

September 20, 2021

Fellow Rotarians,

Another school year begins which means that we are about to grant our first Oconomowoc Rotary Scholarship of the 2021/22 academic year. As Rotarians, we have not allowed the COVID-19 challenges to stop our commitment to recognizing Oconomowoc High School Seniors who have overcome significant obstacles to become the best possible contributors to society. We are unwavering in our recognition of the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of selected students. They are sure to make us proud. One day, we hope to have some of these fine young people join our club as contributing members of the broader Oconomowoc business and civic community.

This scholarship is one more avenue for our club to continue our long and proud history of thinking globally and acting locally. We recognize and encourage tomorrow’s leaders to become truly great contributors to society. Our Scholarship program is one specific way that we can put our money where our mouth is… With your support, we have been able to provide monthly recognition to a worthy student who has overcome significant challenges in their high school career through a $750 per year scholarship for up to two years ($1,500 each for ten students annually - Wow!).

Remember that, for many of these students, this is the first (and potentially only) special recognition they have received for their achievements. Accordingly, we have an opportunity to publicly state that we are proud of them.

Here are some quotes from and about these incredible students:

*“Allyson is like a light to others. Her enthusiasm is infectious.”*

*“Not only did you help Luke financially, but you also enhanced his self-esteem and self-confidence. “*

*“Lisa has an impact on every life she touches.”*

*“I’ve witnessed Maxine grow from an apprehensive freshman to a confident, empowered senior.”*

Parents tell us…*"This recognition made a huge difference in my child's future", "This scholarship helped make college more affordable for us", “My son's confidence grew after receiving this scholarship,” "We can't thank Rotary enough for what this meant to my daughter and our family.”*

This is our seventh annual fund drive for funds to support this scholarship program. If you are like me, learning about the achievements of these students leaves one wondering “What can I do to continue this incredible program?” If you feel so called, the Oconomowoc Rotary Foundation is looking for annual contributors for the Oconomowoc Scholarship Fund.

Checks are payable to the Oconomowoc Rotary Foundation and can be given/mailed to either George Justice or Brion Collins. We ask that you designate if this is a one-time gift or if you are willing to make a three-year commitment at this level. Many Rotarians have asked what giving levels are acceptable. Of course, all gifts are welcome. We are seeking two or three individual or corporate sponsors who can support this project with a $5-10,000 annual gift. If you can facilitate an introduction, I will follow-up with your employer. Last year several Rotarians contributed $1,000 and still others $500. The annual cost to the club for the scholarship is ~$15,000 and it would be terrific if we were to have several years of funding squirreled away.

Some of you who are over the age of 70.5 have taken advantage of the ability to make a gift directly from your IRA via a “Qualified Charitable Distribution” which can be a more tax friendly mechanism.

Thank you for all you do as a Rotarian! If you have any specific questions or comments, feel free to reach out.

Kindest regards,

Brion S. Collins, brion.collins@wealthspire.com, (414) 807-6859 (mobile), (262) 326-6090 (office)

Oconomowoc Rotary Scholarship Program

2021

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YES! I would love to be a proud sponsor of the Oconomowoc Rotary Scholarship Fund. I will make a tax-deductible contribution today. *Circle* the giving level you feel is right for you.

$5,000

$2,500

$1,000

$500

$250

$100

\_\_\_\_\_\_Other

\_\_\_\_\_\_This contribution will be coming from a qualified charitable distribution

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YES! You can count on me to continue at this level for the next \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. Please bill me in monthly/quarterly/annual installments.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YES! My company might be interested in matching my contributions or donating to this worthy program. Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or another representative of the company at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No. I love being a Rotarian and support our community in other ways. I am unable to contribute to this specific initiative.

Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Checks are payable to: *Oconomowoc Rotary Foundation* and can be mailed to P.O. BOX 112, Oconomowoc, WI 53066. Please enter “Scholarship Fund” in the memo of your check.

Questions: Contact Brion Collins at brion.collins@wealthspire.com or (414) 807-6859 (mobile)