



Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

Service Above Self

Rotary Scholarships for Elk Rapids High School Students

By Terry Miller

The high cost of a college education or vocational training presents a financial burden for many Elk Rapids students. The average cost of a two-year community college (in-district student) is \$3,347/semester (American Association of Community Colleges). Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) [2020-2021 tuition](#) is \$4,504/semester. To offset this high cost, numerous channels of financial aid are available to Elk Rapids students.

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids Good Works Fund

Our local club helps students through a scholarship line item in the Good Works Fund. A candidate must be a current senior at Elk Rapids Public Schools (either High School or Sunrise Academy) or have graduated within the past three years and now attend Northwestern Michigan College. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 at Elk Rapids High School and/or NMC is required as are two written letters of recommendation.

Rotarians should understand that supporting each of the fundraising events that feed the good works budget is important year-round so that the Rotary scholarship continues to help our students. , **Sherry Steffen-Detwiler**, Executive Secretary/Director, Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation

Our regional community foundation offers several ways to help Elk Rapids students.

Rotarians interested in contributing to the Elk Rapids Scholarship Endowment can do so online [here](https://www.gtrcf.org/give/our-funds.html/131/) (<https://www.gtrcf.org/give/our-funds.html/131/>) or by mailing a check to our office at 223 Lake Avenue, Ste. B, TC, MI 49684.



2020 Rotary Scholarship winners Tanner McLean and Jordan Jansen hold certificates presented by Elk Rapids Rotary Club Scholarship Committee members Phyllis Chaphalkar, Karl Wittbrodt, Sherry Steffen Detwiler and Craig Cameron. (Additional winner, Parker Lawrence, not shown)

Gifts made by individual Elk Rapids Rotarians – to the Community Foundation or directly to NMC – are eligible for the member match we offer from our Rotary Endowment. Individuals can have their giving matched up to \$250. More information, including the forms to request the match are available on our website at www.gtrcf.org/rotaryendowment.

The Community Foundation has additional named scholarships, with a variety of criteria, for Elk Rapids area students: [Owen James Anderson Memorial Scholarship Endowment](#), [Suzanne Cline-Walthour Memorial Scholarship Endowment](#), [Peter James Gorno Scholarship Endowment](#), [Bennie M. Kline Scholarship Endowment](#), and [Miss Elk Rapids Scholarship](#)

Contact: **Alison Metiva**, Vice President, Donor Engagement and Operations

Northwestern Michigan College (NMC)

Our local community college works independently and through Rotary to help Elk Rapids students attend college.

In addition to your own club scholarship for NMC students, club members can directly send donations to the NMC Foundation, earmarked for Elk Rapids students. Those gifts are sent directly to the NMC Financial Aid Office for distribution. Also, any gifts to the NMC Foundation are eligible for the Rotary Charities match through the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation. – Jennifer Hrick, Leadership Gift Specialist, NMC Foundation

Elk Rapids Industrial Development Corporation Scholarship

(Community Foundation)

Rotary also assists students who want a technical education. In general, average tuition fees at technical schools range from about \$3,600 to \$14,500 per year (tradeschools.net).

The Elk Rapids Industrial Development Corporation Scholarship Endowment supports annual scholarship awards for Elk Rapids High School graduates and graduating seniors who demonstrate a minimum 2.5 GPA and plan to enter a vocational program in a college, trade school, or an apprentice training program.

In Summary: There are many ways that the Rotary Club of Elk Rapids and other organizations help our students attend college or receive technical training, but many programs rely on individual contributions to continue. Rotarians and others should remember to contribute to these scholarship opportunities.