



Paxton, MA Garden Club

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www.paxtongardenclub.com

Executive Board Meeting Minutes August 3, 2023

Attendees: Sara Root-Simone, Robin Tasca, Pam Haman, Julie Dubuque, Mary Baker and Kelly Stimson, VP of Donor Services & Relations Greater Worcester Community Foundation

The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about the Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF) and their scholarship program. www.greaterworcester.org

The Greater Worcester Community Foundation [Scholarship Program](#) has created 139 funds and awarded 9000 plus students and distributed \$13 Million. Their investment portfolio is \$195 million.

They have 150 volunteers who serve each year on the foundation. 50 selection committees meet in April and May. 48% of awards are renewable.

The foundations handle's the scholarship process from start to finish- conducting outreach to recruit eligible candidates, screening applications and selecting recipients, Student enrollment is verified, checks are distributed to colleges directly and student progress is monitored.

A \$30,000.00 fund will yield a \$1,000.00 annual award. It is also the amount required to create a scholarship fund at the foundation.

The following items were discussed regarding the scholarship programs.

What the Greater Worcester Community Foundation process is:

- A Program Manager with a Program team that reviews all applicants who apply
- Awards a 1000.00 scholarship yearly
- Students need to go online and fill out the application. This begins in January.
- Students that apply must be a Worcester County high school student graduating
- Their Program team reviews the applications
- Once an application has been selected the money is sent to the college the student will be attending.
- Money will go towards tuition/room and board, supplies
- Greater Worcester Community Foundation tracks the progress of the students that were successfully awarded, they can reapply for renewal. The success rate is 96%
- GWCF makes a scholarship Yearbook and then sends it to the organizations.



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What would be needed to create a scholarship:

- Open an account with \$500 to \$2K
- Raise \$30,000 within four years
- Two monthly fees to go towards the Greater Worcester Community Program, these come out of account
 - Investing management fee 0.9%
 - Administration fee 1.95%
- Once the account has a \$30,000 balance, they we can start awarding to a recipient
- The Garden Club to assign a program manager and team to be the liaison that oversees the fund with GWCF. (this would be our Scholarship Subcommittee)
- The Scholarship Subcommittee would set the criteria that is used to determine an applicant's eligibility

The Exec. Board discussed some pros & cons to creating a scholarship fund with GWCF. The feasibility of going this route really depends on if we can raise the \$30K in 4 years.

The Grants Subcommittee (Martha Aksin, Robin Tasca & Pam Haman) will be meeting in Aug. to work on the Country Bank Grant and what others we can go after to see how much of the \$30K is achievable.

Next Steps:

- Mary Baker to connect with the other subcommittee members (Patti McKone, Kathy Sargent) and update them on this meeting's discussion
- Scholarship Subcommittee to meet in Sept. (date TBD) to discuss and prepare a recommendation for the Club to review during the Oct. 4, 2023 Regular Meeting

Submitted by Julie Dubuque, PMAGC Secretary