

# A MESSAGE FROM MIKE



Michael M. Ahles | President, CEO and Chair of the Board

# Children are Our Future

ach year, as I think about Catholic United's tradition of awarding scholarships to further our members' education, I have these song lyrics playing in my head...

> I believe the children are our future Teach them well and let them lead the way Show them all the beauty they possess inside

"The Greatest Love of All" is a song originally recorded by George Benson in 1977, yet most folks remember the legendary version recorded by Whitney Houston, which topped the popular music charts in the early summer of 1986. These lyrics are timeless because each are so true. Children indeed are our future and our Association's expansive support of Catholic education truly ensures that they are taught well and positioned to lead the way in all of their pursuits. And speaking of the beauty they possess, take a look for yourself at the pages inside to see these stunning scholarship recipients. So inspiring!

This year, our post-high school scholarship program is 65 years old and I'm proud to say that we've awarded more than \$3 million in tuition awards over the years. Providing this assistance is more important than ever as the cost of education continues to rise dramatically, especially given the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Association was formed 142 years ago to help one another during times of financial distress and continuing to support our young members' path to prosperity through hard work and education is perfectly aligned with our legacy of caring.

Please join me in celebrating these wonderful young members of our Association and keep them in your prayers as they seize the opportunities of their well-educated future!

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# Financial Financial

Our Catholic Journey

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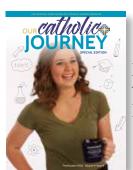
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Lifelong member Meredith Smith of Adams, Minn.

Photo by Bob Pearle.

### Catholic United Recognizes Volunteer Standouts

#### MONTHLY VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CELEBRATES FIRST THREE WINNERS

After reviving the volunteer of the year award in 2019 and realizing the joy recognizing these unique and special volunteers are to their communities, we got impatient. Since June, we've started honoring a Volunteer of the Month each and every month — who wants to wait a whole year to say "Thank you!" anyway? Nominations can be made through our website (catholicunited.org) and winners are announced through our JoinM.E. newsletter each month.







#### **AUGUST: Cindy Novy Immaculate Conception in Pine City**

Cindy Novy of Pine City continually brings the community together to serve those in need. Deacon Eugene Biever said that "Cindy truly loves our Lord and tries with the talents and gifts God has given her to make God's house and this world truly a holy and blessed place to worship and live in."

Within her parish, **Immaculate** Conception, Cindy has worked with the local Catholic United Council to initiate many soup suppers, All Souls Day events, and was instrumental in setting up Altar Sodality ministry and fundraisers to help pay for supplies to decorate the church throughout the liturgical calendar. Monsignor Aleksander Suchan shared that, "Cindy's love and devotion for the Catholic Church and its parishioners are felt in every corner of the church." Cindy is also passionate about supporting mission work in Tanzania, Africa. In the past 3 years she has helped raise \$26,279.81 to go to the mission in Tanzania.

#### **JULY: Dorothy Vandendriessche** Bread of Life PVT - Marshall, Minn.

"Dorothy's daily prayer is 'Lord I pray that in thought, word and action and in the use of my tongue, that I may love, honor and respect all people. May I witness for Jesus to the people whose lives I come in contact with each day' Dorothy has been a witness, not only to me but to the many, many people whose lives she touches through the many activities where she shares her time and talents. She brings Christ's love to others through her service." - Lori Timmerman, Parish Volunteer Team Lead and Holy Redeemer Elementary **Faith Formation Coordinator** 

Dorothy has always brought Christ's love, honor and respect to others through her volunteer work. She volunteers 4 days a week at Holy Redeemer School, attends daily Mass, subs for the Faith Formation program, prays a Holy Hour each week, sings in the funeral Resurrection Choir, and even serves meals when she goes to Arizona for a month in January.

**JUNE: Lester Braulick** St. John the Baptist - Searles, MN

Lester Braulick of New Ulm is a vital volunteer at the St. John the Baptist Church in Searles, MN. He has kept the parish going as administrator, maintenance and financial volunteer for the last 11 years without compensation! The parish would not have survived this long without him.

Lester has also been an outstanding volunteer for 30 years at the St. John the Baptist Council Matching Grant Cookie Walk, which has flourished over the years. In 2019, they raised \$21,000 in cookie sales and sold over 4,000 dozen cookies. This effort would not be as successful if it weren't for Lester and his custommade cookie press invention. Each cookie used to be hand cut but with Lester's hand-cranked press you can cut a dozen identical cookies in 4

Lester truly is a servant of the Church and for that we would like to show our appreciation.

# special edition 📑





# WE YOU CLASS OF

## Welcome to the 2020 Catholic United Financial Scholarship Yearbook

A baby born during the inaugural year of Catholic United's Scholarship program would be eligible for Medicare today. Sixtyfive years — while many of us may slow down when we reach that age, our grants for higher education have taken the opposite path.

In the past ten years, scholarship giving from Catholic United has exploded, growing to hundreds of awards per year, and hundreds of thousands of dollars. In 2020, we offered 442 scholarships totaling \$149,000 to our members. More than \$3 million has been given by this program since its inception.

Congratulations to all our recipients, may your education provide you the keys to success and happiness in the future.



Megan Achbach Rapid City, SD Univ of Mary



Grace Adelman Bellingham, MN



Griffin Anderson Auburn, WA U of WI - Superior



Samuel Anderson Lakeville, MN Saint John's University



Matthew Andresen Detroit Lakes, MN Ctrl Lakes Col -Brainerd



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Tashlynne Badger Mount Marty College



West Fargo, ND Univ. of N.D.



Jav Baldus Gustavus Adolphus College



John Baldus Dexter, MN U of WI - River Falls



Gustavus Adolphus College



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A note about Scholarship winners: Our Catholic Journey makes every effort to accurately report our scholarship winners. However, it is possible that a member awarded a scholarship has, since receiving the award, decided not to attend college this year, or has otherwise declined it after this issue has already been completed and gone to press. We apologize if you or your child/grandchild has declined their award, but still appear in these pages. These instances number in the single digits, and we hope you understand.

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Rocky Berg Parkston, SD Mitchell Technical Institute

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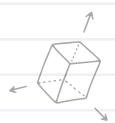
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ometimes, we buy something and sock it away specifically to forget about it. We purchase it for the security of knowing it's there when we need it, and the fact that we can just let it sit quietly in the background is one of its best benefits.

For parents and grandparents, purchasing a life insurance policy for their child or grandchild is just such an expense. In fact, one desperately hopes that it won't ever be

needed. For the young members whose elders took this precaution with Catholic United, there's a good chance the product they purchased is a Single Premium Youth Term policy.

Our Youth Term products always had have guaranteed privilege where the face amount could be converted to

permanent insurance. For a limited time, we are allowing adult members with Youth Term policies to change their coverage to Adult Level Term insurance.

Term is incredibly popular and extremely affordable, especially for young, healthy people. It's also an ideal product for those in their prime debt-gathering years. College, first home, young family – not to mention global pandemic - covering these debts against a tragic loss is paramount to the financial security of not only the young member, but also anyone who may have cosigned for the loans that usually accompany higher education and first homes.

If you, or your child or grandchild own one of these Youth Term policies, the insured member will be able to change it to 15-Year Level Term plan at Standard rates — without

> having to undergo a medical exam or complete a lengthy application until the end of 2020.

As is always the case, insurance is cheaper the younger and healthier you are. So there will never be a better time to lock in your term rate and guarantee protection from the unexpected than before their current

policy expires.

With the school year upon us, the new year will be here before you know it. Don't let this one-time opportunity to guarantee a child's coverage for the next decade or more slip away. Login to your account at my.catholicunitedfinancial.org right now to find your local rep and policy information.

If you, or your child or grandchild own one

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lengthy application — until the end of 2020.

# ın your area

Your local Sales Rep is your first resource for any questions you have about financial security or member engagement. If you don't know who your Rep is, their name is printed on the back cover of this magazine near the address area.















































































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