



Patty Berg

“As a returning student at the age of 53, receiving the Assemblywoman Patty Berg & William Patrick Murphy, M.D. Scholarship for Women is both an honor and a necessity which will enable me to continue on my path in higher education. After earning my bachelor's degree in social work, I will be applying to Cal Poly Humboldt's MSW program as I work towards becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. I bring to this pursuit a lifetime of lived experience that has been touched by many social issues that I know Patty Berg held dear.”

**- Liz Hildebrand,
2026 Scholarship Recipient**

Patty Berg: Still Giving Back

On Friday, June 12, Michele McKeegan stopped by our offices in Bayside to present a check for \$1.5 million to our CEO Sara Dronkers. The money was the remainder of a generous estate gift from Assemblywoman Patty Berg, totaling just over \$2.5 million. It will support the Assemblywoman Patty Berg & William Patrick Murphy, M.D. Scholarship Fund for Women.

Berg passed in 2024 after five decades of service to her community and state. The scholarship, which was created by bequest, is to “support women who are determined to complete their education.”

“Patty wanted to help women fulfill their dreams of making this a better world,” said Michele. “She believed women had a very important role to play in making the world go around.”

This year the Foundation distributed more than \$1.12 million to students in Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity and Curry counties, its biggest scholarship season to date. This year also marked the inaugural round for Berg's scholarship, which had seven recipients. To learn more, visit hafoundation.org/news.



Michele McKeegan & Sara Dronkers

Dear friends,

Summer marks the end of the fiscal year for HAF+WRCF. It's both a busy time for staff and an opportunity for joyful reflection. The heart of our work is the relationships we build, strengthen, and facilitate, within and across the communities we serve. Every day provides opportunities to see how our neighbors step up to support one another, embodying the resilience and generosity that make this place so special.

This month also marks the halfway point for our 10-year strategic plan, which we initiated in 2021. For the past five years we have focused our work on a specific vision, that of a thriving, just, healthy, and equitable region. Sometimes this work feels like cultivating a garden: You plant the seeds, water them, and nurture them as they grow. It requires patience and optimism, but it's exciting to see so many good things bud, blossom and bloom.

"Scholarship season" — as we call it — is a tangible example of how one generation's vision can blossom into support for many generations to come. HAF+WRCF has been home to a scholarship program for almost 50 years, one that has grown to include 241 scholarships and helped support thousands of students across all stages of their academic careers. We are especially proud to note that more than half of this year's recipients— 58% — describe themselves as first-generation college students!

Our Board of Directors recently celebrated outgoing board member Raquel Ortega, who completed her 10-year term of service. We will miss her bright smile, wit, and insight in our meetings! I would like to personally thank David Finigan, who served as our Chair for the past eighteen months, and welcome Christina Huff into the role, as well as Alan Nidiffer, our new Vice Chair.

To our neighbors and friends, we hope your summer is bright and bountiful.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sara Dronkers'.

Sara Dronkers,
Chief Executive Officer

543

Total number
scholarships
awarded

\$2,130

Average
scholarship
amount

\$1.12 M

Total amount granted
in 25-26 season

58%

Recipients who are
first-generation
students

We had the pleasure of welcoming many new funds to the Foundation over the last quarter. These included several created by local organizations to support sustainability and growth, and a very generous estate gift to create a new scholarship fund. It's always exciting to talk to individuals and organizations who want to plan for the future. Please give us a call or email if you'd like to learn more!

-Laurel Dalsted, Donor Relations & Development Director

donorservices@hafoundation.org

707-324-3501



The **ARCATA COMMUNITY POOL FUND** was created to attract donations for critical building and equipment upgrades and replacements for the 50-year-old facility. External funding is essential to ensure a functional facility going into the future. [Hafoundation.org/arcatapoolfund](https://hafoundation.org/arcatapoolfund)



The **FRIENDS OF THE LOST COAST RESERVE FUND** ensures mission continuity, including presentation of our environmental education, stewardship, youth, and citizen-science programs and management of the Lost Coast Nature Center & Native Plant Nursery in Whitethorn. [Hafoundation.org/folc](https://hafoundation.org/folc)



The **SANCTUARY FOREST STEWARDSHIP FUND** was established to provide long-term financial support for Sanctuary Forest's ongoing stewardship responsibilities. [Hafoundation.org/sanctuaryforeststewardship](https://hafoundation.org/sanctuaryforeststewardship)



The **WILLOW CREEK FIRE PROTECTION FUND** will enhance firefighter and community safety, aid in building a new apparatus bay across the river from the existing station, fund equipment purchase, maintenance, Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), or other needs related to the charitable work of Willow Creek Fire. [Hafoundation.org/willowcreekfireprotection](https://hafoundation.org/willowcreekfireprotection)



The **GREGORY FELANDO & JOHN GREISER SCHOLARSHIP FUND** was established with a gift from the estate of Gregory Allen Felando and John William Greiser. The fund will provide scholarships to students majoring in science, engineering, or fine arts. [Hafoundation.org/felandogreiser](https://hafoundation.org/felandogreiser)



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To learn more about our work, recent news and events, or to subscribe to our digital publications, scan the QR code or contact us at info@hafoundation.org.

GRANT DEADLINES

08/03/26

- Humboldt Health Foundation Community Health Grants

10/15/26

- Native Cultures Fund
- Hansen Family Trust
- Arcata Foundation Fund

GRANT ROUNDS OPENING

08/15/26

- Arcata Foundation Fund
- Holiday Funding Partnership

9/1/26

- Victor Thomas Jacoby
- Trinity Trust Community Response Grants
- Peter E. Palmquist Memorial Fund for Historical Photographic Research
- Lynne & Bob Wells Fund for Performing Artists
- Rotary Club of Eureka Glyndon "Sign" and Ruth Smith Endowment Fund

For more information about grant opportunities, visit the HAF+WRCF Grants Portal at www.hafoundation.org/grants

Seamless Summer



Grant funding helped the Del Norte Unified School District upgrade its aging delivery truck fleet just as its [Seamless Summer Food Program](#) kicked off. DNUSD works to meet youth nutrition needs during the school year and beyond, including bringing free lunch and breakfast to communities as far as Klamath during the summer break.