

Thanks for your support

Rewarding Resilience Dyslexia Scholarship Fund



The Rewarding Resilience Dyslexia Scholarship fund was started in February of 2021 by Peggy and Brian McFeeters, along with their daughter and her husband, Brent and Laurie Werries. The purpose of the Fund is to identify and support, with scholarship(s), the development of dyslexic students with outstanding future potential. An award is to be made annually from the fund, granting a scholarship to allow said student to attend a university, college, community college, vocational school, trade school, or technical training program. For more details & criteria, check out our website...<http://www.cfmorton.org/dyslexia-scholarship>.

The story of how this scholarship came about is as follows (written by Peggy McFeeters): The struggle is real! Dyslexia affects about 20 percent of the population. Yet many of those people are never diagnosed. Studies show about 9 out of 10 dyslexic students in the school system fall through the cracks because although parents and teachers know there is something different about the student, the student does not qualify for special education. Dyslexics not only struggle with the academic system but with self-esteem issues. Dyslexia impacts their entire life.

My grandchildren are the lucky ones. They were diagnosed with dyslexia at a young age by a trained specialist because of the awareness of their parents. Since Dyslexia is inherited, their parents knew there was a chance they carried that trait. Both children are thriving after extensive private tutoring, and they are gifted in ways often displayed by dyslexic children. They excel in dance, cooking, art, and big picture thinking. But we saw the hard work they have done, both spending excessive time in studying and tutoring. They are resilient and have bright futures.

Now we are hoping to reward other Morton students for their hard work, and we want to be a part of achieving their goals. Through this scholarship, a level of development beyond high school can be supported in whatever area fits the gifts of the dyslexic person. Maybe this will include cooking school, mechanical training, or college. There are different requirements for applying for this scholarship to let the strengths of a dyslexic shine through, rather than focusing on written expression, GPA, or test scores.

Dyslexic students deserve bright futures and reward for their hard work as much, if not more, than other students. They can have a success story, and we want to help!

Legacy and stability. Endowed gifts provide a gift that lasts forever. Your gift is invested over time. Earnings from the fund are used to provide annual scholarships. Scholarships made from the Rewarding Resilience Dyslexia Scholarship Fund will continue beyond our lifetimes. The fund will grow as future donors, with a concern for excellence in education, add to it, thus providing increasingly larger scholarships well into the future.



The power of endowment

A half century ago, Paul Cesarz made a choice that continues to benefit his community today. He created an endowed fund in 1952 with \$150,000 in assets. The fund immediately began earning income and distributing grants to causes important to him. Fifty years later and 35 years after Paul's death, the Cesarz Fund had grown to \$1,066,003. And in that 50th year, it generated more than \$50,000 in grants, supporting a range of community needs—a park renovation, a museum exhibit, cancer research, and more. Because Paul chose to endow his gift, he has enabled more than \$1.1 million in grants to go to his community—almost eight times the impact he would have made by giving the original gift to charity all at once. And though Paul has passed away, the fund in his name will go on supporting his community, leaving a lasting legacy.

This example comes from another Community Foundation, but it can happen in Morton too.