















ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



\$16,000 in proceeds from Jeannette Rankin's property in Georgia became the seed money for the Jeannette Rankin Foundation

\$2.5 million in scholarships awarded to 873 women

\$21,592 Median household income for JRF Scholars with an average household of 3 people

- **36.5%** Poverty rate in US for head of household single mothers
- 75% of JRF Scholars are the head of household

50% of JRF Scholars are the first in their family to go to pursue post-secondary education

55% of renewal scholars reported that without JRF's funding they would not be able to continue their education

70% of JRF Scholars persist on towards completing their college degrees

EARNINGS INCREASE BASED ON EDUCATION (FOR WOMEN)

70,000		- I
60,000	Bachelor's and more: \$63,690	
50,000		
40,000	Associate's or some college: \$39,676	
30,000	HS diploma, no college: \$35,308	
20,000	Less than HS diploma: \$25,636	
10,000		AMERICAN
0		RAGE ASST

Dear Supporters and Friends -

We've had a wonderful year celebrating our 40th Anniversary with you!

For forty years, your support has made it possible for the Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund (JRF) to provide support to over 1,300 women and their families. Our Scholars depend on us to give them a *hand up* as they finish their education and lift families out of poverty.

Our long term Strategic Plan consists of Three Pillars:

CREATE A SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION

We invested in infrastructure including replacing our 2003 computer server, additional hardware and software. We invested in our human capital by providing health insurance, flexible spending accounts and life insurance for our employees.

GROW THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our long term goal has been to provide more scholarships while

maintaining sustainability. In 2016, we distributed double the number of scholarships we provided in 2015. A generous grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation helped make that a reality. Additionally, a bequest from Alexandra Kilpatrick via her cousin Donna Zenor provides long term support for Scholars from Arizona and Montana. We also changed our fiscal year to align with our scholarship cycle. In doing this, we are now able to use real financial information to make a prudent decision on the number of scholarships to award and we now have the flexibility to award more scholarships if our fundraising endeavors allow.

DEVELOP A NATIONAL PRESENCE AND IDENTITY

Jeannette Rankin was elected in November of 1916 and took her place on the Hill in the spring of 1917. We used this year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of those milestones. Maureen Byrnes, JRF Board Member, and Karen Sterk, Executive Director, attended a reception hosted by Nancy Pelosi on March 8th to celebrate International Women's Day. A highlight of that event was meeting Nora Holenhoe, Jeannette Rankin's Grand Niece. This year, we launched a pilot project with Bay Path University, a women's college in Massachusetts that specializes in working with the nontraditional student.

Our continuing goal is to provide more and more women and their families with the vital support they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Thank you for all you do to help make our mission possible.

Yours for Women and Education,



Lely Sul

Karen Sterk Executive Director Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund



Courtney Dain

Courtney Davis Board Chair Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund

JEANNETTE RANKIN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION IMPACT

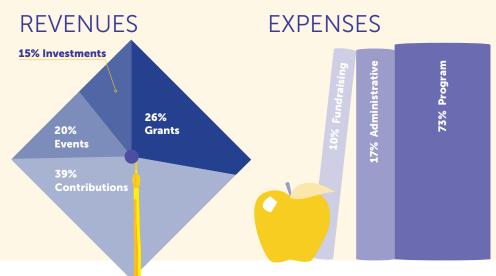
NATIONAL IMPACT: In the past 41 years, there have been 873 JRF scholars in 49 states.

MISSION:

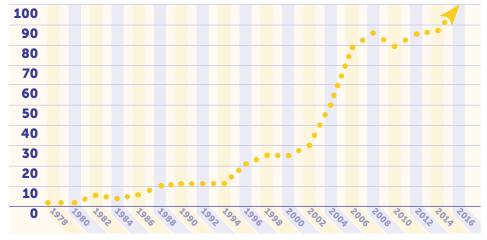
Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund (JRF) provides scholarships and support for low-income women thirty-five and older across the U.S. to build better lives through post-secondary education.

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FINANCIAL DATA



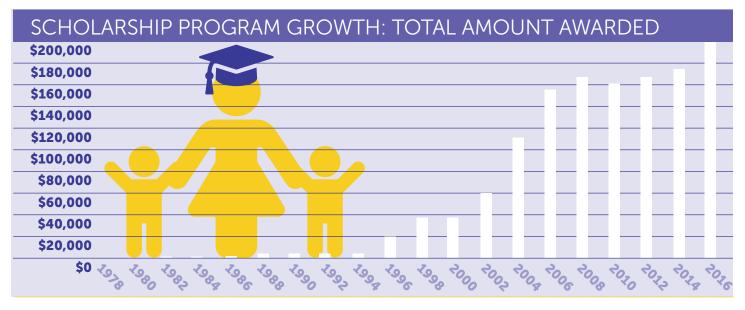
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GROWTH: TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED





Year	Amount Awarded
1978	\$500
1984	\$750
1986	\$1,000
1998	\$1,500
2002	\$2,000
2016	\$2,000





SUSAN F.B., MO NURSING

Twenty four years ago, Susan put her education on hold to raise her family. She began to study childbirth practices, lactation, nutrition, and holistic health care. Susan was inspired to train as a doula, attend births, and teach childbirth classes by her own birth experiences as a mother of seven children, and her deep rooted empathy for others' pain. After years of struggling financially, Susan decided to return to college when her youngest child entered Kindergarten. She used her passion for childbirth and desire to ease the pain of those around her to decide to pursue midwifery, and eventually decided to pursue a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing.

Except for College Algebra, Susan has been a straight A non-traditional student. Susan says "working hard to keep my grades up made it a challenge to work. Being awarded the JRF Scholarship has helped me focus on my studies and attend a CPR certification course."

Susan tells us "I fell asleep on the couch while reading material for my Ethics class. I was woken up several hours

later by my 18 year old son kissing me on the cheek and telling me he was proud of me. I have faith that my education will increase our chances of becoming financially stable, and this experience with my son reassured me that my education will positively impact my children as they make decisions about their futures."

This May, Susan celebrated completing her Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing, thanks to her scholarship through JRF. Now, she will get to spend more time with her children while fulfilling her lifelong dream of enrolling in a Nurse-Midwifery program. She hopes to continue serving low-income women and pay forward the generosity she has received from JRF.

"I'm so grateful for JRF and hope to give back as much as possible. This is a wonderful organization and in addition to gratitude I'm honored to be an alumni! I start my nursing career in a month! I'm overjoyed and excited about the impact and example for my family seeing mom succeed through school and become a professional, Registered Nurse."



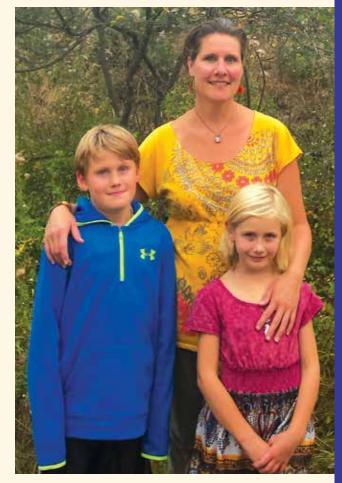
I have faith that my education will increase our chances of becoming financially stable... As a single mother and full-time student, balancing finances and schooling has been my biggest challenge.

SAM R., MT NURSING

Sam recently received her Associate's Degree and is currently pursuing her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. She says, "Like Jeannette Rankin, I hope to be a force for social impact and be progressive in bettering the lives of others by applying my education.

When I decided to return to school, I found that maintaining a household and caring for a 3 and 6 year old while earning high grades was challenging enough, but added to my responsibilities was finding ways to adjust from full-time to part-time pay while taking on education expenses. As a single mother and full time student, balancing finances and schooling has been my biggest challenge. These last four years have stretched my resources to the limits at times, particularly this past year, when I was accepted into the Montana State University Nursing program, with its higher tuition rates. Being awarded the 2016 Jeannette Rankin scholarship tremendously lightened the burden of keeping things afloat while working towards my Bachelor's Degree. I was able to focus more on my studies, and less on my finances; devote more time to school work, and a little less time to secular work. This will have an enormous impact on the quality of nursing that I will be able to provide throughout the entire course of my career.

While this award will help me be a better nurse in the future, more important to me personally is the better mother it has made me in the present. I am providing my children a good example of what can be achieved when you set your mind to it. In striving for a better tomorrow, I am creating a better today by shaping the attitudes that my children will carry throughout



their lives. On my daughter's first day of Kindergarten, when asked what she was most excited about she quickly answered that now she would finally have homework too! My son, now in the 5th grade, told me that he felt he was a good student in school because he wants to do his best and be just like me. Seeing my own children's excitement for learning has been an enormous source of strength to carry through on a difficult path. Your gift is allowing me to stay in school, and the direction this will take me not only impacts my future, but the trajectory of my children's' lives as well."



It's difficult some days... But, I refuse to let anything stop me.

TAMIKA T., TX ACCOUNTING

Tamika is a current JRF Scholar, a single mother of four children, has been a practicing accountant for 16 years, and is a student pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. She makes time for everything she plans to accomplish with incredible time-management skills and by taking the perspective that you have to make lemonade out of the lemons life gives you. Tamika learned these incredible skills through her service in the military.

Tamika first enrolled in college immediately after high school. But, when she returned home for winter break, she came back with an extra package, her son. Teenage motherhood presents its own set of challenges in the midst of transitioning into adulthood forcing Tamika and her oldest son to share a great deal of the growing pains together.

"He's seen the eviction notices and he remembers living in the projects," Tamika says of her eldest son.

During those times, Tamika focused on providing for her son so her educational aspirations took a backseat. A few times, she would enroll in classes while working, find herself discouraged, and stop. Years later, she's in a much better situation to keep going, but she admits she's still figuring it out day by day, lemon by lemon.

Tamika thinks back to how she watched her grandmother struggled to keep the lights on and paying bills in portions of payments from month-to-month by working extensive hours at low-paying jobs day in and day out, just to provide for her.

"For years, I found myself repeating the same behavior I had been exposed to growing up." As a single parent of four children, those habits stop here. Tamika has dedicated this new period in her life to sharing knowledge with her children to keep them from struggling in the same way she did. Each pay period, Tamika sits down with her oldest son (22-years old) and together they map out what he should do with his job earnings. He is responsible for presenting an Excel spreadsheet budget to her to allocate money to responsibilities first, then savings, and then a little for fun. Tamika makes sure that all of her children understand the importance of strong work ethic and financial planning, no matter the job and no matter the level of pay.

"I have one thing my grandmother did not have and that's an education. Money doesn't have to be an uncomfortable topic of discussion when we have access to financial education."

"I grew up on the back porch talking with old ladies while my friends were playing outside because of my grandmother's fear of me getting pregnant or leaving home." She respected her protective grandmother, but she saw the Army as a means to a better life for her and her son.

"It's difficult some days. I [sometimes] ask myself, 'do I really want it?' But, I refuse to let anything stop me. I put my goals off for so long that I have no choice but to keep going."

Those years in the military are now behind her, but the systematic grind mentality sticks with her daily. Now, she has a daughter that "watches [her] like a hawk," just as she did to her grandmother. "I keep my energy up for her."

She knows she can't always protect her children, but through higher education, she can prepare them for life and the real world.

The way she lives out this mindset, in pursuit of higher education, is what makes her lemonade that much sweeter for her, her family and her community. On days when the lemonade gets a bit tart, she leans on her mentors and supporters. She listens to her favorite Charlie Wilson album. She instills better habits into her children. She listens to a rebroadcast of her church's sermon. Then, she starts each day renewed, eager to come closer to the finish line.

MARCIE A., GA BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Marcie is officially a JRF Alum as she recently graduated from Georgia Tech with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Getting her college degree has always been a goal of Marcie's, but the prohibitive cost stopped her from making her dreams a reality until this spring.

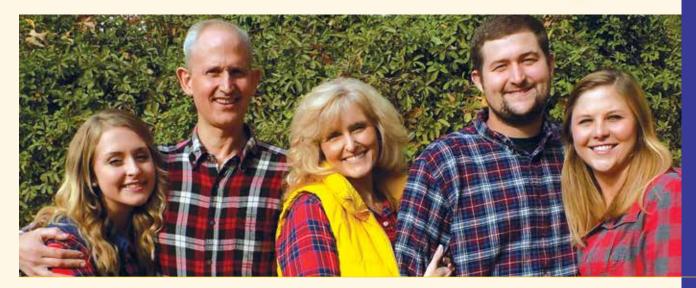
"When my son graduated from high school, he began attending classes at a small community college. I tutored him as well as other students. One day, my son looked at me and said, "Mom, you are so smart, you should go back and get your degree." I shrugged this off, knowing my age and finances could not possibly support such an endeavor. However, something kept gnawing at me to at least investigate this possibility. I did, received a Pell Grant, and began at the same community college my son attended. I thought he might be embarrassed having me there, but he wasn't in the least. Sometimes if our class schedules were the same he would carry my books for me! While at my son's junior college, Georgia Highlands, I was honored to receive the Calculus III math award. This is an achievement I am very proud of!

When I received my acceptance letter to transfer to the Georgia Institute of Technology I was in awe! Georgia Tech sets the bar extremely high and I could not believe that a 42 year old mother of two college students would have the opportunity to finally finish her degree!"

Her dedication to her studies earned her a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration from Georgia Tech. Marcie is the first in her family to get her degree, and when asked what she is most excited about in finishing school, she says, "to raise my family's standard of living where I will be able to help provide for my children while they are trying to obtain their education."

Marcie will be pursuing a job in management in either supply chain and logistics or human resources. In addition to working and supporting her family, she wants to empower other students to "set goals to obtain higher education through tutoring and volunteering at our small Christian school." Marcie is an incredible success story and a wonderful example of what is possible in furthering her education.

> When I received my acceptance letter to transfer to the Georgia Institute of Technology I was in awe!





Alix was one of the most generous spirits to have ever inhabited this earth and the scholarship fund... should be counted as one of the many gifts of her legacy.

ALEXANDRA DALE MUNRO KILPATRICK'S GIFT

HONORING THE LEGACY OF A LIFE WELL LIVED

Alexandra Dale Munro Kilpatrick, better known as Alix, was an exceptionally intelligent woman whose life path drew her away from traditional educational opportunities. As the prospect of her life ending drew near, she contacted her cousin and childhood best friend, Donna Zenor, and asked her to research organizations that "enhance the lives of women through education." She was interested in leaving a substantial portion of her estate to such an organization. Through an internet search, Donna identified the Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund. Unfortunately, Alix died suddenly and was unable to leave the funds directly to JRF. Donna initially contacted JRF's Executive Director, Sue Lawrence on October 17, 2013. From there it was a long and winding road that Donna pursued with persistence and dedication in order to honor the dying wishes of her dear cousin and friend Alix.

Alix lived a non-traditional life. She was born in Phoenix, Arizona and was an only child, whose mother was the youngest of nine children of Norwegian immigrant parents. However, she lived life on the world stage with her love of travel. She worked in a theater in Paris, France, and for a number of years she flew for American Airlines. She later settled in rural New Hampshire with her husband, Bob Kilpatrick. Alix became a master at various yoga disciplines, eventually opening a yoga school after moving to New Zealand in her mid-fifties.

In the words of Donna, "Alix was one of the most generous spirits to have ever inhabited this earth and the scholarship fund which the donor is establishing upon her death should be counted as one of the many gifts which are her legacy."

We received this transformative gift this year. We are grateful that Alix cared so deeply about the women we serve and that Donna found us. We are also so thankful that Donna persisted through navigating the challenges of getting the funding to JRF.

This gift will transform the lives of JRF Scholars and their families for years to come.

Thank you Alix and Donna.

JEANNETTE RANKIN FOUNDATION SCHOLARS

彦 Ghada A., Iowa 🔁 🕻 Marcie A., Georgia Coca-Cola Scholars Elizabeth A., Missour

- Coca-Cola Scholars
- Naeemah A., California Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Diane B., Arkansas
 - Shirley B., Arkansas
- Tiessa B., California 🔁 🕻 Cindy B., California Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Victoria B., Michigan Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Brandy C., Missouri
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- 彦 Terra D., Missouri Kelly D., Ohio Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Lakeyta D., Pennsylvania Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Marcella D., Texas Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Rosa E., Florida Khia E., Utah
- 🔁 🕻 Melissa E., Kentuckv Coca-Cola Scholars Jessica F., California Allison F., Texas
 - Susan F.B., Missouri April G., Michigan
 - Maritza G., North Carolina Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Maureen G., Massachusetts Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Sharon H., North Carolina
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 - Debra H., Kentucky Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Dorene H., Ohio
 - Ianine H., California Coca-Cola Scholars

- Joi H., Illinois Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Karen H., Texas
- Kyle H., Ohio Lara H., Georgia
- Coca-Cola Scholars
- 🔁 🛿 Teresa H., Texas Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Tonia H., New York Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Michelle I.
 - Angela J., Florida Jana J.
- Keisha J., Georgia
- 彦 Kristine J., Florida
 - Fatimah J., New Jersey Coca-Cola Scholars
- 陓 Gwendolyn J., Virginia
 - Veronica J., Arkansas Coca-Cola Scholars Anna K., Minnesota
 - Jacqueline K., New York
- Andrea K., Pennsylvania Coca-Cola Scholars
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- Tonia K., South Carolina
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- 줃 🕯 Evelyn V., Florida Coca-Cola Scholars
 - Lynnae W, Minnesota Vanessa W.
 - Marinda W., Georgia Coca-Cola Scholars Robin Z., Oregon
 - JRF Graduates Coca-Cola Scholar



The JRF team shares a Coke and a Smile the day we found out about a grant of \$100,000 from the Coca-Cola Foundation. The Coca-Cola Foundation is Coca-Cola's primary international philanthropic arm. Foundation grants are awarded throughout the year based on Coca-Cola's priorities, tax requirements, legal compliance and approval by the Coca-Cola Foundation's Board of Directors. We were awarded the funds under the focus area of women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.

JRF was able to award an additional 40 scholarships to 40 very happy Scholars who were on a waiting list. The women were alerted in December and received their full \$2,000 JRF Scholarship for their second semester.

Thank you thank you thank you Coca-Cola!

Lucy R.

Jennifer S., Colorado

- Meghann S., Indiana
- North Carolina

Coca-Cola Scholars

JEANNETTE RANKIN FOUNDATION DONORS

CHANCELLOR

\$100,000+ The Coca-Cola Foundation Donna Zenor

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— Donors continued on page 12

DONOR SPOTLIGHT ASSURANT

Assurant was the Presenting Sponsor for our Atlanta SMART Party 2.0 on November 10, 2016. Assurant is a local Fortune 500 company that has proven to have a big heart for helping our Scholars. Their core values include: Common Sense, Common Decency, Uncommon Thinking and Uncommon Results. Their stated purpose is: To help people protect what matters most to them.

Our experience with Assurant proves that not only do they help people protect what matters most to them – they are helping women and their families build a life TO protect. We are so grateful for the multiple Assurant employees who have volunteered to help the Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund from helping to plan our SMART Party to reading scholarship applications to serving on our Board of Directors.

Thank you Assurant!



We celebrated Assurant employee Lechandra Harper (fifth from the right with the purple ribbon) as one of our SMART Women. Lechandra exemplifies a SMART Woman by her dedication to empowering girls and women. Assurant's team celebrated her success at the SMART Party in Atlanta 2016.

Donors cont'd from page 11 —

TRIBUTE In Memory of Jesse Barney Jesse Barney In Memory of Kenneth Bierema Phyllis Bierema In Memory of Mary Lee Bivins Joyce Waller In Memory of Connie Braxton Jean & Gary Braxton In Memory of Mary Breaan Suzanne Dovi In Memory of **Dolores** Cosgrove Eileen Herbermann Frances Tilson In Memory of Jeannette Cukor Marlene Briski Jean Fawcett Amy Weyman In Memory of Ralph & Mabel Davison Nancy Davison In Memory of Hildegard Ebell Laura Bierema & Mark Ebell In Memory of Patricia English Hilda Shepard In Memory of Anne Farnsworth Kathy Gratzek Sue Speir In Memory of June Farnsworth Heidi & Al Davison In Memory of Bill Grimshaw Lucy Rowland In Memory of Dr. Sherrie Ford Nancy Hall In Memory of Doris H. Gies Kay A. Giese

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Forest Stewart Hillyard Award	Sylvia Hillyard Pannell	
Greta Kleiner Award	Heather & Scott Kleiner	
JRF Founders' Award	JRF Founders' Fund	
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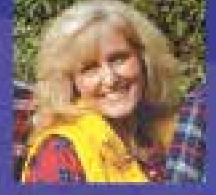


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