



Rome College Foundation

139 W. Dominick Street Rome NY 13440 Ph (315)337-1700 Fx (315)337-1715
info@RomeCollegeFoundation.com www.RomeCollegeFoundation.com

**55 Years
of Service
1966-2021**

Quarterly Report

October 2021

Rome College Foundation 2021

The Rome College Foundation develops, advocates and offers a wide variety of college programs for all area residents. As funds grow through grants, donations and bequests, the Foundation continues to expand its scholarship programs. Contributions made payable to the Rome College Foundation, an IRS 501(c)(3) organization, are tax deductible to the extent provided by law; please consult your tax advisor. The Board of Trustees meets monthly and continues to be a catalyst for higher education initiatives. For more information, call the Foundation at the Rome Area Chamber of Commerce office, 315-337-1700, or visit www.RomeCollegeFoundation.com.

Scholarships totaling \$4500 presented at January 2021 Annual Meeting

Among those at the Rome College Foundation's annual scholarship presentations to college students:

The \$1000 Rome College Foundation Scholarships were presented by Foundation President Suzanne Carvelli to Molly Closinski-Utica College, Psychology Child-Life/Childhood Education and Kyle Clark-SUNY Poly, Electrical/Computer Engineering. Franca Armstrong, Foundation Vice President, presented a \$1000 Rome College Foundation Scholarship to Aliyah Marvel-MVCC, majoring in Accounting. Aliyah also received the \$1500 Credit Bureau Scholarship in May 2021.



The \$2,000 Charles T. Beeching/Revere Copper Products Family Scholarship was presented by Foundation President Suzanne Carvelli and Mike Kimmel,

Human Resources Manager, Revere Copper Products - to Kaden Ozog, a June 2021 graduate of Poland High School who will be pursuing a degree in Engineering. To his right are his parents, David and Becky Ozog, who were present during the meeting.



Foundation President Suzanne Carvelli and Beth Jones, President of Black Owl Consulting, Inc., presented a \$500 scholarship to Ryker Acquasanta-MVCC, in memory of Dr. Michael C. Wicks. This new scholarship provides financial assistance to a student currently enrolled in an engineering and science curriculum at MVCC whose goal is to pursue a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. The criteria also includes the importance of having a need for financial support and a desire to be passionate about helping others.

The \$500 Professional and Business Women of Rome Scholarship recipient, Phoebe Marvel-MVCC, majoring in Accounting, center, was presented by PBW President Beth Jones and Foundation Vice President Franca Armstrong.



I began my tenure on the Rome College Foundation Board while serving a term as an elected member of the Rome City School District Board of Education. I believe in providing each child within our community the opportunity to reach their full potential and become a productive member of our society. For many students that wanted to continue their educational goals not being able to afford the opportunity was bothersome to me. Having the opportunity to be a small part of their success was what made the decision to serve on the Board easy.

This past year has helped to reinforce the concept of cooperation. So many people were in need and seeing our community come together to help each other in any way possible was very heartwarming. We all have something to give - in many different ways and forms - and watching people pitch together for the common good was something I hope can continue forward. It makes our community a much stronger, united place.

I presently serve as the President of the Board. As I am involved in other educational forums it is easy to see how interrelated they all are. Over the course of the last year it has been interesting to see how connected each entity truly is to each other. I serve on the Education Committee of the Rome Chamber of Commerce and understanding the importance of a strong, committed educational community to all in the local area is paramount.

Being able to help our students achieve their career goals is extremely satisfying. It not only helps them personally but helps to make our local communities stronger by having an available workforce for our businesses. Seeing us all achieve our goals - be it college or a trade - is extremely satisfying.

Any time we as an organization can bring added value to our local community it is worthwhile. The College Foundation is able to by offering scholarships to graduating high school seniors and to students at our local colleges who have completed their first year. This opportunity to help is at times the only financial support these students - many of whom have families - can obtain and is exactly what we as an organization hope to accomplish, which is helping others obtain their career goals!

-- Suzanne Carvelli, President
Rome College Foundation

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I joined the Rome College Foundation Board of Trustees because I have always believed in the power of education and what it can do for people. I believe that the Foundation provides people with additional opportunities to continue their education and provide them with pathways into new lives.

This past year I learned that people are resilient and that they can overcome just about anything. We have seen disruption like we have never seen in our lifetimes and I have watched people overcome those disruptions and still thrive. It has been inspiring.

The Rome Chamber continues to find new ways to bring people together and help businesses move forward. The Foundation is fortunate to have such a good partner and the community is fortunate to have the Chamber.

Despite the past few years of COVID, our future in the Rome area is brighter than it has ever been. We have new businesses and continued projects growing regularly. I am confident that the Chamber will continue to serve the area and continue to help those businesses succeed. As a partner, the Foundation is helping to grow tomorrow's workforce to help those businesses succeed. We are always grateful for the community's support to the Foundation and its mission to enhance educational opportunities for Rome students.

-- Franca Armstrong, Vice President
Rome College Foundation

2021 STAR Awards presented to RFA and NYSSD students and their most influential educators

The Foundation held its annual Student/Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) awards luncheon and ceremony in March at Rome Free Academy. Each student received a \$400 scholarship made possible by the Foundation and the Sears Family Foundation. The educators received a framed certificate of recognition.

From left: Hunter Ocmund (student); Kara Adama (Hunter's Most Influential Educator) Nathaniel Hoose (student); Jennifer Roberts (Nathaniel's Most Influential Educator) and Franca Armstrong, Vice President of the Rome College Foundation.

From left: Christine Scharf (Most Influential Educator); Jordan Purrington (student who selected Mrs. Scharf); John Smales (Most Influential Educator); Chandni Desai (student



My father always served on various boards and committees during my childhood years and beyond. He believed in community and service and I took those attributes from him. Helping others and being a part of something bigger than yourself has always been very appealing to me. My focus has primarily been on kids and students, as it relates to volunteering. The Rome College Foundation is the perfect place to have a positive impact on a young person's life. Giving away money that will help shape someone's short and long term future is a no brainer!

As a great poet once said: "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get!" With that in mind, I've learned to have patience over the last year and I need to continue working on that. I also learned that I need to be around people and I'm a hands-on person, who likes problem solving more than I realized. Out of all the chaos, I learned that I'm still very capable of learning new things and ways to do things. I can adapt to just about anything. The work of organizations like the College Foundation is even more important today, due to all the challenges students have had over the last year and a half.

Evaluating all the scholarship applications submitted to the College Foundation has been very rewarding and you learn so much about the applicants. They come from different walks of life and have different needs, but the goals are always the same. They want to better themselves and their short and long-term situations. That's what makes it so difficult choosing one applicant over the other. The board is made up of likeminded people whose mission is to help our students fulfill their dreams, and make it a little easier to do with the scholarship money they receive.

The College Foundation couldn't have chosen a better partner and administrative service to use than the Chamber of Commerce. Their missions align and I serve on the Chamber Education Committee, so I know from firsthand experience. The Chamber has the resources and network, to touch a larger part of the community, especially on the business side. The Chamber has and can continue to have a positive impact in so many areas in our community. Continue promoting all the positive things in the Rome community that are happening and will be happening. But also promote the ethnic diversity in our community and how it can also be a positive thing for our current businesses and new businesses looking for opportunities in Rome.

-- Bruce Hairston, Secretary
Rome College Foundation

Robert A. O'Meara Human Services Scholarship presented



This \$1500 award was presented by Rome College Foundation Treasurer Brenda McMonagle, center, to Madison Garcia a fourth-year student at SUNY Cortland who plans to teach in Early Childhood Education. Selma O'Meara, widow of Rev. O'Meara and a longtime educator, co-presented the award.

Scholarships presented to RFA 2021 Seniors

\$1000 Bernhard Family Award to Mariah Taylor, who will attend Farmingdale State College for Aeronautical Science; **\$750 Charles R. Getty Award** to Alexa Platis, who will attend University of Arizona for Business/Accounting; **\$1000 Holly Chapter 178 OES Awards** to Myia Wright, who will attend SUNY Morrisville for Nursing and Harun Shaik, who will attend Mohawk Valley Community College for Nursing; **\$1000 James J. Gillette Award** to Evan DeLutis, who will attend St. John Fisher College for Sport Management; **\$2000 Julius J. Perillo Scholarship** to Hailee Catalano, who will attend Pace University for Early Childhood/Childhood Education; **\$1000 James Wood Scholarship** to Lily Fleming, who will attend Boston College for Education; **\$250 Rome TWIGS Awards** to Lily Bone, who will attend Mohawk Valley Community College for Psychology and Taylor Griffin, who will attend Westfield State majoring in Environmental Science; **\$1000 Randa Ratazzi Scholarship** to Lauryn Haag, who will attend Nazareth College for Biomedical Sciences and minor in Dance Studies.



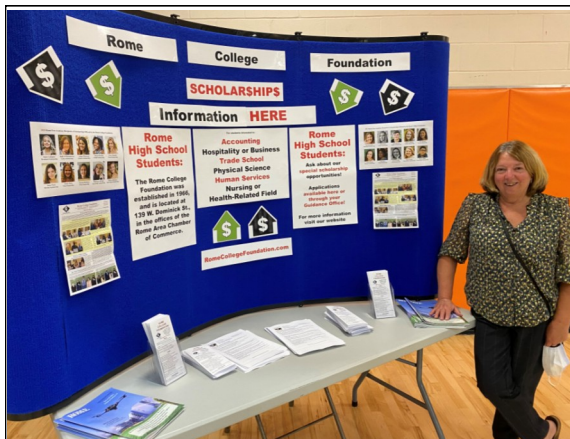
I joined the Rome College Foundation Board of Trustees in 2005 because I wanted to get more involved in the community. This was a gateway for me, through my volunteer participation, to play an active role in organizing programs that promote the value of education and the importance of preparing our future workforce to successfully meet the challenges they will be facing as they grow into adulthood. Being involved with the Foundation has helped me to become acquainted with other nonprofit organizations and to become actively involved on their Boards and Committees for the same general purpose, which is, to improve the overall quality of life we share here in Rome.

This past year or more since COVID, I learned that it's okay to slow down and spend more time at home, while at the same time continuing to be productive and actively engaged at work and in the community.

As a Trustee, I've held the four officer positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. It has been and continues to be a great learning experience. I enjoy volunteering at RFA College Night and our STAR Awards Program is fabulous, where we give grants to graduating seniors at Rome Free Academy and the New York State School for the Deaf and they recognize their most influential educators.

The administrative support afforded by the Chamber is invaluable to the Foundation – we sincerely appreciate their support and the visibility they provide.

-- Brenda McMonagle, Treasurer
Rome College Foundation



Foundation represented annually to promote the availability of its scholarships at RFA College Night

Rome Free Academy hosts College Night each year in October, providing students from Rome and the surrounding districts opportunities to meet college representatives and consider various college choices. Shown with the Foundation's 2021 display is Rome College Foundation President Suzanne Carvelli. Seniors graduating from RFA and the New York State School for the Deaf are eligible to apply for several scholarships. More information is available at www.RomeCollegeFoundation.com.

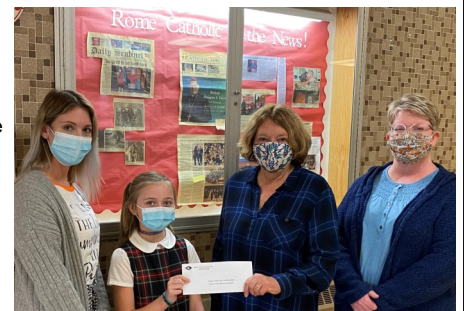
2021 Peter A. Fabrizio, Jr. Award presented to RCS student

Rome Catholic School student Claire Townsend is recipient of the Peter Fabrizio, Jr. Scholarship. L/R: Brittany Townsend, RCS Kindergarten Teacher is standing next to her daughter as Suzanne Carvelli, Foundation President presents the award to Claire with Nancy Wilson, RCS Principal, looking on. This was the final presentation of the award, established in 2003. Claire received \$513.41, which was the remaining balance in the fund. Previous recipients include:

Luna Mathis, 2019
Cooper Goetz, 2018
Cecilia Clare Maxwell, 2017
Mimi Preski, 2016
Isaiah Sexton, 2015
Adrianna Dipini and Andelise Roux, 2014
Alexis Crever, 2013

In 2012, a donation of \$1000 was made to the Rome Sports Hall of Fame & Museum in recognition of Peter's many sports related accomplishments

Nicholas Jordan, 2011
Anthony Acosta, 2010
Conner Grey, 2009
Deven Desai, 2008
Daniel McKeown, 2007
Ankur Desai, 2006
Sandy Wilson, 2005
Ethan Parlato, 2004



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Scholarships, Awards, and Grants offered by the Rome College Foundation

- Since 1991, the Foundation has been giving the **Rome College Foundation Scholarships** to Rome area college students. They are awarded to four students who qualify, one each from Utica College, SUNY Poly, Mohawk Valley Community College, and Hamilton College. The awards, in the amount of \$1,000 per student, are based on academic achievement, citizenship, and need. Since 2008, the **Sears Family Foundation** has been co-funding the awards, providing invaluable support to this program. In 2004, the Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties Inc. established the **Credit Bureau of Utica/Rome College Foundation Fund** in the amount of \$30,000. As a result, an annual award is now given, also in the amount of \$1,000, to a student at one of the local colleges who is pursuing studies in an accredited program leading to a degree in business or a health-related discipline.
- With grants from the **Sears Family Foundation**, the Foundation co-sponsored several programs administered by the Chamber's Education Committee, including: Sophomore Mentoring Program for students at RFA and NYSSD; Career Fair at RFA; College Night at RFA; the "Be Cool" substance abuse education program in cooperation with Rome Memorial Hospital for fifth graders; and a STEM seminar for high school students presented with ANDRO Computational Solutions.
- At the annual **Student/Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program**, the Foundation recognizes students from NYSSD and RFA, along with the educator each honoree feels has had the most significant influence on his or her life. Financial Grants of \$200 were initially presented to each student. Since 2008, the **Sears Family Foundation** has been making it possible for the grants to be increased to \$400.
- Revere Copper Products, Inc. selected the Rome College Foundation to administer an endowment fund entitled the **Charles T. Beeching - Revere Copper Products, Inc. Family Scholarship** in the amount of \$2,000. It is awarded annually to a son or daughter of a Rome-based Revere employee and is based on scholastic achievement, citizenship, and community activities.
- Rev. Robert A. O'Meara dedicated his life to the betterment of peoples everywhere. The **Rev. Robert A. O'Meara Scholarship**, in the amount of \$1,500, began in 2007 and is awarded to adults who wish to enhance their current human services skills, to re-enter the human services, or to change their career to human services.
- The **Peter A. Fabrizio, Jr. Scholarship Fund** was established in 2003 and is given to a Rome third grader who holds the highest grade average at the end of May and will continue to attend a Catholic School. Peter died in a tragic auto accident in 2002 and, at the request of his parents, the Foundation administers the scholarship.
- In 2010, the Foundation began offering a new grant program to support collaborative projects among area colleges, made possible through a gift from the estate of **James J. Gillette**, a long time Rome business owner who passed away in 2006. In 2012, the program was changed to offer a \$1,000 scholarship to a RFA or NYSSD senior who plans to pursue a career in the either the hospitality or business fields.
- On behalf of the **Rome Twigs**, the Foundation awards scholarships in varying amounts to qualified students from RFA who will be pursuing careers in nursing or health-related fields. Each student receives a Twigs Scholarship in varying amounts. The scholarships are funded by the Twigs to honor the memory of their deceased members.
- The **Bernhard Family Scholarship** was established in 2011 in memory of Joseph W. Bernhard, a Rome businessman who passed away in 2011. As a result of a gift from his estate, the Foundation began awarding \$1,000 scholarships in 2012 to graduating seniors from RFA. Additionally, the Foundation distributes \$1,000 annually to Jervis Public Library for staff development purposes and since 2016 has sponsored students attending the Project Fibonacci STEAM Conference.
- The **Charles R. Getty Scholarship** was made possible in 2012 by a gift from his estate. Mr. Getty, who passed away in 2011, retired as vice president of Revere Copper and Brass Inc. and was very active in community service, including serving a term as president of the Rome College Foundation. A \$750 grant is awarded in his memory to an RFA or NYSSD senior who plans to attend college to pursue a career in accounting.
- The **Julius J. Perillo Scholarship** was established in 2013 and is awarded to a RFA senior who plans to attend college to pursue a career in teaching, has made a sustained, positive impact in the community and has achieved academic success in high school. Mr. Perillo honorably served the Rome City School District for more than 30 years, retiring as Superintendent of Schools in 1987. The first annual award of \$2,000 was presented in 2013.
- The **Utica-Holly Chapter #178 of the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of New York Scholarship** was established in 2015 and is awarded to two RFA seniors who plan to attend college to pursue careers in nursing; \$1,000 per student.
- Since 2018, the **Professional and Business Women of Rome Scholarship**, in the amount of \$500, is awarded to provide financial assistance to a single parent who plans to continue their education and/or is already enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate Business program.
- In 2019, the **James Wood Scholarship** was established in the amount of \$1,000 to be awarded to a Rome Free Academy senior who plans to pursue a career in the building trades. In 2022, it will be awarded to a senior who plans to pursue a career in the educational field.
- In 2020, the **Randa Ratazzi Scholarship**, \$1,000, was established; it is awarded annually to a RFA senior who will be entering a college level STEM program.
- In 2021, a \$500 scholarship presented to a student who will pursue a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering was established by Black Owl Consulting in memory of **Dr. Michael C. Wicks**.





*The mission of the Foundation
is to promote and enhance
the Rome community's needs
for higher educational
opportunities*

The Rome College Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded in 1966 to increase higher educational opportunities in Rome. It is committed to serving the Rome community's needs by promoting and enhancing improved higher educational opportunities for local students and investing in our future workforce. It is located at the Rome Area Chamber of Commerce, 139 W Dominick St, and is managed by a Board of Trustees representing local businesses, industries, professions, academic institutions and the general public. The Chamber provides administrative and bookkeeping services to the Foundation as it has been doing since the Foundation was established.

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