



2022 Newsletter

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Helping students achieve their educational goals

There's No Place Like Home.....White Pass Scholarship Recipients Come Home to Teach

by Susan Fortin, Scholarship Committee Chair

Pulling together the pieces for this newsletter has caused me to reflect on community, commitment and a sense of "place". I've been on the Scholarship Committee long enough to remember interviewing two candidates in 2009 (Jet'Aime Mullins Cole) and 2010 (Preslie Coleman) who have now returned to their alma mater to teach. How cool is that! A sense of place resonates in their comments about returning to the area. Other recipients over the years have earned degrees or trade certifications. It is rewarding to know that a group of volunteer committee members, coupled with the support of a caring community and an engaged alumni, have made a difference in so many lives.

Recently I asked members of the Scholarship Committee why they joined, or why they have continued their involvement. Judy Roberts, our longest serving member said this,

"Almost 21 years ago my son Kyle graduated from White Pass, with no clear idea of where or what he was doing. Because of a generous award from the WP Scholarship Fund, he headed off to Spokane CC. I was so grateful for our community's support that I decided to become a member and help future students to realize their higher education dreams. It has been an honor and a privilege to meet each year's applicants, hear their plans and help them on their way. Going on for additional schooling, whether 2 year, 4 year or trade school, provides our local kids a way to pursue their dreams, and I am happy to be part of that."

Judy's 21 years of service to the White Pass Scholarship Committee exemplifies the commitment of our volunteers. A recent addition to the Scholarship Committee is Kelly Starling. Please read her story and her ideas for getting involved on page 3. A theme I hear from all members is, "We are making a difference. We are impacting the future. We would love to have you join us!" I know we can use your skills. Please consider getting involved in big or small ways. It all makes a difference.




Jet'aime Mullins Cole - White Pass Class of 2009

Lewis and Clark College, Western Governors University
 Jet'aime teaches all high school math classes including: Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry, Bridge to College Math, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Stats.
"I'm really happy to be back at White Pass because I love raising my children in a small community. I feel like I have a better opportunity to make an impact than I would in the city."



Preslie Coleman - White Pass Class of 2010

Eastern Washington University, Centralia College
 Preslie is in her first year teaching 3rd grade at White Pass Elementary.
"I chose to come back to my hometown and teach at White Pass Elementary because I wanted to help make a difference in the place that I grew up in and love. I enjoy living in our small town and being a part of our strong, close-knit community."

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Scholarship Recipient Spotlight

by Brian McMahan, White Pass Class of 2020 Scholarship Recipient

After graduating in 2020, I set out for schooling, planning to get my Associate Degree in Welding from Centralia College. Starting out, it was smooth sailing, but I found out that it was difficult to keep up with housing while going to school full time, so I changed plans. I got a job offer at Kulchin Foundation Drilling being a welder doing temporary shoring for high-rise foundations. From there I was able to take my welding classes and combine my field knowledge from work to excel in my classes. I worked part-time while going to school for a little over a year after graduation and ending my schooling with a summer certification in 2021 where I was dedicated to completing multiple welding certifications. I'm now working full-time in the field for Kulchin in Seattle and surrounding areas as I travel from job-site to job-site. I'm very grateful for the opportunity the White Pass Scholarship Fund provided me by putting me on my feet running.

Auction Thanks and Anticipation!

by Bonnie Sniezak, Auction Chair



Let's ring in 2022 and wave off 2021 with appreciation for what we've learned. Circumstances have distanced us but have also brought us all closer together in significant ways. We've learned a lot over the last couple years navigating our biggest fundraiser during a pandemic. Hats off to all volunteers and auction participants for putting their best feet forward! We were energized when the online Facebook auction in May 2021 brought in over \$15,000! Again this year we will be hosting our annual White Pass Scholarship Auction online via Facebook. Here's our timeline:

Securing Donations: From now through the end of April we are seeking donations of goods and services from businesses and individuals. The possibilities for donations are endless. Consider donating hand-crafted treasures, firewood, excursions, adventures or gift certificates. To donate or to brainstorm possibilities, please email Bonnie (bonniesniezak@gmail.com), or call Kelly (360-496-8215) or Nancy (360-497-3791 ext 400).

Auction Promotion: Begin checking our Facebook page or Instagram in mid-April. Auction items will be posted as we receive them with donors' names acknowledged. Items will continue to populate our online-auction FB page so you will have plenty of time to review the auction items.

Online Auction: Let the bidding begin! The weekend-long online Facebook auction will open at 5:00 pm on Friday, May 13 and will close with the winning bids at 5:00 pm on Sunday, May 15. Winners will be notified on the 15th and arrangements for pick-up will follow.

From each of us on the committee to each of you, thank you all for your participation. Our graduating students are beyond grateful with all of your support.



2022 White Pass Scholarship Officers and Committee Members

- Susan Fortin, Chair
- Judy Roberts, Secretary
- Sherry Brown, Treasurer
- Ann Lindh, School Liaison
- Mary Proffit, Recipient Liaison
- Bonnie Sniezak, Auction Chair
- Judy Roberts, Memorials
- Martha Almquist
- Van Anderson
- Duward Brown
- Ricky Emerson
- Paul Farris
- Marty Fortin
- Jackie Lyon
- Darla Mullins
- Pretrina Mullins
- Nancy Nebeker
- Tim Shook
- Kelly Starling

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New Member Spotlight - Kelly Starling

"From what we get we can make a living, what we give, however, makes a life."

-Winston Churchill

My name is Kelly Starling and I joined the White Pass Scholarship Committee last year in 2021. Like many, 2021 left me with some extra time and the search for a way to stay connected with my community in a meaningful way.

I grew up in a small town in Grays Harbor County and was fortunate to receive local community scholarship support as I attended college. Those scholarships allowed me to complete my bachelor and my master degrees with no student debt. As I pursued a career and planted my roots here in Randle, I realized what a gift those scholarships have been and how they set me up for success.

I initially joined the White Pass Scholarship Committee to give back and help set other young students up for success in their life journey, but have found so much more. The scholarship committee is made up of the most giving and dedicated individuals who are passionate about helping students succeed. While working on gathering donations for the yearly auction I was humbled by the generosity of our community. Through the scholarship committee I have met many great community members and feel connected to my community in a deeper way. The scholarship work has also given me something positive to be part of during a year which has been difficult for many.

There are so many ways to support and get involved with the White Pass Scholarship. You can become a committee member, volunteer to help with local fundraising events, donate items to the yearly auction, setup a memorial scholarship fund, or simply engage and participate in White Pass Scholarship events. Every little bit of community support helps our kids, our community, and creates a meaningful connection. Thank you for your support. We look forward to celebrating another year of student success in 2022.

Financial News and an Invitation to Join In!

by Sherry Brown, Treasurer

Last year our newsletter was all about celebrations and while the good news continues with over \$55K in donations in 2021 and over \$15K income from our on-line auction, our current focus is recruiting new people to our committee. I've been on the committee for over a decade now along with the bulk of our members. I joined the committee when I moved back to Randle after more than 20 years in the Air Force. I joined the committee when my sons were in pre-school and 1st grade. My oldest son just graduated from White Pass and is attending the University of Washington. More than half of the dozen active members of the committee have been there just as long as I. To be honest, we need fresh blood. So if you or your child have benefitted from a White Pass Scholarship, or if you have children in the school system and would like to know how to set them up with a scholarship, or you just want to give back to your community, join us. The Scholarship Committee is a super positive group of people and you won't regret getting involved.

Now on to some more financial news, specifically, financial history. In the last decade we've awarded \$403,000 to 146 White Pass Graduates. What an amazing impact our committee has had on our graduates! In the last five years we've had support from our donors to the tune of \$255K and earned \$128.8k in auction and car raffle sales. In those same five years we more than doubled our annual income from \$40,000 per year to \$103,000 in 2019. When I took over the treasurer duties 10 years ago, the scholarship fund had total assets of just under \$100,000, now we are building a self-sustaining legacy fund worth over \$70,000 so far and total assets over \$215K. Those are some pretty astounding success stories from such a small group of people with the support of this rural community. If you want to become a member of this fantastic, successful group, give us a jingle. Both Susan (360-791-2768) and I (360-496-4400) would welcome the opportunity to talk about the work of the committee with you.

Fresh Start Scholarship Update

"A good education is the greatest gift you can give yourself or anyone else."

-Mahtab Narsimhan

Fresh Start Scholarships are open to White Pass High School students who have earned a high school diploma or GED and who have not previously received money from the White Pass Scholarship Fund. With so many options for continuing education, we have expanded scholarship funding to include any accredited post-secondary program including college, university or trade school. Applicants who meet the criteria and are selected for an award will receive \$500 to help with the cost of their education. A fresh start is possible whether you've been out of school four years or forty years! To learn more contact Susan Fortin at susanffortin@gmail.com.



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