



**Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc.**<sup>™</sup>

*Established by Wilmington Women in Business*

## The Call to Make a Difference: Because of You...They Do



Photo Credit: Lindy Powers

Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation is more than just an organization that awards scholarships to women seeking a second chance in life. It is a living foundation that is built on caring, human energy and the fulfillment of dreams.

Think of the “butterfly effect,” a term coined by mathematician and chaos theorist Edward Norton Lorenz. Putting it simplistically, a small change in one part of a system (such as the beat of a butterfly’s wings) can result in an even greater difference later on. So, the beat of a butterfly’s wings in the Amazon jungle could be the cause of a hurricane in the northeastern United States.

It’s a metaphor, but a beautiful and effective one. At Fresh Start, we believe that every dollar and every scholar make a profound difference for not just the people in our immediate spheres, but for the world. In other words, **you make a difference** with your dollars, your precious time, and your financial support, which, in effect, make a difference in the lives of women who are now able to receive their education because of you. Because you make a difference, **they do**.

In the past year, the Fresh Start board of directors made significant strides in increasing the impact of its volunteering efforts and the amount of contributions made to the organization. We have welcomed great minds and great talent into our fold; more are welcome and needed. We have continued to make a difference, and what is even more exciting, we have seen our reach and influence grow to new heights.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in the world by making our scholars’ dreams come true.

Rita S. Wilkins, President

## Annual Report 2014 – 2015

The Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation:

Provides one-on-one mentoring to its scholars

Has awarded more than \$650,000 in scholarships to 159 women

Directs 97 cents of every dollar to the scholarship program

Has no paid staff; all are volunteers

Has achieved a 70% graduation rate

Scholars have attained a current average GPA of 3.55



Photo Credit: Rebecca Simone

“It took me six years to get my associate’s degree in human services, squeezing classes into my 70-hour work weeks. The women at Fresh Start supported me all the way to keep me motivated and to

remind me that I was capable not only of earning my degree, but showing me that I could overcome any obstacle.”

- Vickie Farrell, A.S. from Delaware Technical Community College in 2011 and currently pursuing B.S.W. from Delaware State University

## 2015 Fresh Start Graduates



**Michala Abrams**  
Associate of Applied Science in Nursing  
Delaware Technical Community College



**Desiree Allen**  
Bachelor of Science in Business Management  
Wilmington University



**Lauren Bates**  
Bachelor of Science in Business Management  
Wilmington University



**Angela Clemons**  
Bachelor of Science in Biology  
Wesley College



**Cindi Era**  
Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Management  
Wilmington University



**Kelli Grant**  
Bachelor of Science in Organizational Dynamics  
Wilmington University  
*Deceased December 2014*



**Michelle Hamrick**  
Associate of Applied Science in  
Nuclear Medicine Technology  
Delaware Technical Community College



**Shaquilla Holmes**  
Bachelor of Science in Accounting & Finance  
Wilmington University



**LaKedia Johnson**  
Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science  
Wilmington University



**Jane Long**  
Associate of Applied Science in Nursing  
Delaware Technical Community College



**Lena Thompson**  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Wilmington University

### 2014 – 2015 Board of Directors

#### PRESIDENT

Rita S. Wilkins

#### VP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Barbara Buckley

#### VP DEVELOPMENT

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Jenny Watson

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Evelyn Joiner

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Dana Dobson

Lynn Faulkner

Sarah Kenney

Judy Lewis

Jaye Pedante

Bonita Penn

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*Ex-Officio*

#### DIRECTORS EMERITAE

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Judith D. Powell

Beverly Stewart

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Janice Seitz

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Marguerite E.

Vavalla

## 2014-2015 Scholars

Name	Hometown	College	Major
Michala A.	Millsboro	Delaware Technical Community College	Nursing
Desiree A.	Elsmere	Wilmington University	Business Mgt.
Amanda B.	Smyrna	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Lauren B.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Organizational Mgt.
Lori B.	Lincoln	Delaware Technical Community College	Human Services
Angela C.	Dover	Wesley College	Biology-Pre-med
Angela C.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Cindi E.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Information Systems Mgt.
Brigette E.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Radiology Technology
Melvina F.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Human Services
Vickie F.	Dover	Delaware State University	Social Work
Elizabeth G.	Milton	Wilmington University	Organizational Dynamics
Kelli G.	New Castle	Wilmington University	Organizational Dynamics
Michelle H.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Nuclear Medicine
Stella H.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Human Services
Kada H.	Newark	Wilmington University	Organizational Mgt.
Shaquilla H.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Accounting/Finance
April J.	Camden	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
LaKedia J.	Selbyville	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Rebecca J.	Claymont	Widener University	Psychology
Michelle J.	Newark	Goldey Beacom College	Psychology
Ralandre L.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Elementary Education
Jane L.	Newark	Delaware Technical Community College	Nursing
Meaghan M.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Elementary Education
Deanna N.	Newark	Goldey Beacom College	Criminal Justice
Lynette O.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Career & Tech Education
Nancy S.	Felton	Wilmington University	Early Childhood Development
Yvonne S.	Millsboro	Wilmington University	Criminal Justice
Tikima S.	Dover	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Amber S.	Newark	Delaware Technical Community College	Nursing
Lena T.	Middletown	Wilmington University	Nursing
Rebecca W.	Bear	Delaware Technical Community College	Nursing



Fresh Start Scholars celebrate a successful year at the Networking Mixer in June 2015  
(Photo Credit: Bonita Penn)



Lynn Faulkner, Mentoring Co-Chair, Bonita Penn, Scholar Liason, and Barbara Buckley, Vice President of Scholarship Program

## Mentoring Makes a Big Difference Even Bigger

Did you know that Fresh Start provides more than financial assistance? Unique to our program, each scholar is paired with a mentor who provides guidance and encouragement to keep her focused on the long-term benefits of education rather than the short-term challenges of managing family, job and school.

Each mentor, chosen from the Wilmington Women in Business membership, acts as a personal coach to help her scholar achieve the goal of academic success by regularly reminding her that the pride of her accomplishments will far outlast the difficult journey to achieve them.

We give our deepest gratitude to Yvonne Nass, who is stepping down as a co-chair of mentoring after three years of excellent service. Fresh Start board member Jaye Pedante has joined Barbara Buckley, Lynn Faulkner and Bonita Penn on the Scholarship Committee to serve as the new mentor co-chair. We have no doubt that Jaye will successfully continue the important work of our mentoring program.

## 2013-2014 Graduate Survey Results

**83.5%**

of respondents experienced an improvement in professional or career-level employment opportunities

**66.7%**

of respondents reported earning a higher income after graduation

**83.3%**

of respondents experienced a boost in self-confidence as a result of their relationship with Fresh Start

**100%**

of respondents agreed that Fresh Start contributed to their being able to complete their college degrees

*"Fresh Start has definitely made a difference in my journey. I hope that I can be of help to other women as they embark on their own journeys."*

Desiree A. Wilmington University, 2015  
B.S. in Business Management

*"Fresh Start continuously provides all of their scholarship recipients with the tools they need to succeed."*

Connie P. Wilmington University, 2014  
B.S. in Finance

*"I value the help Fresh Start provided when I needed it most. Fresh Start was the start of things turning around for the better in my life."*

Sheila M. Wilmington University, 2013  
B.S. in Business Management

*"I am extremely blessed to have Fresh Start in my corner to help me attain my goals and to prove to my daughter that it can be done."*

April J. Wilmington University  
Current Student, Behavioral Science

*Note: We survey scholars on an annual basis*

## 2015 Fresh Start Graduates



(From left to right) Michelle Hamrick and her daughter; Michala Abrams and her family

## "It's Showtime!" Raises More Than \$50,000 for Scholarships

Fresh Start's annual fundraising gala, "It's Showtime," broke all of its financial records last year, raising more than \$50,000, which is more than 50 percent of its 2015-16 scholarship budget.

Deerfield provided a beautiful and elegant setting for the night's festivities. It's large and bright ballroom held a bandstand, dance floor, dozens of silent auction items, and a generous supply of fine food and drink.

**Save the Date! November 5, 2015, 6-9pm**  
**The Waterfall in Claymont, DE**



(From left) Priscilla Rakestraw, Honorary Co-Chair of "It's Showtime", Sharon Hake, CEO of Great Dames, and Bebe Coker, Honorary Co-Chair (Photo Credit: Paul Pruitt)

## Grants

Thanks to the following, whose grants will be used to help fund the Class of 2015/2016.

Chichester duPont Foundation	\$ 10,000
Christiana Rotary	\$ 1,000
The Christmas Shop Foundation	\$ 500
Dansko Foundation	\$ 1,000
Helen Eliason Foundation	\$ 10,000
Laffey McHugh Foundation	\$ 7,500
TD Bank Charitable Foundation	\$ 5,000

## 2014-2015 Annual Campaign Donors

(July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015)

### PACESETTER

\$5,000+

Wilmington University

### CHAMPION

\$2,500 - 5,000

Janice Seitz

### BENEFACTOR

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Ann DiStephano

Helen Eliason

The Huisling Foundation, Inc.

Mary Maloney

### PATRON

\$500 - \$999

Bank of America Charitable Foundation

PEO Lewes Chapter

Barbara & William Buckley

Fred Dawson

The Dugan Family Charitable Fund

Gemini Hair Salon

Janis Julian

J. Miller Family

Claire McElwee

Sandy Scheibe

Jane Taylor

Rita Wilkins

### BOOSTER

\$250 - \$499

Anna Lee Bachtell

Nancy & Jay Blumberg

Phyllis E. Feibus

Beverly Finch

Shatika Harris

Claudia Hughes

Jan Jessup

Judy Lewis

Claire Morse

John & Sherry Mouser

Susan Ricciardi

Beverly Stewart

### SUPPORTER

\$100 - \$249

Virginia Appleby

Bernard & Helen Balick

Louis & Harriet Berneman

Geraldine Burke &

Genevieve Marino

Richard & Margaret Carter

Claire L. Carey

Pamela Cummings

Hua Davis\*

Moira K. Donoghue

Joseph H. Dulin Trust

Michael & Lauren Field

Constance Greely

(Revocable Trust)

Great Dames, Inc. (The Fund)

Martin & Jane Groundland

Joyce Koria Hayes

Enrique & Maria Hernandez

Patricia & Andrew Hobbs

Deborah Horn

Marilyn Hyte

Evelyn Joiner

Sarah Kenney

J. Travis & Rebecca Laster

Jane Long & Charles

Salzenberg

Harold Lynch

Patricia McGee

Sheila McLaurin\*

Bonnie Meszaros

Yvonne Nass

Jaye Pedante

Richard & Jane Pell

Kenneth & Patricia Petro

Susan Poillon

Samuel & Patricia Ponzio

Michael & Brenda Pomianoski

Judith Powell

Joanne Scanlon Prestia &

Paul Prestia

Diane Richardson

Carol Amott Robbins

Nancy Rose

Sanders Educational

Consulting LLC

Donald & Dorothy Shack-

elford

Frank & Jean Sobonya

Sprint Quality Printing

A. Leslie Standord

Marguerite Vavalla

Jenny Watson

Margery J. Windolph

Valerie Woodruff

### FRIEND

Up to \$99

Deborah & Charles Albano

Robert & Kathleen Andrzejewski

Judy Austin

Bank of America - Matching

Donation

Louis & Patricia Baroshesky

Sheila Boyer\*

Pauline Brittingham

Angela Case

Michael & Jane Castle

JP Morgan Chase - Matching

Donation

Jim Curran

Dana Dobson

Tina Cernugel & Jim Dolphin

William & Carolyn Doyle

Alexa L. Girardi

Ralph and Tina Goldrick

Jerome & Susan Grossman

Jane R. Haggard

Pam Huxtable

Wendi Jacobs

Lisa King

Jeanne Griffith Leslie

Barbara Longyear

Elizabeth McDonough\*

Timothy & Nanci Mihalski

Marianne V. O'Rourke

Linda & Joseph Outlaw

Bonita Penn\*

Kristen Petro

Phyllis & Norman Sheppard

Brooke Bashore Smith

Andrew and Catherine Stack

Paul & Jean Stofa

Joyce & Gustin Tavani

In Memory of Alan Vukarovic

Denise Weiner

Ginger Weiss

Carol Ann Weisenfeld & Ron

Northeimer

Wendy Wise

\* Scholar graduates who made donations

## Mission Statement

The Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, is the charitable arm of Wilmington Women in Business, Inc. Our mission is to provide incentive to adult women who face (or have faced) personal and economic challenges and are seeking to improve opportunities for themselves and their families through education. We award annual scholarships based on need and provide mentoring support through WWB members. Candidates must be enrolled in a two- or four-year degree undergraduate program at an accredited Delaware college or university.

## How You Can Help

Scholarships are funded by foundations, corporate sponsorships, and individual donors to the scholarship program, fundraising events, grants and bequests to our scholarship endowment fund with the Delaware Community Foundation. You can help by sharing information about this scholarship program with others, encouraging candidates to apply, attending fundraising events and making contributions to the scholarship fund.

Checks should be made payable to the Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc., and sent to:

**Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc.**  
**Attention: Treasurer**  
**P.O. Box 7784**  
**Wilmington, DE 19803**

For more information, call 302-397-3440, or visit [freshstartscholarship.org](http://freshstartscholarship.org)

**Less Than 3% Administrative Expenses**

## 2014-2015 Financial Statement \*

### INCOME

Annual Campaign, net	\$ 25,851
Signature Event, net	\$ 50,052
Grants	\$ 35,000
In-kind Income	\$ 9,717
Total Operating Income	\$ 120,620

### EXPENSES

Scholarship Program	\$ 69,017
Administrative Expenses (see Note 1)	\$ 3,306
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 72,323

### NET OPERATING INCOME

NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ 48,297
Assets	
Cash	\$ 118,566
Accounts Receivable	\$ 690
Deferred Revenue, Event 2015	\$ (4,764)
Endowment Fund Balance (see Note 2)	\$ 213,130
Total Net Assets	\$327,622

### NOTES

1. Fresh Start's Board of Directors set a goal years ago to keep administrative expenses at or below 3% of income. The table below shows that we achieved this goal in 2014/2015.

2014/2015 Operating Income	\$ 120,620
Administrative Expenses	\$ 3,306
Percentage	2.7 %

2. In 2009, the Board of Directors of Fresh Start set up an Endowment Fund using GIFT (Global Investment Foundation for Tomorrow) model to assure the sustainability of our program well into the future. A portion of the earnings can be withdrawn in 2024.

\* (as of 6/30/15)

Special thanks to First Ascent Design LLC for sponsoring design services and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware for sponsoring printing services for this annual report.