

# 2018 Annual Report



Forman S. Acton  
Educational Foundation



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I am very excited to take the reins from Kathryn Markovchick, who has done an outstanding job as the founding President of the Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation. She and her talented team of trustees and staff have laid the groundwork for a bright future for the Foundation.

Working in Salem is especially meaningful to me. My mother grew up on East Broadway and graduated from Salem High School. My father grew up on a farm in Mannington. I used to spend time with my grandparents, who still lived in the city, when I was a boy. Van Meters have been part of the fabric of Salem County for over 300 years.

What truly excites me is not looking back, but focusing on the future work of the Foundation. Through the generosity of Dr. Acton, we have the opportunity to make a big difference in the lives of Salem's school children. Through the Acorn Fund college savings program, the Forman Scholars program, summer programs, grants to area organizations, and other initiatives, the Foundation supports the children and community.

I have spent more than three decades as a teacher, administrator, and leader in schools. I look forward to bringing this background to Salem and to the worthy work of the Foundation. I also look forward to learning more about Salem and its current needs as we map a bright future together.

– LARRY VAN METER, PRESIDENT & CEO



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# Acorn Fund



## Planting the seed of education to help every Salem student grow

Initially launched in 2016, the Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation's Acorn Fund is one of the only programs in the United States that makes annual donations into college savings accounts for every child – from birth through high school – in a community. New in 2018, the Foundation introduced high school Graduation Bonuses of up to \$1,000 as an additional deposit into eligible Acorn Fund holders' accounts. These new Graduation Bonuses account, in part, for the increase in distribution requests in 2018. Students who graduated high school in 2016, 2017 and 2018 are still eligible to apply.

**\$825,000**

Total grant amount from our foundation to create the Acorn Fund

**813**

Total children with Acorn Fund accounts

**39**

Graduation bonuses awarded

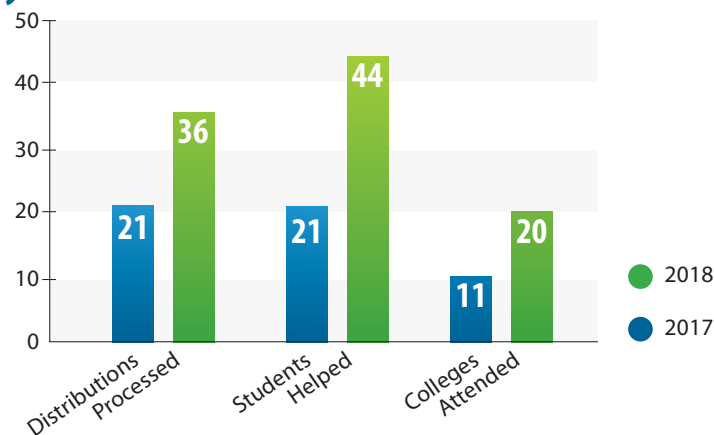
**49**

Students who have already used their Acorn Fund savings to help pay for college

## Funds Distributed to Colleges



## By the Numbers



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# Scholarships & Mentorships

## Celebrating and rewarding Salem's standout students who follow in Forman's footsteps

Helping students in Salem who have high academic ability, demonstrate family financial need, and are as hardworking as our Foundation's namesake was our very first initiative. In 2018, our commitment became stronger than ever as we rewarded even more of Salem's standout students with college scholarships. We call these students Forman Scholars and through the program, we provide each of them with \$40,000 during their undergraduate years. We guide them through the college experience, provide them access to financial counseling, and give them opportunities to be a part of our Foundation by helping the next generation of Forman Scholars.

**25** Forman Scholars currently in college

**2** Forman Scholars currently attending graduate school

**16** Colleges and universities attended

**\$634,964** Awarded since the inception of the Foundation

**3.26** Average GPA

**5** Forman Scholar college graduates

### Madinah Thomas:

Graduated from Rowan University in May 2018

### Mariah Pierce:

Graduated from Rutgers University in May 2018



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# Sharing Our Story

## We serve our community by helping organizations that support Salem's students

In 2018, our support for organizations that provide opportunities for Salem students made an extraordinary impact. We believe in the importance of empowering Salem's youth in multiple ways. Here's just a selection of the schools and non-profit organizations to which we provide grants.

### Girl's World (STEM Mentoring Program)

Girl's World (STEM Mentoring Program) is a three-year program that encourages young women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics by exposing them to development activities and service projects. This year, we sponsored three girls through a \$3,900 grant. We also sponsored South Jersey Robotics, a sustainable, robust robotics program that promotes STEM, who attended our annual block party.

### One Village Alliance

One Village Alliance provides a variety of services for the Salem community, and we helped fund its summer program through a \$25,000 grant and its after-school program with a \$50,000 grant. The programs offered homework help and tutoring, their own curriculum to support learning objectives, and mentoring through real life situations.

### STEAM program

This was the fourth year Salem students attended Rowan University's three-week long STEAM Academy, which exposes high school students to college campus life through a science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics learning experience. In 2018, we paid for 12 students to attend this enlightening program.

### Rowan University

Set up to conduct an evaluation of the Foundation's currently funded projects, Rowan University's Center for Access, Success, and Equity (CASE) supports the Foundation's future work with Salem students.

### OUR NEW OFFICE

In 2018 we opened our new office located in the **Fenwick Plaza at 205 E. Broadway, Salem City.** Now students, parents and guardians can visit us in person for meetings, workshops and questions.



# TESTIMONIALS

The numbers behind our programs show our growth, but the stories we hear show our true impact. Here are some of the messages we've received from parents and students about the support we provide to Salem students through our programs, grants, Acorn Fund and more.



"The Foundation has been nothing but positive and supportive to me, and I'm sure it has been to all of the graduates within the program as well. I would argue the Foundation is the best thing to ever happen to this school district."

- Michael Warner, Student and Forman Scholar

"As a teacher myself, I know how important it is to experience a taste of the college life before you go. For Ellie, my daughter, STEAM Academy not only helped her figure out a potential college path, but it absolutely helped raise her confidence and make her a more outgoing person. We tell everyone to go to STEAM Academy. It's such a great experience for young people."

- Heather Sakewicz-Frank, Parent

"I am truly grateful, thankful and appreciative for the Foundation's wonderful help and much needed assistance. They helped pave the way towards another chance at attending college, something I was unsure would still be an option for me. Now because of the Acorn Fund and Graduation Bonus, I'm back to achieving progress and furthering my education to pursue a career."

- Jeremy Jones, Student, Acorn Fund & Graduation Bonus Recipient

"I am grateful to be in this Forman Scholars program. It's why I'm able to afford the college of my choice. I see this program as an opportunity to pay it forward and be a resource to students who participate in the program after me."

- Michaela DuBois, Student and Forman Scholar

"At our school, being a Forman Scholar is a pretty big deal and it means a lot to me. It means not only that I can pay for college, but I'm also creating these relationships with Foundation members and leaders. I'm glad I was able to become a Scholar like my sisters and continue to represent my family."

- Sarah Sharp, Student and Forman Scholar

"I signed my six-month-old son up for an Acorn Savings Fund account. It was important to sign him up early so the most amount of money possible would grow by the time he is ready to attend college. This will absolutely influence his decision to attend college when he's older."

- Dazha Clayton, Parent of Acorn Fund savings account holder



"The mentoring program especially meant a lot to me. At the Scholars Dinner, I was actually able to ask a lot of questions to the older Forman Scholars who were also close in age to me. It was interesting to hear perspectives of other students who went through the program and are already succeeding in college."

- Starchild Jackson, Student and Forman Scholar

To learn more about everything we're doing to empower Salem's youth, visit us online at [www.FormanScholars.org](http://www.FormanScholars.org). You can also follow us at [Facebook.com/FormanScholars](https://www.facebook.com/FormanScholars) and [Instagram at @FormanScholars](https://www.instagram.com/FormanScholars).

**Want to enroll your child in our programs?  
CONTACT US TODAY.**

Phone: **844.436.7626**

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Visit: **205 E Broadway | Salem, NJ 08079**



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