know that these five amazing women started Jeannette Rankin Foundation in a pizza shop in Athens, GA? They emptied their wallets into a breadbasket and combined their money with Jeannette's bequest of $16,000 to start the foundation. It is in this spirit they asked supporters to do the same — put money in the basket. They vowed to match every dollar in new or increased donations up to $40,000 in an effort to make the next 40 years even better. The challenge was successful, resulting in $81,000 total donations. These contributions are playing an integral role in the next chapter of JRF and will enable the organization to continue its legacy and mission of serving low-income women 35 years and older to conquer poverty and succeed.

2015 JRF SCHOLAR GRADUATES

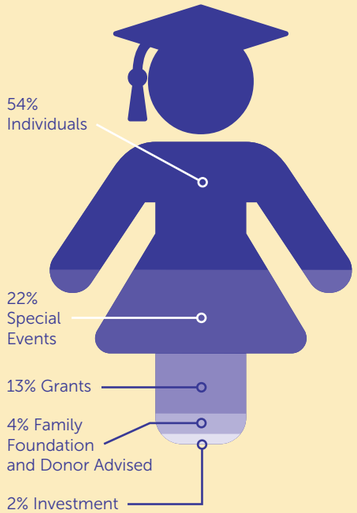
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MAJOR	DEGREE	SCHOOL	CITY	STATE
Khadijah	Abbdur-Rahman	Criminal Justice	Associate	Georgia State University	Atlanta	GA
Maria	Aboubaker	Social Work	Bachelor	Georgia State University	Chattanooga	TN
Susan	Barger	Sustainable Technology	Certificate	Mendocino College		CA
Cristina	Bauss	Geography	Bachelor	Humboldt State University	Arcata	CA
Dena	Corby	Nursing	Associate	Clark College	Vancouver	WA
Tanea	Dal Pivo	Liberal Arts	Associate	Kapiolani Community College	Honolulu	HI
Jillian	De Moya	Nursing	Bachelor	Goshen College	Goshen	IN
Molly	Dolan	Nursing	Associate	St. Catherines University	Minneapolis	MN
Shirlee	Draper	Social Work	Bachelor	University of Utah	St George	UT
Tracie	E.	Computer Science	Bachelor	Oregon State University		OR
Khia	Eagen	Emergency Services-Paramedic	Associate	Utah Valley University	Provo	UT
Pamela	Filip	Criminal Justice	Associate	Austin Community College	Austin	TX
Christine	G.	Middle Grades Education	Bachelor	Mercer University	Bremen	GA
Mary Rose	Garcia	Applied Rehabilitation Psychology	Associate	Lubbock Christian University	Lubbock	TX
Tommye Lynn	Ham	Special Education	Bachelor	Western Michigan University	Niles	MI
Carina	Hanson	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	Bachelor	Kaplan University		TX
Sarah	Harding	Nursing	Bachelor	Boise State University	Boise	ID
Jessica	Hiatt	Business Administration	Bachelor	Texas A&M University	Richardson	TX
Hannah	Hoover	Radiography	Associate	Randolph Community College		NC
Christina	Howard	Psychology	Bachelor	Purdue University	Lafayette	IN
Yukiko	Labrie	Occupational Therapy Assistant	Associate	Kapiolani Community College	Pearl City	HI
Leslie	Marroquin	Science Education	Bachelor	Texas A&M-San Antonio	Converse	TX
Donna	McBride	Psychology	Bachelor	Jacksonville State University	Anniston	AL
Esther-Hadassah	Michel	Nursing	Associate	Howard Community College	Arbutus	MD
Jamie	Murphy	Social Work	Bachelor	University of Wisconsin-Green Bay	Green Bay	WI
Michaela	O.	Practical Nursing	Certificate	Tri-County Regional Vocational	Attleboro	MA
Lecia	P.	Human Services	Associate	Niagara County Community College	Niagara Falls	NY
Elizabeth	Padilla	Radiologic Technology	Associate	San Diego Mesa College	San Ysidro	CA
Tracy	Payne	Political Science	Bachelor	Mary Baldwin College	Gordonsville	VA
Noemi	Perkins	Psychology and Human Services	Bachelor	South Piedmont Community College		NC
Nichole	Robertson	Psychology	Associate	Lane Community College		OR
Lisa	Santi	Special Education	Bachelor	MN State University-Moorhead	Hugo	MN
Merrily	Stenberg	Psychology	Bachelor	The Evergreen State College	Chehalis	WA
Irma	Valdez	Nursing	Associate	Austin Community College	Austin	TX
Sonia	Yancey	Criminal Justice	Bachelor	Appalachian State University	Winston-Salem	NC

FINANCIALS

2015 EXPENSES



2015 INCOME



SPOTLIGHT ON MAJOR FUNDERS

JUDY FAMILY FOUNDATION

Grant-making at Judy Family Foundation focuses on alleviating poverty for women and their families. Since 2012, the Judy Family Foundation has donated $25,000 for scholarships directly impacting five women, empowering them to earn degrees and change their lives through education.

BATTELLE

The Battelle Memorial Institute was founded on industrialist Gordon Battelle's vision that business and scientific interests can go hand-in-hand as forces for positive change. Battelle's mission includes a strong charitable commitment to community development and education. From 2008 through 2015, Battelle has donated $75,000 to fund 30 scholarships for women studying Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM).

MARY AND LAWRENCE HEPBURN

As retired educators, Mary and Larry understand how important college education is to secure a career that provides living wages. They have donated with IRA required distributions and donor advised funds. Mary says, "Our gift will help the Jeannette Rankin program; it doesn't need to be earmarked. Wherever there is program need, our gift provides program support."

CAROL AND PAUL KURTZ

Long-time scholarship donors Carol and Paul Kurtz are doing something different this year: donating to support all our Jeannette Rankin scholars! Instead of restricting their gift to help one woman, Carol and Paul are giving through their community foundation, making a difference for many families across the country. "Through the years of reading applications, I have always been amazed at the spark that scholarship applicants are able to muster to turn crippling events in their lives around and come to the realization that education can be the key to a new life for them and those in their family and community."

> The help I have been offered as a Jeannette Rankin Scholar is much more than simply financial. The Jeannette Rankin Foundation Scholarship is an ongoing vote of confidence that invites me to believe in my abilities and value.
>
> *— Susan Barger*

DONORS

DOCTORATE $10,000+

Anonymous
Battelle
Mary and Lawrence Hepburn
Melanie and Steve Hollis
Heather and Scott Kleiner
George Koch
Mundito Foundation

SPECIALIST $5,000 - 9,999

Susan Bailey
Margaret Graff and Richard Higgins
Lorraine Hart
Joe Irving
Judy Family Foundation
Carol and Paul Kurtz
Kirsten Nigro
Jane and Donald Nute
Gary Olerich
Kelly and Colin Thompson

MASTER'S $2,500 - 4,999

Athens Regional Health System
Laura Bierema and Mark Ebell
Brill Family Charitable Trust
Maureen Byrnes
Jinx and Gordhan Patel
Libby and Jeff Pollock
Lucy Rowland
Deb Walock
Ruth Webb
Young Boozer Family Foundation

BACHELOR'S $1,000 - 2,499

Athens First Bank & Trust
Ruth Bettandorff
Paul Boumbulian
Michelle and Kevin Cook
Christy Corbin
Alison and Mark Davis
Mark Dean
Delta Air Lines
Katherine and Bertis Downs
Luke Faulstick
Juniper Ford
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Kate Walbert
Karen Sterk and Ron Warren
Jennie and Jeffrey Wenger
Jana and Mike White
Windham Brannon
Carol and Robert Winthrop
Suzi Wong
Bradley Wood

ASSOCIATE'S $500 - 999

AT&T
Letty Ashworth
Amanda Bennett
Joan Berryman
Judith and Bruce Bierschbach
Boswell Oil Company
Virginia and Henry Raichle Carve
Janna Dresden and Ronald Cervero
Mary Lillie Chamberlin
Clothes Mentor
Beth and Ron Cogswell
Johnnetta Cole
Courtyard by Marriott
Tracy Mathews and Neal Crumb
Theresa Cullen
Courtney Davis
Gail and Larry Dendy
Craig Dishner
Engineered Systems
Clarissa Finco
Karen Fite
Shayna Gaspard
Georgia Power
CherlynGranrose
Harris & Liken LLP
Carol and Larry Hill
Pat and Nelson Holland
Industrial Mechanical Inc
Laura Jolly
Trish and Kenneth Kalivoda
Kim Keegan
Helen Wilkes and Bill Loughner Sarajane Love
Pam and Don Millar
Mitchell Bridge Dental Associates
Michele and Renee Monteil
Oconee State Bank
Peach State Federal Credit Union
Promotional Marketing Services Inc
Lisa Rafferty
Elinor Rees
Regions Bank
Rebecca Resinski
Eugenia Robertson-Thompson
Illene Roggensack
Scott Schoenberg
Carolina Seiden
Silver & Archibald
Ethelyn Simpson
Marilynn and Dick Smith
Kay A. Giese and David Sweat
Mercer and Warnes Timmons
Ted Toborg
TRC Staffing Services
Amanda Viviano
Myrna Adams and Herb West
Judy and John Willis
Mary Wood

CERTIFICATE $100 - 499

A Flair With Hair
Rachel Albert
Michiyo and Bill Allen
William Allen
Cotten Alston
Meg Amstutz
Mary Anderson
Jean Braxton and Gary Andrew
Anthony Chiropractic
Athens BMW
Andrea Barrett
Alicia Battle
Brooke Battle
Mike Beck
Diane Bell
Elizabeth Benedict
Joan and Gary Bertsch
Brenda Blanton
Donna Bliss
Claudia Saari and Jeff Boatwright
Richard Boone
Catherine and James Bradshaw
Anita and Barney Brannen
Vicki Breman
Deanna and Brian Brooks
Corrie Brown
Jenny Brown
Rachel Bryan
Tia Buckham-White
Theresa Bujnoch
Calvin Burdett
Anne Burnett
Candlewood Suites
Marty Carr
Teresa Bethke and Bob Carson Jr.
Nancy Carter
Sally Carter
Danelle Cayea
Janet Chapman
Faye Chatman
Jody Clay-Warner
Sherry Clouser
Kathleen Comerford
Faith Comstock
Vicki Connell
Kathleen Cook
LuAnn Cooley
Rosalie and Max Cooper
Gail Cowie
Betty Jean Craige
Katherine Crapo
Margaret and Eric Dahl
Tammy and Harry Dailey
Gregory Daniels
Bethany Daugherty
Alicia Davis
Corinne Davis
Pam Davis
Ellen Day
Hallie DeChant

Liese and Daniel DerVartanian
Kimberly Dibble
Mary Clare DiGiacomo
Michael Dillo
John Doble
Laine Doggett
Barbara and John Dowd
Donna Drake-Clark
Janice Emery
Anne Farnsworth
Sarah Ferguson and Jim Tolmac
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Laurie Fowler
Sharon Fradenburgh
Patricia Freedman
Eileen Paulin French
Carla Garbin
Laurie Gardes
Tobias Gerken
Jean Giannasi
Susan Goldstein
Lynda and Raymond Goodfellow
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Gowen Disability Law
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Dick and Janet Fath Henneman
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Dana Lanette Hollifield
Patricia Holmes
Andy and Gayle Horne
Melissa J. Houghton
Lisa Hsia
Margaret Huyck
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Jackson Spalding
Walter and Sandy Jarrett
Ellen Nash and Jonathan Jay
Ken Johnson
Vicki and Hank Joiner
Mary and Chris Jones
Amber Juslen
Carol Kanemasu
Sandra and Stan Kay
Linda Keller
Mary Kelly
Karen and Tom Kenyon
Jane and Bruce King
Jessica Kissinger
June Kleban
Arlene Knox
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Carrie Lamson
Rob Larsen
Sally B. Larsen
Barbara Laughlin

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Martha Lawrence and Bob McArthur
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Nicolette Lee
Caprice L'Engle
Jeffrey Levi
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Jane Payne
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Michele and Thomas Simpson
Polly Simpson

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Richard Smith
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Katherine Spindler
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Erik Stalhandske
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Susan Laurane Stout
Deborah B. Stuckey
Tish Szymurski
Susan Tate
Jim Thorson
Kathy Prescott and Grady Thrasher
Bob Toborg
Mary Toepfer
Laura and Chuck Toney
Janet Truluck
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Irene Voit
Jenna Volcheff
Carol and Jim Warnes
Barbara Wheeler
Elaine Widner
Sue and Ed Wilde
Shannon Wilder
Carla Williams
Ewart Williams
Lesley Wilsker
Ann Puckett and Thomas Wilson
Kay Wilson
Brittany and Joe Winkler
Kimberly and Matthew Winston
Stephen and Donna Marie Wood
Marcia and Royce Woosley
Mary Worthington
Allison and Gene Wright
Maureen O'Brien and George Wright
Guy Yedwab
Zoomworks

IN MEMORIUM

In Memory of Anne Bryant
Sue Lawrence and Larry Morris

In Memory of Hildegard Ebell
Laura Bierema and Mark Ebell

In Memory of Anne Farnsworth
Diane Bell
Christine Horan
Ruth and Al Ike
Barbara Laughlin
Kelly McGlaun-Fields
Diane Payne
Rebecca Prince
Rita and Frank Rooney
Sandra and James Smith
Therese Viscelli
Sue Lawrence and Larry Morris
Ann Fleischer

In Memory of Dr. Sherrie Ford
Nancy Hall

In Memory of David Fisher
Nancy Carter

In Memory of Sue Ellen Bowen Griffith
Joanne Claridge

In Memory of Melvin Hayden
Deborah B. Stuckey

In Memory of Susan Kulstad
Elaine Widner

In Memory of Arthur Lawrence
Karen and John Ellis

In Memory of Vera and Anne Purser
Jean and Gary Andrew Braxton

In Memory of Russ Richardson
William and Joyce Humston

In Memory of Maesel Sterk
Nancy Sterk
Karen Sterk and Ron Warren

In Memory of Rita Varga
Natalie and Alec Watts

In Memory of Betty Reid White
Jana and Mike White

In Memory of James Woodruff
A Flair With Hair
Barabara and Clifford Adams
Mildred Bergh
Blasingame, Burch, Garrard and Ashley
Tedd Cook
Jan and William Cooper
Harriet and David Dwyer
Jacquelyn Hill
Sandy and Walter Jarrett
Heather and Scott Kleiner
Ellen Kneip
Suzan and Vernon Meentemeyer
Steve Rissman

IN HONOR OF

In Honor of Christina Bird
Emily Collette

In Honor of Kate Blane
Mary Kelly

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> My Grandmother Frances Watson would always tell me 'Baby You Can Do It!'. Now as a JRF staff member these words still play on repeat in my mind. Every day as I enter the JRF Headquarters my focus is 'I Can Do It!'.
>
> — *LaTrena Stokes*

LATRENA'S STORY: COMING FULL CIRCLE

LaTrena Stokes's journey from being a JRF Scholar came full circle when she dedicated her career to helping other women like herself as JRF's new Scholar Engagement and Database Manager. LaTrena first joined the JRF Sisterhood of Scholars in 2011 when she was working toward her degree in human development and family science at the University of Georgia. In her original JRF Scholarship application she said, "My goal is to help pull down any barriers facing children growing up in the projects. I had to live with violence all around me, but growing up in the projects taught me many life lessons."

While in school LaTrena recalls praying, "When I graduate, I don't want just any career, I want to be in a career that will impact lives and families." What she didn't know is that very prayer would cause her to be without full time employment for eighteen months post-graduation. But her patience paid off in November 2015 when she joined JRF staff and began her work to help change more women's lives.

As a renewal Scholar, she said, "I am indebted to JRF and I can't wait to pay it forward!" Now, she 'pays it forward' each day she comes to work at JRF. LaTrena's unique perspective as a woman who has experienced similar challenges and triumphs enables her to truly connect with and support JRF Scholars.

When asked what the transition from Scholar to Staff is like she says, "Here we are celebrating 40 years and who would have thought that I would be afforded the opportunity to transition from Scholar to Staff." She also quotes Confucius, "Choose a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life."

The words of her grandmother still resonate with her. "My Grandmother Frances Watson would always tell me 'Baby You Can Do It!'. Now as a JRF staff member these words still play on repeat in my mind. Every day as I enter the JRF Headquarters my focus is 'I Can Do It!'".

We are so fortunate to have LaTrena first as a JRF Scholar and now as a staff member.

"It is with an overwhelming joy that I now join the staff of Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund. I couldn't imagine being in any other career, working with individuals more dedicated than all who are involved with JRF. I have been blessed to witness an increase in the number of women receiving the scholarship since I was a recipient."

LaTrena hopes to see that number double as she is committed to working with the team to move the mission forward. "The best is yet to come and I'm honored to be on the front lines working with an organization that is making a difference. I am so very thankful to not only have a career, but one that is changing lives, building families and transforming communities."

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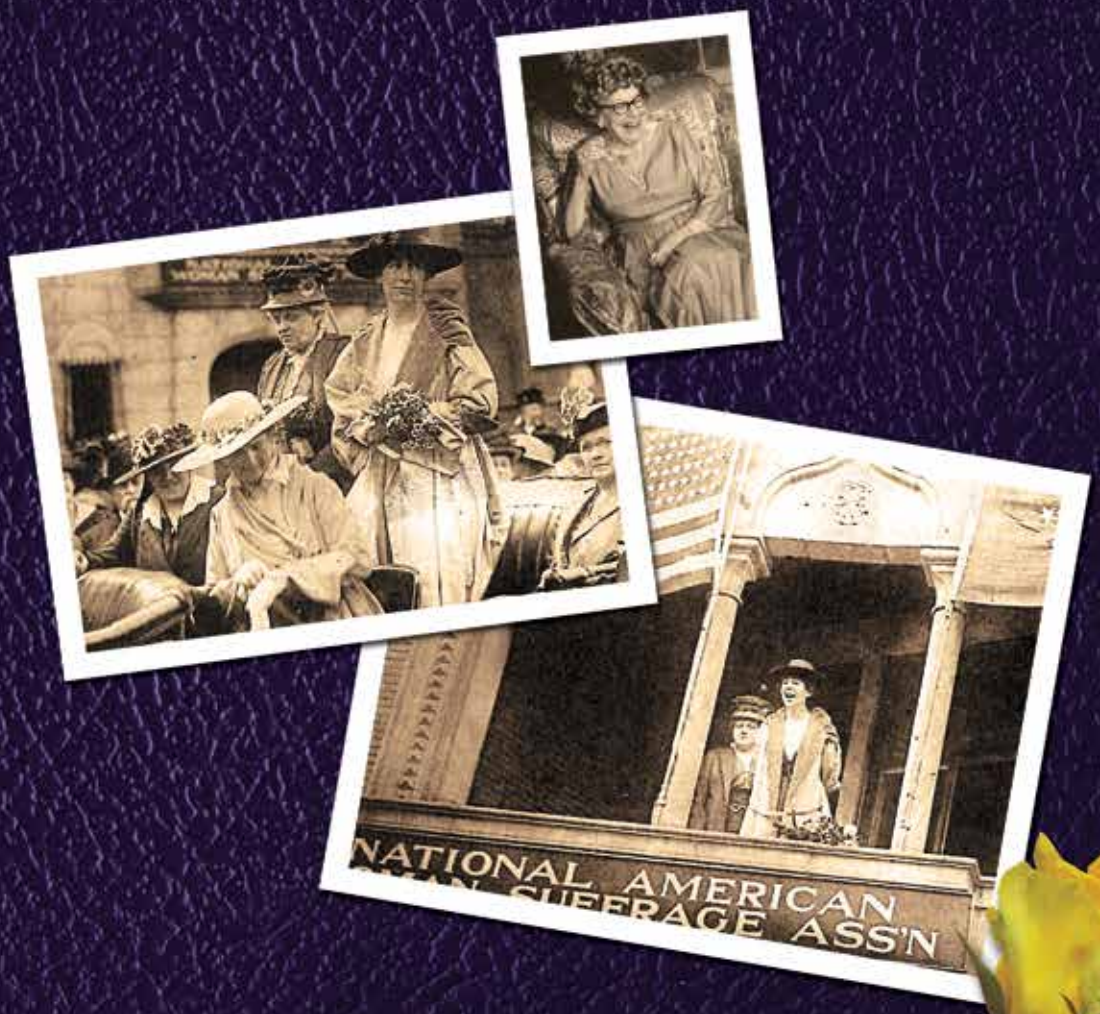

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