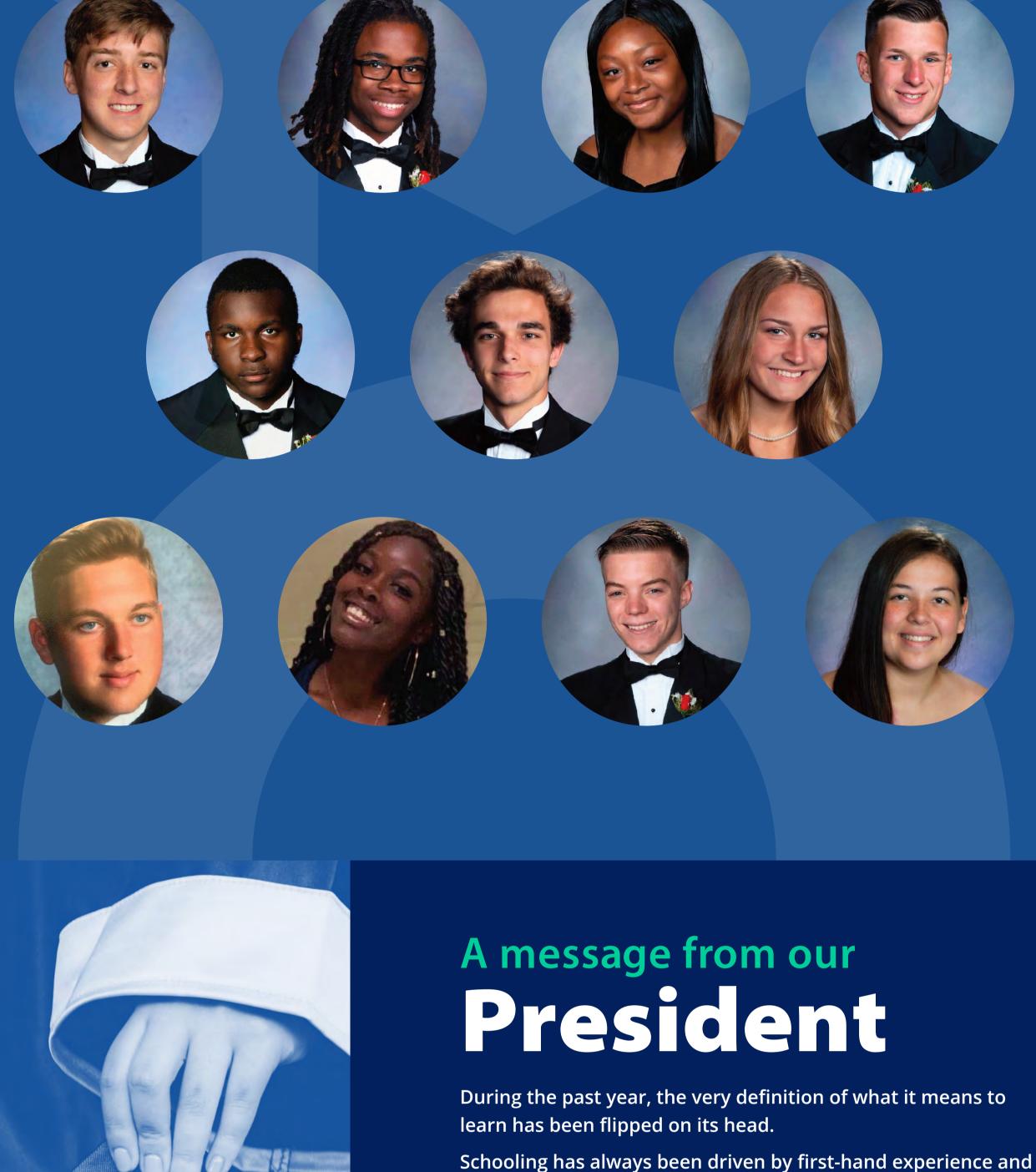
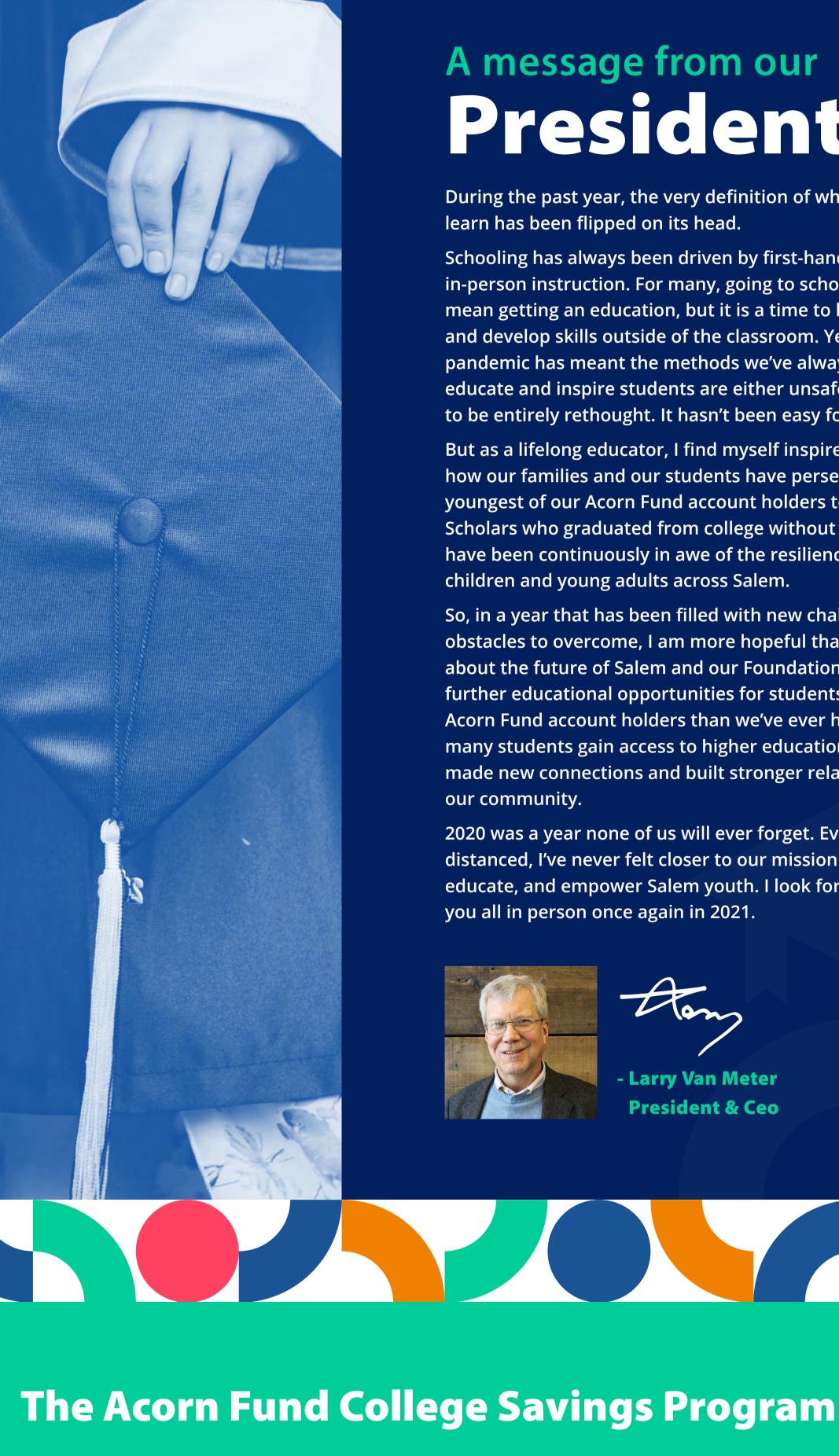
Forman Acton

The Class of 2020 Forman Scholars





and develop skills outside of the classroom. Yet, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant the methods we've always used to educate and inspire students are either unsafe to do or need to be entirely rethought. It hasn't been easy for anyone. But as a lifelong educator, I find myself inspired every day by

how our families and our students have persevered. From the youngest of our Acorn Fund account holders to our Forman Scholars who graduated from college without a ceremony, we

in-person instruction. For many, going to school doesn't just

mean getting an education, but it is a time to build friendships

have been continuously in awe of the resiliency shown by children and young adults across Salem. So, in a year that has been filled with new challenges and new obstacles to overcome, I am more hopeful than I've ever been about the future of Salem and our Foundation's ability to further educational opportunities for students. We have more Acorn Fund account holders than we've ever had. We've helped many students gain access to higher education, and we've made new connections and built stronger relationships across

2020 was a year none of us will ever forget. Even as we've

distanced, I've never felt closer to our mission to inspire,

you all in person once again in 2021.

educate, and empower Salem youth. I look forward to seeing

- Larry Van Meter **President & Ceo**



Despite the chaos and uncertainty of this past year, we continued to support nearly 1,000 Salem students

Our Acorn Fund program invests in college savings accounts for every child living in or attending public

Since inception

44

Total grant amount from

to create the Acorn Fund

our Foundation

in 2016

our community.

Last year, we also continued our tradition of offering High School Graduation Bonus Awards to eligible Acorn Fund holders' accounts as an additional deposit upon their high school graduation. Students who graduated from high school in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 or 2020 and signed up for our Acorn Fund program may apply for a one-time Graduation Bonus Award and receive an additional contribution to their Acorn Fund account. Once approved, those who graduated from the classes of 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017 will receive

In 2020

24

by making our annual contribution to their Acorn Fund accounts.

Since 2016, we've proudly watched the Acorn Fund grow and increasingly

the only programs in the country that makes annual donations to college

savings accounts established for every child of a community from birth

unlock more educational opportunities for our students, as it remains one of

\$500, and 2016 graduates will receive \$1000. All students who graduated high

school in Salem City.

through high school graduation.

school in these years are still eligible to apply.

Acorn Fund By The Numbers

Acorn Fund graduates attending college who 34 99 have received Acorn **Fund distributions** Total distributions made 38 143 to Acorn Fund graduates attending college

Colleges attended by

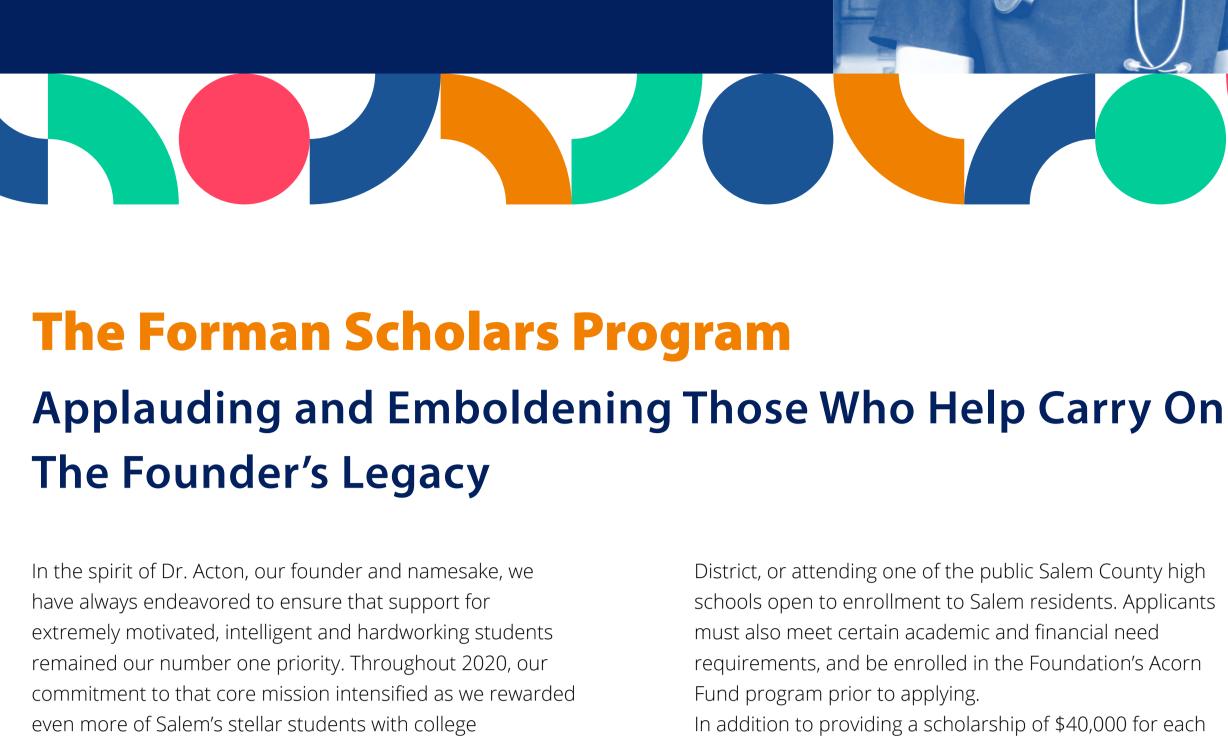
Acorn Fund graduates

\$1,325,000

scholarships.

Average GPA of current

Forman Scholars in college



Our Forman Scholars program awards college scholarships

undergraduate college years. To be eligible, students must

be attending Salem High School, or living in Salem City and

attending a school in the Salem County Vocational School

of \$40,000 to Salem's highest-achieving students during their



Scholar to put toward their undergraduate college expenses,

relationships with the Foundation's staff members and future

Colleges and Universities

attended

the Forman Scholars program helps each Scholar navigate

the college experience, provides them with financial

counseling and offers them opportunities to build

generations of Forman Scholars.

Forman Scholars

Organizations

currently in college

\$1,240,000 Awarded since the inception of the Foundation

Forman Scholar

college graduates

Scholars studying Scholars studying Scholars studying Scholar studying Scholar studying Scholar studying Scholar studying Scholar studying in Pennsylvania in Maryland in Florida in Massachusetts in Washington D.C. in New Jersey in Delaware in Georgia

Additional Emergency

During A Tumultuous Time

Funding During Covid-19

Providing Assistance And Support

Community Foundation: When we celebrated the start of 2020 on

January 1, none of us could have predicted what was to come over the

virus and the complete upending of life as we knew it. Recognizing such

COVID-19 Response Fund in April. Created in response to the anticipated

trying times and striving to assist those most in need, the Foundation

short-term and long-term effects of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Fund

was established by a coalition of business and philanthropic partners to

rapidly deploy flexible resources to 501(c)3 non-profits in eight counties

across southern New Jersey - Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May,

Funding College Deposits: With the onset of COVID-19, members of

constraints of social distancing and stay-at-home orders. In light of these

the Class of 2020 had the already challenging task of graduating from

unprecedented times, this spring we proudly offered our Acorn Fund

first-for-the-Foundation initiative funded 28 deposits to 17 schools

holders who graduated from high school the opportunity to have their

high school and launching their college careers magnified by the

initial college deposit paid for by the Foundation. This

totaling nearly \$10,000.

Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean and Salem.

granted \$30,000 to the Community Foundation of South Jersey's

next 12 months - a deadly pandemic spreading a relatively unknown

Together, we are the village.

ALLIANCE

It takes a whole village to raise a child ...

for the Salem community. This year we granted \$90,530 toward the organization's after-school program, summer program and additional COVID-related expenses. The Huddle: The Huddle is an after-school program providing a safe and supportive learning environment where students receive homework assistance and tutoring while parents receive the educational tools necessary to aid their children in the pursuit of higher education. This year we granted \$25,000 toward the program itself and an additional \$2,200 toward COVID-related expenses.

Grants To Local Community

Supporting Programs That

In 2020, we continued to support those organizations that provide Salem

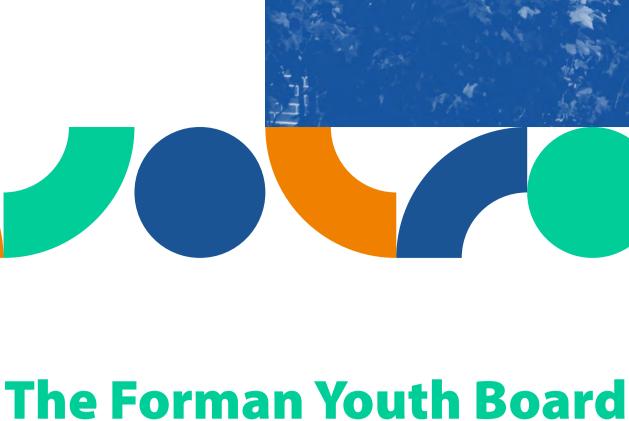
importance of empowering Salem's youth in multiple ways. Here are just a

selection of the non-profit organizations we provided grants to this past year.

One Village Alliance: One Village Alliance provides a variety of services

students opportunities for growth and achievement. We believe in the

Support Our Community



Since 2018, the Forman Youth Board has been comprised of students who wish to make a meaningful difference in the greater Salem area. Even amidst a global pandemic, the Youth Board's members devised ways in which to engage with their community in thoughtful and impactful ways. Here are some of the initiatives they spearheaded throughout 2020. Summer Pizza Fridays: Last summer, as the coronavirus canceled most vacation plans and kept many Salem families indoors, the Youth Board saw a need to bring joy to their peers and their families in safe and

remote ways. This special idea took the form of Summer Pizza Fridays.

During Fridays in the summer, the Youth Board randomly selected five

Acorn Fund families to receive pizza from local pizzerias for dinner!

Through this effort, the Youth Board uplifted and celebrated our

School Supply Drive: In the fall, members of the Youth Board

collecting 500 individual prepackaged supplies for delivery to the

organized a school supply drive to benefit the students of Salem City,

glue sticks and pencil sharpeners - to ensure Salem's students had a

themselves, their classmates and their teachers from COVID-19.

elementary and middle schools. Youth Board members donated a variety

of supplies - including pencils, scissors, crayons, markers, colored pencils,

successful and productive start to their school year. Even hand sanitizer

and facemasks were included so students could remain safe and protect

wonderful community while giving back to Salem-area businesses.

Developing A Desire To

Make A Difference

As a Forman scholar, the foundation has provided me with the utmost support. They have always assisted me throughout my college journey and I know that I will receive the same support post-graduation. This foundation has more to offer than just a scholarship. They are caring, supportive and understanding individuals who have my best interest at heart. This journey has been one to remember but I'm glad they were with me every step

I am very grateful to be part of this amazing program. The Forman

Scholars program has been a huge help in my college success. Not

only am I able to pay for college, but I built many relationships that

have helped me throughout my college career thus far. I can't

thank the foundation staff and fellow scholars enough for their

Chandra Pitts CEO/President, One Village Alliance

Katie Ridgway

Forman Scholar, Rowan University

S'Deionna Washington

Forman Scholar, Delaware State University

esumonas

assistance, a phone call, or helping guide me through the pathway of success and independence. For these reasons, I look forward to seeing all that is in store with members of this organization by my side. **Kyla Avant** Forman Scholar, The University of Scranton Support from the Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation means so much more than a grant. It means true partnership in working with us to find the best ways to continue to meet the diverse needs of families in Salem, especially during this increasingly challenging time. In the midst of a global pandemic with programs and businesses closing all over the city, the foundation not only continued, but increased funding to our agency. One Village Alliance was able to keep our doors open, customize educational supports to reach families at home, and increase offerings to meet the growing needs of families living in a state of emergency well before March.

The Foundation has provided students

that going to college there would be a

lot of adjustments. However, nobody

COVID-19 would have on all of us. Not

us several times to make sure I was

they granted opportunities to make

necessary materials. This foundation

support team whether it be financial

has taken the time to check-in and be a

sure we were able to get all the

only has this foundation reached out to

prepared to have a successful semester,

could have predicted the impact

like me with many opportunities. I knew

of the way.

continued support.

In Person

Fenwick Plaza

205 E. Broadway, Salem City, NJ

Connect with Us

Contact us

Online

FormanScholars.org

884-4FORMAN (436-7626)

info@formanscholars.org



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Acton

FOUNDATION