

# ANNOUNCING THE 2019 TAHOE DONNER IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP

## \$50,000 for One Outstanding Student

By **DICK GANDER**, Giving Fund Committee Chair

"I want to change students' lives," were the words to the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. In 2017, the donor read an article in *Tahoe Donner News* about that year's scholarship recipients. The story of a teenage mother graduating from Sierra High School inspired a donation of \$22,000. This gift helped us to greatly expand our scholarships in 2018, both in the number of awards and their amounts, and provided additional support for our prior scholars.

The 2018 scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000, provide important book and tuition assistance for appreciative students. However, those amounts are not on a "lifechanging" scale. Conversations continued and the donor decided to donate \$50,000 in 2018 to fund a full four- to five-year scholarship at \$10,000 per year. This level of generosity is inspiring and truly lifechanging for the recipient. We've named this scholarship the 2019 Tahoe Donner Impact Scholarship; it was approved by the TD Board of Directors at its November meeting.

Please know that the Giving Fund will continue supporting other high school graduates. Previous \$1,000 to \$4,000



scholarship awardees are attending UNR, Cal, Butte College Fire Academy, Sierra College and several CSU universities. We are very proud of their accomplishments.

The 2019 Tahoe Donner Impact Scholarship is designed to allow the recipient to obtain an education that would otherwise be unavailable. Selection criteria to be given preference include the following:

- Substantial financial need
- First in family to attend post-secondary education in the family
- Demonstrated motivation to complete college and potential for success
- Academic performance commensurate with educational goals
- Strong recommendations from school personnel, employers and/or other members of the community

The 2019 Tahoe Donner Impact Scholarship is administered by the TD Giving Fund Committee through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF). Each spring, TTCF manages the process of soliciting, vetting and selecting graduating seniors from high schools within the greater Truckee/North Tahoe area for the

approximately 60 individual scholarships available. Our new scholarship is one of the larger awards, particularly for students with demonstrated financial need.

Barbara Ramsey, Giving Fund Committee member, provided her perspective after selecting last year's recipients: "When you read the stories of the outstanding youth graduating from our local high schools, it is very easy to be moved. Tahoe Truckee schools are excellent, so we have many students that are qualified with substantial financial needs. Incredibly, through the generosity of our donors, career goals can be realized and lives forever changed."

You, too, can change a student's life. We would love to continue and grow the Tahoe Donner Impact Scholarship. If you would like to participate in providing additional four- to five-year scholarships, we encourage you to direct a minimum contribution of \$10,000 to the Tahoe Donner Impact Scholarship Fund. Contributions of any size to the general Tahoe Donner Giving Fund are appreciated and will continue to fund our smaller scholarships and grants to area nonprofits. Direct questions to [tdgf@tahoedonner.com](mailto:tdgf@tahoedonner.com).

Read all stories about the Giving Fund's scholarship and grant recipients at [tahoedonner.com/giving-fund/press](http://tahoedonner.com/giving-fund/press).

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund is chartered by the TD Board of Directors. All contributions are voluntary tax-deductible gifts from TD members and friends. The Giving Fund is administered through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation. For more information on the Giving Fund or to make a contribution, visit our web page at [tahoedonner.com/giving-fund](http://tahoedonner.com/giving-fund). Contact [tdgf@tahoedonner.com](mailto:tdgf@tahoedonner.com) with questions or to volunteer for the committee. Thank you to our founding partner, Elements Mountain Company, for their continued support.

