



***Cystic Fibrosis Scholarship Foundation***  
*Helping young adults with CF pursue their dreams*  
**SUMMER 2015**

***From the President:***

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, in April the Scholarship Committee awarded \$128,000 of financial aid to 43 young adults with cystic fibrosis. Our scholarship recipients will attend a variety of community colleges, state universities, and private colleges, as well as vocational training. Though these young people have achieved so much, they are still in great need of our financial support, and just knowing that there are people—and strangers, at that—willing to help them obtain an education means so much to them. Your support helps them not only accomplish their goals, but deepens their sense of community, and further enkindles both their and our faith in the generosity of others. With these awards, CFSF has now awarded \$1.5 million in scholarships to 806 deserving young adults with cystic fibrosis.

A special thanks goes to Live.Learn.Breathe who donated \$20,000 for a four year scholarship in memory of Jill M. Balboni. Live.Learn.Breathe was formed by four of Jill's lifelong friends. They wanted to take Jill's enthusiasm for life and "can do" attitude and apply that to their mission of providing college scholarships to students with cystic fibrosis. Jill always had her education as a top priority and achieved much academically and professionally in such a short period of time. Jill attended the University of Central Florida where she received her bachelors in Psychology, then attended UMASS-Boston for two masters degrees—one in Leadership and Management for Non-Profits and another in Rehabilitation. Lastly, she earned her doctorate in Law and Policy from Northeastern University in order to help make changes to the laws governing organ transplantation.

As a parent of an adult with CF, I am encouraged every day by new medical advances being made in controlling this disease and extending life expectancy. Currently over 50% of the patients with CF are over the age of 18. This is a historical achievement made possible by the ongoing research and dedication of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The Food and Drug Administration is scheduled to rule on the approval of a new drug that can impact over 50% of those with CF. This drug is the first for this group of CF patients to target the underlying cause of CF. It also makes me aware of how important our work is for those young adults struggling with this disease, as their chances for a long, rich future are increasing every minute.

I wish to express my appreciation for all of those who have helped our young adults with CF pursue their dreams during the past sixteen years, and I know I am joined in this by all of the recipients of the CFSF awards. Enjoy reading about one of the recent graduates who received a scholarship for the past four years as well as a new recipient.

***Mary Kay Bottorff***

**1555 Sherman Ave. #116, Evanston, IL 60201**  
**Phone: 847-328-0127 Fax: 847-328-4525**  
**Website: [cfscholarship.org](http://cfscholarship.org)**

## 2015-2016 Scholarship Recipients

Dear Friends of CFSF:

I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation for providing me with this amazing opportunity to memorialize and honor Jill Balboni's name. This scholarship could not be made possible without Ms. Balboni or you, and I would like to thank you with all my heart for your generosity and compassion. Cystic fibrosis is a disease that I know has impacted both of our lives in



a great way, for it has brought both good times and bad times. This disease has shaped me into the young man I am today because it is through the challenges that cystic fibrosis throws at me that I grow stronger. While letting cystic fibrosis cripple me may seem like an easy way out, simply surviving is not enough. I want to live, and I do this by seizing every day for what it has to offer. Your contribution to my higher education means the world both to me and my family. With a large amount of our family's income being used up for medications and treatments, we sometimes become worried as to how my college education will be funded. However, with your philanthropic contribution to my family, we can now worry less about our future and enjoy the present. I will be attending the Georgia Institute of Technology beginning in August. I am majoring in Nuclear and Radiological Engineering, and plan to go on to study Medical Physics.

I would just like to thank you once more because I cannot put into words how grateful I am to have received the Jill Balboni Memorial Scholarship. She was such an inspiring woman, and I am blessed that I get to honor her name through my community service and through my hard work in school. I will be sending follow up letters concerning my school and community service activities. Thank you Ms. Bridge!

Sincerely, *Andrew*

Dear Friend of CFSF:

I am writing to express my gratitude to you for the generous scholarship that was awarded me last month. I know that this scholarship will help me advance my education to a level that would be unattainable without it. I plan to use the money you have bestowed unto me to pursue an advanced education in musical instruction, with a specialty in choral education.

Choir has been my absolute passion and love for many years, and I've known that I want to make it my life's profession for the past three years. There's a certain rush I can feel from standing in front of a choir and leading them in a beautifully arranged piece of music. My choir teacher at Red Mountain high school gives all of the seniors an opportunity to conduct a song of their choice at the last concert of the year, and I took that opportunity. Based upon that experience, I now have no shadow of a doubt that I want to be a choir teacher. It is simply what makes me happy, and I know that life is too short to be spent on something that you don't love.

Out of all people who understand mortality, kids with CF are at the forefront of that group, and I'm no exception. I want to spend as much of my life doing what I love with the people I love so I can look on my accomplishments in life and be proud.



Living with CF has been a significant challenge in my life, but I don't let it define me. In my mind, I am a regular 17 year old kid who likes girls and hanging out with friends; CF takes a seat on the end of the bench in my mind. Although I am somewhat limited in my physical abilities, I don't let CF get in the way of what I want to achieve in my life.

I am truly honored to be recognized and sponsored by the Kevin Tidwell Foundation. Kevin's life is a true inspiration to me, and I hope that I can emulate his example every day as I strive to achieve my goals. Thank you so much for your donation to my life; I promise you I will use these funds to further my education and honor Kevin's life and legacy.

Sincerely, *Marcus*

## *Letter from Reid D'Amico Class of 2015 at Duke University*



Our parents always told us to never take any moment for granted because before we know it, we'll be onto the next stage of life. I still remember getting my first college acceptance letter, and feeling an overwhelming sense of denial; it was beyond my comprehension to imagine a life devoid of the high school and routines of living at home. And now, four years later, I find myself in a similar position. It just goes to show, how fast time flies. College, in my opinion, has been the most overwhelming, wonderful, stressful, yet life changing past four years. For me at Duke University, I had the opportunity to meet people of varying backgrounds, religions, and beliefs. Growing up in South Carolina, this was a pretty eye opening experience, and one that has given me a great propensity to work with

people in my future. However, for the majority of people reading this, we all have had a slightly different college experience than the majority, for our lives were heavily involved with cystic fibrosis.

Whether you are a parent, sibling, or the patient, we all understand how CF can impact a life. To my fellow students who received awards from the Cystic Fibrosis Scholarship Foundation, we share a common bond beyond our mere gratefulness of the scholarship, since we also understand that there is no way to prepare for college when you have cystic fibrosis.

While it may have taken me a few years, I started to view my CF as a great asset—as a tool to comprehend both the aspects of learning while also applying knowledge practically. As a Biomedical Engineering major, I was able to see the world through two lenses: the patient and the scientist. To me, this ignited a passion because my experiences with the clinic and therapies allowed me to see the needs of those with chronic illness and how I can apply those in a laboratory setting. In my time at Duke, I was able to help work on studies that found the genes responsible for cancers in obesity, engineer a new biomaterial that could turn fat-derived stem cells into tendons, and even file a provisional patent for a novel pancreatic cancer diagnostic blood test. Now, while these areas of study may seem unrelated to the field of pulmonary and cystic fibrosis research, I believe these experiences have given me a great head start to venture into the field of understanding, treating, and curing a disease we all know too well.

Starting in August of 2015, I will start my PhD in Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt University. I plan to use stem cells and biomaterials to develop the next generation of polymeric biomaterials for regenerative medicine and medical device technologies. My ultimate goal is to apply my findings to pulmonary diseases like cystic fibrosis. It has been difficult for me to find labs and programs that allow me to combine an engineering approach with pulmonary diseases, but I am confident I will be able to find success in what I do.

For one last time, I will be writing my thank you letter to the Cystic Fibrosis Scholarship Foundation, and I truly could not be more grateful for all of the donors who could make college a reality. It's been a great and challenging four years, and I hope that the CF students just entering college will realize their disease is not a shortcoming, but instead a great asset for passion and success.

### ***35th Annual Phoenix Invitational Tournament***

The Kevin Tidwell Foundation hosted the 35<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament in Phoenix on April 24 and 25, 2015. The event kicked off Friday evening at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort with a light dinner and the silent auction which included 5 nights in a condo in Puerto Vallarta. It was great to see old friends come to start off this fun event. Orange Tree Golf Resort hosted the golfers and a luncheon on Saturday which included a raffle of some great prizes. A portion of the proceeds were donated to CFSF in memory of Kevin Tidwell, a young man who lost his battle with CF. In April 2015, two scholarships of \$10,000 each were funded from contributions of the Kevin Tidwell Foundation to CFSF.

The Kevin Tidwell Foundation's scholarships have made a significant impact upon many young adults with CF. We are very grateful for the support this wonderful organization has provided to our young adults with CF over the years.

### ***Upcoming Golf Event in Cincinnati Area***

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Tim and Ritch Dangel Memorial Golf Scramble will be held on Saturday September 26 beginning at 10AM at Circling Hills Golf Course in Harrison, Ohio. This event includes golf, a dinner and prizes at the course. The fee for this event is \$80 per person. Proceeds from this event benefit CFSF. If you are interested in playing at this fun tournament, please contact Rick Niklas at 513-245-6021 or [RJNiklas@gmail.com](mailto:RJNiklas@gmail.com).

Tim and Ritch were brothers who both had CF. Tim died in 2001 at the age of 33 and Ritch passed away in 2006 at the age of 36. Tim worked as an architect in Cincinnati and Celina. He was waiting for a lung transplant at the time of his death. Ritch died from a rare liver disorder. At the time of his death he was the senior project manager for Messer in Dayton, Ohio. Ritch loved boating and water sports and was an accomplished "barefoot" water skier. Tim and Ritch never let cystic fibrosis keep them from living life to the fullest. Their family organizes this event in memory of the brothers and the proceeds are then awarded to one student each year.

### ***Amazon Smile***

If you purchase items from Amazon please sign up for Amazon Smile. A percentage of each of your purchases is then contributed to CFSF. It is a simple way to help us provide more young adults with CF a college education. Sign-up today at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), and select the Cystic Fibrosis Scholarship Foundation, and leave the rest to Amazon!

### ***Upcoming Wine Tasting Event – Chicago***

The annual Chicago wine tasting to benefit CFSF is planned for the Sunday afternoon of January 31, 2016 at The Chicago History Museum. This year we will travel to Europe to enjoy wine and food from Southern Italy. The afternoon will include a silent auction as well as a raffle and our fun Buy a Cork. We are seeking corporate sponsors for the event. Sponsorship levels are \$2,500, \$5,000 and \$10,000. If you know of any companies who might be interested in this opportunity to help our young adults with CF, please contact the office.

If you are interested in working on the committee to help promote the event, please contact us at 847-328-0127. It is a great afternoon and we would love to have more people share this wonderful afternoon with us.

### ***Honor Someone You Love – Remember Someone You Miss***

Searching for a special gift to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, the holidays or wedding? Looking for a meaningful way to remember a loved one? This may be the right time for you or someone you know to help our young adults with CF pursue their dreams. It is easy to do. Fill out the enclosed envelope and send it to CFSF. We will promptly send the recipient notification of your donation and send you an acknowledgement.

## Scholarship Winners for 2015-2016 Announced

The Cystic Fibrosis Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the forty-three scholarships awarded in April 2015. The following students have been awarded multi-year scholarships:

Xander Bailey	West Virginia	Justin McIsaac	Rhode Island
Jessica Bryson	North Carolina	Mikaela Moore	South Dakota
Jaelyn Cooper	Arkansas	Camille Niccum	Illinois
Summer Davis	Washington	Haylee Reed	Massachusetts
Briana Fulk	Virginia	Kara Riggle	Nebraska
Kimberly Howard	California	Magnolia Roth	North Carolina
Kara Lewis	North Carolina	Annika Shelstad	Minnesota
Austin Martin	Colorado	Frederick Siegle	Kentucky

The following students have been awarded single year scholarships:

Samantha Ackerly	Maine	Kendall Miller	Alabama
Chad Bowling	West Virginia	Mark Moening	Minnesota
Beatrice Braever	Maine	Liam Montgomery	South Dakota
Donald Butland	Georgia	Bryce Oertel	Wisconsin
Victoria Cervantes	Texas	Abby Quinn	North Carolina
Caroline Cole	New York	Courtney Schumacher	Arizona
Heather Hagopian	Illinois	Kailee Scott-Unger	Oregon
Alexander Hess	New York	Elizabeth Shea	Florida
Ian Livingston	California	Allison Steinbrueck	Missouri
Camiah McNeal	Illinois	Anna Tyson	Colorado
Kirstin Miller	Kentucky		

We are pleased to announce the recipient of the Jill M. Balboni Memorial Scholarship funded by the LiveLearnBreathe Foundation is Andrew Denig. Andrew will receive \$5000 per year for four years. Andrew will be attending the Georgia Institute of Technology studying nuclear and radiological engineering. He plans to be a medical physicist.

We are also pleased to announce that the recipient of the Kevin Tidwell Memorial Scholarship is Marcus North. He will receive \$2500 per year for four years. He is from Arizona and will be attending Brigham Young University in Utah and plans to pursue a degree in Choral Education and Music. This scholarship is made possible by the generous donation of \$10,000 from the Kevin Tidwell Foundation.

A scholarship in memory of Glen Parsons has also been funded by the Kevin Tidwell Foundation. Glen was a founding member of the Kevin Tidwell Foundation who donated his time and energy to that organization for over twenty years. This \$10,000 scholarship was awarded to Kylee Garrison. Kylee is from Mississippi and is planning to major in mechanical and aerospace engineering.

Samuel Zaref has been awarded the Tim and Ritch Dangel Memorial Scholarship. Samuel is from Connecticut and plans to study industrial design. He will receive \$2000 per year for four years. This award has been made possible by the fundraising efforts of the family of Tim and Ritch Dangel in Ohio. The family sponsored a golf tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio and the proceeds were donated to fund this scholarship.

Jacob Weinstein and Kayleigh MacGregor are each recipients of the Michael Gaddes Memorial Scholarships funded by the Michael Gaddes Foundation in Michigan. Each student will receive \$2000 per year for two years. Jacob lives in Florida and Kayleigh is a resident of California.

We wish to congratulate all of our award recipients as well as all of our applicants and wish them all the best in their studies this fall. Congratulations to all!