**Scholarships Offered to Rock Creek High School Students**

**Through the Wamego Community Foundation**

**Bank of the Flint Hills Employee Donor Advised Scholarships** (1 @ approximately $500)
In 2010 the employees of First National Bank of Wamego (now the Bank of the Flint Hills in each of the following communities in which each such Bank by this name is currently located) established the First National Bank Employee Donor Advised Fund.  The purpose of this fund is to allow the employees to collectively support the community in ways that they could not do individually.  By combining the gifts from all the employees, they are able to create a significant amount of dollars each year that can be directed toward charitable causes in the communities they serve. The employees decided they wanted to give scholarships to graduating seniors of those various area high schools described as follows.  The class of 2011 was the first class to receive these scholarships which have been awarded annually in each year since.

**Criteria**

* Ten Scholarships are made available to three Wamego High School graduating seniors, one Wabaunsee High School graduating senior, one Rock Creek High School graduating senior, one Manhattan High School graduating senior, one St. Marys High School graduating senior, one St. Marys Academy High School graduating senior, one Rossville High School graduating senior and one White City High School graduating senior, respectively.
* Available for attendance at any 2- or 4-year accredited school.
* Special consideration will be given to students who have a GPA of 3.0 or above.
* For Wamego High School graduating seniors, special consideration will be given to students who are current members of Future Business Leaders of America.
* Each scholarship applicant must answer the question, "If you were given $1 million and were required to give it all away within 30 days, who would you give it to and why?"

**Matt Becker and Toby Becker Memorial Scholarship (number and amount awarded will vary annually)**

Matt Becker grew up in Northeast, KS, actively participating in sports and scouting not only as a youth, but also as an adult leader. From these activities, he developed a strong moral code that he believed was important to help instill in our youth today. He was known as an avid K-State fan who’s personal achievements included becoming an Eagle Scout and a business owner. Matt had an adventurous spirit and loved bringing laughter to any situation through his exuberant story-telling. As a very selfless and giving individual who never knew a stranger, he was always on a mission to help others. Matt was an electrician by trade, but his true passion, aside from his family, was baseball. The number of individuals he influenced, taught, coached, mentored, loved, and befriended is immeasurable. He enjoyed teaching a love, respect and appreciation of the game. Lessons learned through baseball help develop skills such as patience, discipline, responsibility, sportsmanship, perseverance, as well as learning not only how to face defeat and disappointment, but also how to celebrate success with compassion. Matt believed these lessons help youth be successful not only on the field, but in life as well. Through his passions, Matt developed a strong sense of giving back, which is one reason he was so driven to help make the dream of building a new field for Rock Creek baseball become reality. Sadly, he lost his life in a place near and dear to his heart on May 7, 2020 while setting light poles in the outfield, making dreams come true. It is our family’s desire to carry on his mission of giving back and helping others.

Toby Becker, son of Becky Becker and the late Matt Becker, grew up in Manhattan, KS, graduating from Rock Creek High School. He was a smart, charismatic, caring, and giving young man who was known for his piercing blue eyes and charming side smile. His younger brothers looked up to him, and he was a dear friend and teammate to many. Playing baseball from a very young age, Toby developed into an outstanding athlete, earning numerous accolades including being the only player in school history to throw a complete game no-hitter in the state tournament in 2019. Toby pursued baseball at the collegiate level, playing on a baseball scholarship for two years at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO before returning to Manhattan. As a young adult, Toby became a muscle car enthusiast and pursued interests in online trading, investing, and selling web3 domains. Toby built a nation-wide network of friends and acquaintances, deepening his love for travel through his entrepreneurial efforts. In 2015, Toby silently began battling depression and anxiety following trauma no person should have to endure. For two years Toby fought alone, struggling to find appropriate ways to cope until courageously sharing his story and seeking justice. Despite his efforts to heal, Toby died by suicide on December 13, 2022 at the age of 21. With his last words, Toby sought to reassure his family and friends of his love for them, and his sorrow that his brokenness was too much to bear. Toby’s part of this scholarship is to promote mental health awareness and to encourage others dealing with mental health concerns to seek help.

**Criteria**

* Available to a Rock Creek High School graduating senior or a previous graduate of RCHS.
* Available for attendance at any technical school or 2- or 4-year accredited school.
* Preference given to students who play baseball or softball, plan to become an electrician or pursuing a career in the mental health field.
* Have a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
* Applicants should submit a one paragraph statement on “What this scholarship would mean to you”.

**Kenneth “Pete” and Dorothy Ebert Memorial Scholarship** (Approximately $250)

The family of Kenneth and Dorothy Ebert established a fund in the spring of 2003 to provide one scholarship annually to a graduating senior of Rock Creek High School. The Ebert family has been very involved with 4-H and FFA through the years. Thus, it is highly desirable that the recipient of this scholarship be involved in many aspects of the FFA organization and demonstrates an interest in livestock showing and judging. Members of the Ebert family continue to be involved in judging and showing livestock across the USA

**Criteria**

* Available to a Rock Creek High School graduating senior.
* Available for attendance at any 2- or 4-year accredited school.
* Special consideration will be given to students who are members of 4-H and FFA and who have shown livestock at county, state, and national shows.

**David Hartwich Scholarship** (2 scholarships at approximately $500 each)

This scholarship was established in memory of David Hartwich who was known for his passion for Industrial, Vocational, and Agriculture pursuits. David (1954-2015) graduated from Onaga High School in 1972 and from Emporia State University with a degree in Industrial Education in 1976. He taught from 1976-1979 at Sabetha High School and then at Wamego High School from 1979-2009. Once Dave retired he raised cattle, farmed, and continued to run his dirt work/construction company. His love for Industrial, Vocational, and Agriculture pursuits was prevalent throughout his lifetime.

**Criteria**

* Each scholarship is available to a graduate of Wamego High School, Rock Creek High School, or Onaga High School.
* Each scholarship is to be used for post-secondary education in the Industrial Arts, Vocational, or Agriculture fields.
* Special consideration will be given to student applicants who have taken Industrial Arts or Agriculture classes in high school.

**Gus Hildebrand Memorial Scholarships**(2 scholarships at approximately $250 each)
August “Gus” Hildebrand (1971-2003) was a 1990 graduate of Wamego High School. He attended Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, and Chicago Hospitality Institute of Culinary Arts, where he earned a degree as a graduate chef. In March 2008, family and friends established these memorial scholarships to be awarded to two high school students, generally one from Wamego and one from Rock Creek, with special consideration being given to students who plan to enter a culinary arts program.

**Criteria**

* When possible, one recipient shall be a graduating senior of Wamego High School (KS) and one recipient shall be a graduating senior of Rock Creek High School (KS).
* Each scholarship is available for attendance at any accredited college, university, technical, or trade school for the fall semester directly following graduation from high school.
* Special consideration will be given to students entering a culinary arts program at any accredited school.
* Special consideration will be given to students who belong to at least two high school civic or school organizations or clubs.
* Financial need will also be considered.

**Riley Construction Company, Inc. Scholarship** (approximately $500)

Wymetta and Bryan Newell of Riley Construction Company Inc., based in Wamego, Kansas, established this scholarship for young individuals that are interested in learning career trades and especially the carpentry and construction fields.  Riley Construction Company is a proud supporter of the Wamego Community and participates in community activities and supports such endeavors as Wamego High School Peer Chamber community service projects and the Wamego 4th Grade Classroom to Career Partnership. At the state level, Bryan Newell participates in the Skills USA of Kansas – Teamworks Competition.  In business since 1986, Riley Construction is a full service Commercial General Contractor.  The Company provides pre-construction planning, budgeting and estimating, and general contract construction services.  It employs full time superintendents and project managers that control the budget and schedule of each project from conception to completion.  This scholarship has been specifically established for students who are pursuing a career in the carpentry or construction fields.

**Criteria**

* Available to a graduate of Wamego High School, Rock Creek High School, or Wabaunsee High School.
* Available for attendance at any trade school located in Kansas.
* Special consideration shall be given to students pursuing careers in the carpentry or construction fields.
* Financial need will also be considered.
* Applications must include a letter of vocational goals.

**Wamego Health Center Scholarships**(4 scholarships @ approximately $1,000 each)
These pass-through scholarships were first established in 2007 and are presented by the Wamego Health Center through the Wamego Community Foundation. These scholarships were initially created by the Wamego Hospital Association (as predecessor to the Wamego Health Center) to help further the education of students pursuing a career in the health field. These scholarships are made available for students at Wamego High School (2 scholarships), Rock Creek High School (1 scholarship) and Wabaunsee High School (1 scholarship) and are non-renewable by each recipient.

**Criteria**

* Available to students who have committed to use the scholarship for attendance at a 2- or 4-year accredited institution of high learning, including a university, college or vocational technical school.
* Each scholarship is required to be awarded to a graduating senior, with disbursement to be made by the beginning of the fall semester next following graduation from high school.
* Each scholarship recipient must be a student who is pursuing a career in a major health care field and curriculum.
* Each applicant shall be required to describe and show those activities and programs (in addition to his or her classroom studies) in which the student was involved in both the community and in high school throughout the student’s high school career.