



The Rankin File

Dear Rankin Foundation Friends,

Happy New Year!

This year, we are proud to celebrate 50 years of the Jeannette Rankin Foundation. Through every chapter of our history, it has been our volunteers, supporters and community who have held us up and carried this work forward.

You may know that the Rankin Foundation was started from a bequest from Jeannette Rankin, who hoped to help “mature, unemployed women workers.” From that final act of care grew a foundation that has helped thousands of people improve their lives through education.

What a beautiful thing it is that Jeannette Rankin’s belief in an individual’s capacity to transform their own future continues to live on. **Through Rankin Scholars and their families, her vision carries forward across generations.**

Thank You for being part of this community and for supporting Rankin Scholars.

Karen Sterk
CEO, Rankin Foundation

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Roland Adams

MORE THAN A DECADE OF SERVICE TO RANKIN SCHOLARS



Roland Adams has been a dedicated volunteer reader with the Jeannette Rankin Foundation since 2014. For more than a decade, he has generously shared his time to help ensure Rankin Scholars are seen and supported through the application review process. His connection to the Rankin Foundation began through a longtime friendship with former Executive Director Sue Lawrence, which grew into years of volunteer service and advocacy for the Foundation's mission.

Roland has also been a champion for this community beyond application review, helping raise awareness of the Scholar Grant among institutions and leaders who serve nontraditional students, like the Georgia Military Academy where he once consulted. His belief in the power of education and in Rankin Scholars reflects the very heart of this community.

Thank You, Roland, for your steady presence and generosity!

Share Your Time and Passion for Education

Rankin Foundation Volunteer

Application Readers play a critical role in executing our mission while sharing their passion for opening doors through education. Every year, Volunteer Application Readers enable us to review hundreds of grant applications. People from around the country participate in the online evaluation process.



JOIN US!

Become a volunteer application reader today

We invite you to help select the next generation of Rankin Scholars by reading applications online.

What's Involved?

1. Attend a required, hour-long online training webinar in early March and take a short assessment to ensure you understand the process.

2. Read and evaluate 15 applications. We estimate review time will take 5 – 6 hours



[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

PLANNED GIVING SPOTLIGHT

Barbara Dowd

OPTIMIST, PHILANTHROPIST & LONG-TIME GOOD FRIEND



Sue Lawrence (left), Executive Director of the Rankin Foundation for eleven years, shares a **heartfelt story of how friendship can become generational impact**. Sue and Barbara Dowd (right) were longtime friends, a relationship rooted in shared values and a belief in the power of education. Their friendship ran so deep that Sue and her husband moved to Athens, GA at the suggestion of Barbara and her husband.. It was here that Sue joined the Rankin Foundation team. Barbara, says Sue, was a steadfast supporter of the Rankin Foundation from the beginning.

Barbara joined Sue in building our impact, attending events and bringing her signature enthusiasm to every moment. An avid traveler and optimist, Barbara's life was filled with adventure and generosity. Even as ALS slowed her activities, her passion for supporting Rankin Scholars endured. During a visit, Barbara revealed that she had included a gift to the Rankin Foundation in her will, ensuring her footprint would continue to empower women for generations.

Barbara's spirit lives on through her transformational bequest, a powerful reminder of how planned gifts can change lives. Consider how your legacy could shape the future for Rankin Scholars.

Join the Momentum

Jeannette's legacy continues today with the leadership and generosity of the many people who have followed in her footsteps!

[EXPLORE GIVING OPTIONS HERE](#)

