



— DIRECTORS' PROGRAM —

The Directors' Program of the Manchester Essex Education Fund (the Fund) is intended to develop immediate funding of scholarships for Manchester and Essex graduating seniors pursuing higher education. This program complements the Fund's original pooled endowment model, where individual named scholarships are funded as a percentage of annual portfolio total return and replenished by an annual fundraising solicitation.

The Directors' Program is a direct giving opportunity where a donor or group of donors make an annual commitment to fund all or part of a scholarship for multiple consecutive years. These contributions then fund scholarships awarded to graduating students in the school year in which the funds are given. For a commitment of at least \$1,000 per year for a three-year period, the donor may attach a name to the scholarship; a donor may also remain anonymous or have the scholarship awarded in the name of the Friends of the Manchester Essex Education Fund. Donations of less than \$1,000 per year will be aggregated with others and given in the name of the Friends of Manchester Essex Education Fund or, where a group of alumni donate together, in the name of a Manchester or Manchester Essex Regional High School class.

The Directors' Program is intended to increase scholarship awards to graduates in light of rapidly rising costs of post-secondary school education. Local businesses and individuals may find this program an attractive way to support local students pursuing higher education with the opportunity to name the scholarship and participate in the selection of the recipient. Prior classes of Manchester Essex Regional High School are challenged to fund a scholarship in the name of their class, especially in a reunion year.

Depending on the size of the commitment, donors may have advisory input and/or designate the criteria – such as the field of study – for recipient selection. Awards will be announced at Baccalaureate ceremonies prior to graduation, or an appropriate alternative occasion if the student does not attend Manchester Essex Regional High School. Donors of at least \$1,000 for a three-year consecutive period will be recognized at graduation and in local and social media.

Annual commitments must be funded by March 15 of the year in which the scholarships will be awarded. Donors may choose to fund by December 31 of the school year to obtain a tax deduction in the prior year. The Fund is an IRS-approved 501(c)3 entity and all donations are tax-deductible. Donations may be in the form of cash, marketable securities, qualified IRA distributions or foundation and estate-planning vehicles.

For more information, please visit our website at www.manchesteressexedfund.org.