

**THE GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
FOR THE SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Scholarships are awarded to Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools High School graduates based on specific selection criteria described in the respective scholarships and the information provided on scholarship applications. Unless stated otherwise, scholarships are non-renewable.

- **The Helen Houvener Scholarship**

- **Education or Science Major**
- **Financial Need**
- **Minimum 2.75 GPA**
- **Participation in School and Community Service**

Helen Houvener was born March 3, 1914, and lived in Augusta. She graduated from Augusta High School in 1932. Her father, Johnny Houvener, was described as the loveable, grandfatherly custodian at Augusta Elementary School in the 50s. Helen attended the University of Michigan for one year, then transferred to the Michigan State Normal School (later Eastern Michigan University). She is pictured in the Michigan State Normal School's yearbook *Aurora* in 1936. Miss Houvener taught at Augusta High School for at least a year, as she appears in a class photo from 1944. She eventually joined the faculty at Battle Creek Central High School, where she taught for 30 years while still living in Augusta for most of her life. She was active in Augusta village administration, serving on the McKay Library Board. Helen was responsible for compiling a history of Augusta called *How Dear to Our Hearts* in 1976. Her scholarship, research and coordination on this project produced a wonderful reference guide to the village's story. Helen was single and childless; she died in Kalamazoo on September 19, 1995. True to her love of education, she set up a scholarship for the children of the community.

- **The June McNeil Scholarship**

- **Financial Need**
- **Career Plans**
- **Good Character**

June McNeil was born on June 19, 1902, in Barry County to Fred McNeil and Nancy Viola (Daisy) Rock. She had one sister, Maxine, born in 1913. Miss McNeil was a lifelong resident of Augusta, and she was employed as an occupational therapist at the Battle Creek Veteran's Administration Hospital. When she died on April 14, 2000, at age 98, a scholarship fund was endowed from her estate.

- **The Lions Club Scholarship**

- **Technical School or Community College**
- **Financial Need**

- **The Lioness Club Scholarship**

- **Female**
- **Good Character**

Established by the former Galesburg Lioness Club in 2013.

- **The Hester/Duggan Scholarship,**

- **Excelled in academics & the arts, music or sports**
- **4-Year College or University**

In memory of Judy and Jackson Hester and Bob Duggan. Est. May 2004/2014

- **The Alex and Sue Forrester Scholarship**

- **Excelled in academics & arts, music or sports**
- **2 or 4-Year College or University**

Established in memory of this husband/wife. Career teachers at G-A schools, they were very involved with all age levels of education including design and participation on Building Committees for both the Primary and High School buildings. Est. 2006/2010

- The **VanSickler Scholarship**
 - **Not in Top 10**
 - **Desire to reach specific goal**
 - **Demonstrated work ethic to reach specific goal**
 - **Shown potential to succeed**

A bequest from the estate of **Violet VanSickler** established scholarships in the VanSickler name. Violet VanSickler was a career teacher in elementary education (at several schools-not G-A) and lived in the Galesburg area for many years. Est. 2007

- The **MaryAnn and Al Bonine Scholarship**
 - **Involvement in Community Activities**

Mary Ann and Al were longtime residents of the Galesburg area and, Mary Ann was a retired G-A teacher. Upon her death, funds were endowed to create a scholarship in their name. Est. 2013

- The **Thomas A. Plein Endowed Scholarship**
 - **Michigan College or University**
 - **High degree of Academic Success**
 - **Financial Need**

The Thomas A Plein Foundation endowed funds through the GACS Foundation for a scholarship to be awarded in memory of **Juanita and Wiley Holbrook**, long-time residents of Galesburg and firm believers in the benefits of education and the promise of our young people. Est. 2011

- The **Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Foundation Scholarship**
 - **Participation in school and community activities**
 - **Well defined goals/career aspirations**
 - **Financial Need may be considered**

- The **Bob & Lee Griffin Scholarship**
 - **Minimum 2.50 GPA**
 - **Participation in school and community service**
 - **Work experience**
 - **Science, Education or the Arts (including creative writing) Major**
 - **Full time enrollment in 2 or 4-Year not-for-profit college or university**

The Griffins are residents of Augusta. Bob is retired from Upjohn/Pfizer and Lee is a retired freelance writer. Although they reside outside the G-A School District, their grandchildren resided in and graduated from Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools. They are invested in our community and wanted the opportunity to give back to G-A students and hopefully, inspire others to do the same. Est. 2014.

- The **Marie VanVranken-Rambow Scholarship**
 - **Minimum GPA above 3.50**
 - **Michigan College or University**
 - **Financial Need**
 - **Preference to Agriculture or Horticulture Major, if applicable**

Agriculture and horticulture were areas of study of interest to Marie. The scholarship was established by Lisa Kreutz to honor the memory of her grandmother, Marie VanVranken-Rambow. Marie was a member of the Galesburg Class of 1943 and passed away in June 2014 at the age of 89. Est. 2014.

- The **Susan J. Martin Scholarship**

- Female
- Minimum GPA 2.50
- Medicine, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, or Veterinary Medicine Major
- Involvement in school and community service
- Financial need
- **Essay required – outlining qualifications and educational/career goals**

Susan Jean Bowen Martin was a 1968 G-A High School graduate who especially loved biology and wished to pursue a career in medicine. A lack of financial resources stood between Susan and her goals. She married Dale Martin, who taught science at G-A schools and, was a resident of the Galesburg community. During her lifetime, Susan's love of biology, science and medicine continued through her work as an emergency medical technician and dental assistant. The initial award was made possible by a donation from Sue's high school biology teacher, George McGinnis. Through the generosity of those who knew her, this scholarship will continue to be awarded in Sue's memory. Est. 2016.

- The **McGinnis Scholarship**

- Minimum GPA 2.50
- Good Citizenship in school
- Planning to attend Adrian College (Adrian, Michigan) or another MIAA Michigan College studying education or sciences (preference will be given to Adrian College)

George R. McGinnis, a teacher and coach at Galesburg-Augusta from 1961-1971, endowed this scholarship in honor and memory of his daughter, Deborah McGinnis-Lucas. George McGinnis grew up in the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph area and attended Adrian College, later obtaining his degree from Western Michigan University. He served on the alumni board at Adrian College for several years and was later recognized as an outstanding alumnus of Adrian. George was a well-respected teacher and football coach at Galesburg-Augusta. He taught General Sciences, Biology and Advanced Biology and, was the line coach with Head Coach Bill Maskill from 1962-1967 and 1970. In those 8 years, the Rams won 6 KVA titles and 4 Class C State Titles. He left G-A to teach and coach at Ferris State University. Later, while living in Thousand Oaks, CA, he entered several Senior Olympics competitions winning several titles. In 2011, George was inducted to the G-A High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Throughout his career as a teacher and coach, George always had, and still has, a special place in his heart for the students of Galesburg-Augusta! Encouraging students to pursue further education, George has displayed his support by several generous contributions to the GACS Foundation as well as establishing a scholarship at Adrian College. Est. 2017

- The **Burge/Tindall Scholarship – Renewable for up to one additional year for a 2-year degree and up to three additional years for a 4-year degree (* indicates criteria for renewals)**

- *2.80 – 3.80 GPA (cumulative GPA for renewals)
- *2 or 4-Year College or University – full time student
- Involvement in school and community activities
- Work experience
- **Essay required – explaining improvement in academics or consistent effort over the four years in high school as well as work experiences**
- **Letters of recommendation (1 or 2) – from adults who are not family members; at least one must be from a teacher speaking to the applicant's improvement in academics, their character, and potential for success in their chosen field**

The Burge/Tindall Scholarship was established at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation in September 2009 through the estate of Katheryn Tindall for the purpose of assisting high school seniors, enrolled at Galesburg-Augusta High School, with the cost of higher education. The trust is not administered by GACS Foundation, but GACS Foundation has been appointed as the Selection Committee for the scholarship. Est. 2009