Springfield Foundation
For good. For ever. For all.®

COMMUNITY CATALYST
FALL 2026

2026 DONOR RECEPTION
A CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

We would like to extend our gratitude to all who were a part of and attended our 2026 Reception! Together, we are creating brighter futures, strengthening our community, and ensuring that philanthropy continues to change lives for generations to come.

The program was kicked off by honoring **Best Friends Pet Assisted Therapy** as our **2026 Catalyst of Change recipient**. This award is presented to a dedicated nonprofit that serves as an agent of change that inspires action, drives innovation, and champions equity. Since 2006, Best Friends Pet Assisted Therapy has brought comfort, joy, and companionship to those who need it with their certified volunteer teams who share their own beloved family dogs with others.

Donna J. Gainer, Stephen P. Moody, and Jennifer Rousculp Miller were officially inducted into the Foundation's **Legacy Society**. This society was created as our way of recognizing and thanking those who have shared their commitment to our community by making a planned gift.

We then had the honor of recognizing two **outstanding volunteers, Cathy Bell and Mary Miller**. Collectively, these two women have contributed more than 50 years of service as scholarship application reviewers at the Foundation. Our annual scholarship cycle could not be successful without dedicated volunteers like Cathy and Mary.

Finally, we were lucky to hear testimonials from our **keynote scholarship panel** consisting of scholarship fund representatives, **Sharon Devore and Kevin Harmon**, and scholarship recipients, **Levi Finney and Isabella Santiago**. Sharon shared what her experience was like to recently open a scholarship with ease and trust in the staff, while Kevin shared the long-term benefits of having his scholarship funds at the Foundation for almost two decades. On the flip side, Levi reflected on the impact of his many scholarships as a recent graduate, while Isabella shared how reassuring it has been to start college this year with a scholarship that provided a full year's worth of tuition.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part in our 2026 Reception!



2026 ANNUAL RECEPTION HONOREES



Donna J. Gainer



Stephen P. Moody



Jennifer Rousculp Miller



Kevin Harmon, Isabella Santiago
Levi Finney, Sharon DeVore



Cathy Bell & Mary Miller



Best Friend's Pet Assisted Therapy

SCHOLARSHIPS

2026-27 ACADEMIC YEAR CYCLE STATS

The Springfield Foundation was proud to distribute a total of **438 scholarship awards** to **350 recipients**. Thanks to your support, more than **$803,000** was awarded to local students, furthering their studies.

UPCOMING 2027-28 ACADEMIC YEAR CYCLE

The Foundation scholarship applications for the 2027-28 academic year open on **December 1, 2026** and the deadline for submission is **February 5, 2027**.

UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOPS

This year, we are excited to once again be offering scholarship workshops at local high schools. These workshops provide students with the opportunity to start the application with assistance from Foundation staff onsite. They will be available to answer any questions the students may have.

To see a full listing of scholarship workshops planned for this school year, visit www.springfieldfoundation.org/scholarships/resources.html.

The Springfield Foundation is committed to assisting students to further their education and become leaders in our community!

WAYS TO GIVE

1. Create a fund for a charity or for a scholarship.
2. Donate to an existing fund, now or later.
3. Become our Partner in Philanthropy.

GIVING BACK TOGETHER

This holiday season, we are donating $1,000 to Sleep in Heavenly Peace here in Springfield to support bedding costs. SHP is a nonprofit organization that builds and delivers beds to children who are sleeping on floors, couches, air mattresses, or sharing beds.

If you would like to join us in giving back, please make a donation with 'Sleep in Heavenly Peace' as the memo/purpose, by Friday, December 18th. Donations can be mailed to the Springfield Foundation or made at www.springfieldfoundation.org/donate.

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Don't forget to include the Springfield Foundation in your estate planning. To learn more, call us or visit our website!

New Funds



The Bell Family Scholarship
CJBrucker Endowment Fund
Weimer Family Horizon Fund
International Motors Scholarship
Gary and Nancy Deerwester Memorial Fund
International Motors Historic Preservation Fund
Deborah L. Hill Family Advised Endowment Fund
Jo Alice Blondin and Andrew Fox Charitable Fund
Nevin Vince and Natalie Daly Memorial Scholarship Fund
Rocking Horse Community Health Center Endowment Fund
Paul Detwiler "Take the Bull by the Horns" Scholarship Fund