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POSTED BY: LAURA BAILEY JULY 9, 2026

by Laura Bailey | TBE news editor | July 9, 2026 |

Main Street Community Foundation awarded \$423,543 in scholarships to 186 students this year through its scholarship program, helping recipients pursue educational opportunities from elementary and secondary school through college and career training programs.

The scholarships were awarded from 100 individual funds established by donors dedicated to supporting students throughout the Foundation's service area. Recipients come from Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott and will continue their education in fields including business, health care, criminal justice, journalism, education, engineering, visual arts and the skilled trades.

Each scholarship fund reflects the values and vision of the individual, family, business or organization that established it, creating opportunities for students to achieve their academic and career goals while honoring the legacy of the donors.

Most scholarships were presented during the Foundation's annual Scholarship Reception on June 23 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bristol. More than 200 scholarship recipients, donors, family members and community supporters attended the event celebrating student achievement and the generosity of those who make the scholarship program possible.

Main Street Community Foundation administers scholarship funds established by individuals, families,



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Among the scholarships awarded were several that recognize academic excellence, community service and students pursuing careers in fields that reflect the passions and legacies of their donors.

The **Academic Achievement Award Fund**, established by an anonymous donor in 2015, recognizes Bristol Central High School seniors who rank among the top 10 students in their graduating class and have attended the school for at least three years. This year's recipients are Caitlyn Carbone, Kye Kaley, Christopher Mika, Lyla Sowder and Victoria Testa.

Established in 2024, the **David J. Bourassa Memorial Scholarship Fund** honors the memory of David "Dave" Bourassa, a master electrician remembered for his kindness, strong work ethic and resilience while living with schizoaffective disorder. The scholarship gives preference to Bristol students pursuing careers in the mental health field. This year's recipient is Aubrey Cruz, who will attend the University at Albany.

The **Bristol Police Scholarship Fund**, established by Bristol Police Union Local 754 in 1999, supports Bristol students pursuing careers in law enforcement, the judicial system or criminal justice. This year's recipient is Dawyne Vargas, who will attend Central Connecticut State University.

Created in 2025, the **Bristol Sports Hall of Fame Christopher P. Calnan H.O.P.E. Scholarship Fund** honors Christopher P. Calnan, whose perseverance and love of sports continue to inspire others. The scholarship recognizes graduating seniors who have earned at least three varsity letters while contributing to Bristol's athletic community. This year's recipients are Giavana Hatcher of Bristol Eastern High School, Amelia Jennings of St. Paul Catholic High School and Reese



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The **Bristol Lions Club F. Fred Soliani Memorial Scholarship Fund** honors longtime educator and civic leader F. Fred Soliani and awards scholarships to graduating seniors from Bristol Central or Bristol Eastern high schools. This year's recipient is Armaan Chaudhry of Bristol Eastern High School.

The **Bristol Lions Club/James J. Keating Scholarship Fund** honors James J. Keating, whose commitment to vision care and eye health left a lasting impact on the community. The scholarship supports graduating seniors from Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott who are legally blind or visually impaired. This year's recipients are Madison Clayton of St. Paul Catholic High School and Drew Fowler of Terryville High School.

For a complete list of scholarship recipients and funds, visit <https://www.mainstreetfoundation.org/scholarships-awarded>

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