



Celebrating 20 Years of Fresh Starts

2016-2017 Annual Report



Mission Statement

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 to adult women based on need, academic record and potential for success. We provide mentoring support to our scholars through professional women in the community. Candidates must be enrolled in a two or four year undergraduate degree seeking program at an accredited Delaware college or university.

Positioned for many more Fresh Starts

In 1996, Mary Maloney, founder of the Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, saw a need and had a vision to provide scholarships for Delaware women in need returning to college.

Now, we proudly celebrate our 20th year of making a difference. These are just a few of our many accomplishments since inception:

- 186 scholarship recipients
- Over \$830,000 awarded in scholarships
- Hundreds of dedicated volunteers and donors who have committed their time and treasure
- An engaged Board of Directors who is passionate about the success of our scholars and of our mission.

Going forward under the leadership of our new president, Sarah Kenney, we are well positioned for dynamic growth for the next decade and beyond. Thanks to all of you who have made this journey possible.

It has been an honor to lead Fresh Start over these past four years and to experience firsthand the impact our organization has on women who want, deserve, and are willing to do what it takes to get a fresh start. Our scholars are our inspiration and are a constant reminder of why we do what we do. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I confidently look forward to celebrating our 25th anniversary in 2021.

Warmest Regards,

Rita S. Wilkins, President, Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation



Since the beginning of my journey with Fresh Start, my mentor has always been there to give me support, encouragement and motivation. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for selecting me as one of the recipients for your scholarship. Your contribution toward my education will eliminate my financial worries so that I can truly focus on my studies.

Ruthann S. – 2016-2017 Scholar



"Having given birth to Fresh Start, it was difficult to step down from the presidency after 17 years. But, four years ago, I cut the umbilical cord and handed over the lead role to Rita Wilkins. She eagerly stepped up to the plate, brought a fresh perspective and built a stronger organization. Now, we are taking the next step in the Fresh Start journey as we pass the baton to Sarah Kenney, who brings youthful enthusiasm and a desire to help Fresh Start grow. What a joy it is to work with these talented, caring women who are also passionate about helping deserving women transform their lives through education!" - Mary Maloney, Founder

"I'm humbled to serve this organization. I'm completely committed to women's empowerment and -- together with the incredible Fresh Start network of volunteers, donors and scholars -- I know we will exponentially continue to improve women's lives through the power of education. Thank you for your support!" - Sarah Kenney, President Elect



2016 – 2017 Fresh Start Scholars



Name	Hometown	College	Major
Amanda B.	Dover	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Angela B.	Smyrna	Wilmington University	Accounting/ Human Resources
Kristin B.	Newark	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Lori B.	Lincoln	Wilmington University	Psychology
Tiffany C.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Patti C.	Middletown	Wilmington University	Elementary Education
Gerrell E.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Criminal Justice
Monet E.	New Castle	Wilmington University	Legal Studies
Vicki F.	Dover	Delaware State University	Social Work
Taylor G.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Human Services
Stella H.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Human Services
April H.	Laurel	Delaware Technical Community College	Middle School Mathematics Education
Genesis J.	Wilmington	Wilmington University	Behavioral Sciences
April J.	Camden	Wilmington University	Behavioral Science
Michelle J.	Newark	Goldey- Beacom College	Psychology
Jane L.	Newark	Wilmington University	Nursing
Tara J.	Frankford	Delaware Technical Community College	Nursing
Heidi M.	Georgetown	Wilmington University	Middle Level Mathematics Education
Leslie M.	Laurel	Delaware Technical Community College	Diagnostic Sonography
Tomacena M.	Bear	Goldey-Beacom College	Business Administration
Tacia M.	Seaford	Widener University	Paralegal Studies
Marla M.	Newark	Wilmington University	Legal Studies
Isrelis N.	Laurel	University of Delaware	Nursing
Veronica O.	Newark	Goldey- Beacom College	Accounting
Tiffany P.	Bear	Wilmington University	Human Resource Management
Sindy R.	Newark	Strayer University	Business Administration
Kei-Shanda S.	Wilmington	Springfield University	Human Services
Nancy S.	Felton	Wilmington University	Early Childhood Development
Marcie S.	Dover	Delaware Technical Community College	Business Management
Ruthann S.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Nursing
Amber S.	Newark	Delaware Technical Community College	Nursing
Camelia V.	New Castle	Wilmington University	Business Management
Kartlee W.	Wilmington	Delaware Technical Community College	Nursing
Dana W.	Claymont	Springfield College	Human Services

2017 Fresh Start Graduates



Kristin Blake
Wilmington University
Bachelor of Science
in Behavioral Science



Tiffany Cameron
Wilmington University
Bachelor of Science
in Behavioral Science



Amanda Baker
Wilmington University
Bachelor of Science
in Behavioral Science



Katrina Green
Springfield College
Bachelor of Science
in Human Services



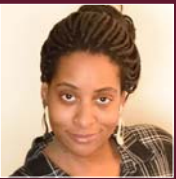
April Johnson
Wilmington University
Bachelor of Science
in Behavioral Science



Elizabeth Geller
Wilmington University



Heidi Maradiaga
Wilmington University
Bachelor of Science in
Middle Level Educ.



Marla Matrice Murphy
Wilmington University
Bachelor of Science
in Legal Studies



Michelle Jones
Goldey Beacom
College, Bachelor of
Arts in Psychology



Tiffany Peters
Wilmington University
Bachelor of Science
in HR Management



Sindy Rodriguez
Strayer University
Bachelor of Science
in Business Admin



Veronica Ortiz-Lopez
Goldey Beacom
College, Bachelor of
Science in Accounting



Marcie Shahan
Delaware Technical
Community College
Associate of Applied
Science in Business



Amber Sudler
Delaware Technical
Community College
Associate of Applied
Science in Nursing



Kei-Shanda Saddler
Springfield College
Bachelor of Science
in Human Services



Camelia Vivero
Wilmington University
Bachelor of Science in
Business Management

20th Anniversary Luncheon Celebration

Fresh Start Continues to Inspire

Thank you to the many supporters and more than 300 guests who attended Fresh Start's Anniversary Luncheon as we celebrated two decades of giving fresh starts to Delaware women and their families. Congratulations to our award winners.



Dr. Maria Hess
Honorary Chair



Muriel Gilman Champion Award

Barbara Buckley, VP
Scholarship Program
Pictured with Mary Maloney

Achievement Award

Bonita Penn, MSN, APRN, FNP-C



Inspiration Award

Allison Moore, Prison Break Coach



2016-2017 Scholarship Program Update



Barbara Buckley, VP, Scholarship Program

Scholarships totaling over \$87,000 were awarded to 34 very deserving Delaware women who were so appreciative of the support provided by Fresh Start.

I cannot thank you enough for this. This scholarship will help me in so many ways!!! - Tara J.

Thank you very much for this opportunity. It means more to me than I can express in words. - Tiffany P.

There were 20 returning scholars and 14 new scholars who attended 9 different colleges and universities in Delaware representing over 15 different majors in the fields of education, healthcare, social services and business. Geographically, 66% were from New Castle County but all three DE counties are represented. Of the 34 scholars, 25 are mothers raising a total of 50 dependent children. Since its inception in 1996, the foundation has now awarded more than \$830,000 in scholarships to 186 women to help them achieve their educational and career goals. The 2016-17 scholars were recognized at a special reception preceding the FSSF 20th Anniversary Luncheon.

Sixteen **Fresh Start Scholars** received Associates or Bachelors degrees during the 2016-17 academic year. We are so proud of what they have accomplished and look forward to hearing about their success in the future! With this year's graduating class, the overall graduation rate for our scholars has risen to 74% - a strong statistic for adult students.



Fresh Start Scholarship Mentor Program Update

The **Mentor Program** continues to be an important and effective component of the Fresh Start Scholarship Program. In the annual year-end survey, the scholars reported well over 250 contacts with their mentors – in person or via phone or email. Our mentors are making a difference in the lives of the scholars as evidenced in the following comments!

- *Even though I have graduated, my mentor continues to be by my side and encourage/support me .*
- *My mentor's willingness to share skills, knowledge, and expertise has helped me grow in my professional development by providing guidance and constructive feedback.*
- *The relationship I have with my Fresh Start mentor has been transformative and life changing!*
- *I am very happy with the support I have received from Fresh Start and especially from my mentor. I was so excited that she was able to celebrate my graduation with me.*

2016 – 2017 Annual Campaign Donors

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The Huisking Foundation

BENEFACTOR

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Dr. Janice Seitz

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Joanne M. Capano

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Claire McElwee

Nancy Rose

Sandy Scheibe

Siemens Caring Hands Foundation

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Barbara Longyear

Madalyn Schultz-Petit

Marcos Medroso

Mary Ann Michalcewiz

Michael and Marjorie Mundy

Clementina Ojje

Bonita Penn

Pepco Holding Company

Kenneth and Patricia Petro

Power of Strategic Insights, LLC

Kristen Petro Slade

Barbara Stockburger

Paul and Jean Stofa

Marguerite Vavalla

Sandra Walker

Grants

Thanks to the following whose grants will be used to help fund the class of 2017-2018.

Chichester DuPont Foundation Inc.	\$12,500
H.L. & D.C. Eliason Fund	\$10,677
Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation	\$12,000

Special thanks to the following whose grant funded the development and production of our new promotional video.

Crystal Trust	\$10,000
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2016-2017 Financial Statement

Income

Annual Campaign	\$	20,864.69
Signature Event	\$	35,218.66
Grants	\$	35,177.13
In-Kind (Wilmington University)	\$	9,150.00
Interest	\$	130.95
Total Income	\$	100,541.43

Expenses

Scholarship expenses	\$	86,958.92
Administrative Expenses	\$	5,642.42
Total Expenses	\$	92,601.34
Net Operating Income	\$	7,940.09

Assets

Cash	\$	114,314.54
Prepaid expenses	\$	1,538.89
Endowment Fund Balance	\$	272,619.63

Total Net Assets \$ 388,473.06

2016-2017 Board of Directors

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Rita S. Wilkins

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Barbara Buckley

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Jan Jessup

Sharon Kelly Hake

Gregory Lavelle

Grace Liu

Bonnie Meszaros

Janice Seitz

Claibourne Smith

Jack Varsalona

Peggy Vavalla

Director Emeritae

Joyce Koria Hayes

Judith Powell

Beverly Stewart

How You Can Help

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

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

Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 7784

Wilmington, DE 19803

For more information visit www.freshstartscholarship.org