

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Helping people in recovery take **The Next Step** in their education.



THENEXTSTEPSTL.ORG

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Board members, community ambassadors, and scholarship recipients volunteer at our 2024 RecoveryFest tent.

Photo Credit: Marlowe G., 2024 Scholarship Recipient

OUR MISSION

To provide tuition assistance to individuals active in a who demonstrate financial need and are pursuing an

TO OUR COMMUNITY:

As we approach the end of an incredible year, I am thrilled to reflect on the remarkable growth and impact we have achieved. This year, we have taken significant steps to further our mission and create opportunities for individuals in 12-step recovery programs.

2024 marked a historic milestone for our organization: **110 individuals in recovery were awarded a record-breaking \$357,602 in scholarship funding** — a 43% increase from last year in both recipients and funds awarded. Since our scholarship program began in 2005, we have awarded a total of \$2.3 million in scholarships, empowering countless individuals to build brighter futures.

This year, we also expanded our scholarship program to Kansas City, extending our reach and impact to even more students in need of tuition assistance. This expansion would not have been possible without the determination of our founders, Ron Moser and Janet Eto, and countless individuals who funded our first 17 Kansas City recipients.

Another major highlight was our most successful gala to date, where together we raised an incredible \$670,000. These funds will directly support scholarships for the St. Louis program to help change lives. The gala truly showed the unwavering commitment of our supporters and the power of the recovery community.

As we celebrate these achievements, we remain focused on the road ahead. The need for our scholarship continues to grow, and together with your support, we are determined to rise to the challenge!

On behalf of our board, thank you for being part of this community and for your belief in our mission. We couldn't do this without you!

With gratitude,

Darcy Glidewell

Executive Director



The Next Step Board of Directors

12-step recovery program from substance use disorder
academic or vocational education.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

An overview of the scholarship funding and recipients for the 2024-25 academic year

110

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

51

FIRST TIME RECIPIENTS



\$357,602

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AWARDED
43% INCREASE FROM 2023



DEGREE PROGRAMS

80

UNDERGRADUATE

19

GRADUATE

3

PHD PROGRAMS

8

VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL,
AND CERTIFICATION
PROGRAMS



3.55

AVERAGE GPA

39

AVERAGE AGE

RECIPIENTS FROM AGES 21-65

29%

BIPOC REPRESENTATION

(BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND
PEOPLE OF COLOR)



57

ZIP CODES REPRESENTED

75%

RECIPIENTS
WORKING
FULL-TIME WHILE
ATTENDING
SCHOOL



32

EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS

27

SINGLE
PARENTS



ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

- We fund undergraduate, graduate, PhD, vocational, technical, and certification programs.
- To qualify, applicants must be active in a 12-step recovery program from substance use disorder, have a minimum of one year of recovery time, demonstrate financial need, work at least part-time, and live in the St. Louis or Kansas City region.
- Applications are accepted yearly between December 1 - April 1. Board members interview eligible applicants to better understand their needs and goals. Scholarships are awarded each May.
- Scholarships can be used for tuition and books and are paid directly to the educational institution. Recipients can reapply each year.



Jessica

Bachelor of Science - Nursing
Goldfarb School of Nursing

2024 Gina May Wiese Memorial
Scholarship Awardee



Jessica's story is one of transformation, resilience, and a deep commitment to serving others. Growing up with a father in law enforcement, Jessica believed the societal stigma surrounding addiction — that it only affected people who were homeless, jobless, or outcast. However, on June 2, 2019, Jessica realized that addiction had also taken root in her own life and began her recovery journey.

Jessica found her foundation in recovery at her home group. Surrounded by a strong community of people who modeled consistency and accountability, she embraced a rigorous meeting schedule and found solace in faith and service. Today, Jessica is not only steadfast in her recovery but also dedicated to paying it forward, striving to be a pillar of support to others in similar struggles.

Recovery has fueled Jessica's desire to give back, particularly through healthcare, which she believes is the ultimate way to serve others. Jessica is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Barnes Jewish College at Goldfarb School of Nursing. Her goal is to work in behavioral health, preferably with pediatric patients.

—“
For the first time in my life, I am prioritizing my own future.
”—

"For the first time in my life, I am prioritizing my own future. Without The Next Step, I would not be on this path. My partner and I are both scholarship recipients, working hard to get our degrees. It's challenging, but I'm determined to break the cycle of poverty and serve as a role model for my bonus children."

Jessica has been a scholarship recipient since 2022, and this year she was awarded additional funds as a Gina May Wiese Memorial Scholarship awardee. "Without these scholarships, I'm not sure how I would be able to get my degree without incurring massive debt. I will forever be grateful for this opportunity."



Zeth C.

The Next Step has profoundly impacted my life by increasing financial independence, and helping me develop a community of like-minded professionals around me. Being involved with this community is priceless.



Samantha G.

I will be the first person in my home to have achieved my high school diploma and also college education only by the grace of God and The Next Step. The program is encouraging me to continue and be productive in society. Thank you for this organization and all the people that supported people like me!



Molly Z.

The Next Step has given me the opportunity to advance my career to be able to provide for my children and show them that anything is possible! I am forever grateful for The Next Step and its generous donors who make it possible! Thank you all so much!



WAYS TO GIVE

Your support of our mission is critical in helping students in recovery improve their lives. But it goes beyond that. You are also helping their families and the St. Louis community. **Your support truly makes a difference!** We've made it easy to give with many different options, including:

- Individual Gifts
- Monthly Recurring Donations
- Stock Donations
- Planned Giving
- Employer Matched Gifts
- Named Scholarships
- Event Sponsorship
- Third Party Events
- Social Media Fundraisers
- Honorary and Memorial Donations
- In-Kind Donations

Make a 100% tax-deductible donation at thenextstepstl.org/donate, or contact us at 314.719.2880 to discuss how to make the most of your charitable contribution.





DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Larry and Sharon Carrico

Larry and Sharon Carrico, the owners of SKC Enterprises, have spent over 40 years building a thriving business with over 100 locations across eight Midwestern states, as well as a legacy of generosity and community involvement. Since meeting in 1977, the couple has shared a deep passion for helping others, inspired by their family history and personal connections to the recovery community.

Their journey with The Next Step began more than a decade ago. Introduced to the organization during a dinner with its executive team, Larry and Sharon were moved by its mission and its transformative impact on the lives of people in recovery. As sponsors, they saw firsthand how the program's focus on recovery and self-improvement aligned perfectly with their values.

For Larry and Sharon, the motivation to give is simple: witnessing lives change. "You see the humble beginnings and struggles of so many, then their progress. Changing lives with our investment has made a difference for the community of St. Louis," says Larry. "The Next Step understands the importance of offering a hand-up rather than a handout."

Larry and Sharon also admire the organization's effectiveness. "The professionalism and accountability of The Next Step's leadership ensure that resources are utilized for the greatest good. Their vetting process and ability to grant scholarships to qualified recipients make a tangible difference."

When asked why others should support The Next Step, the couple points to the undeniable impact showcased at their events. Seeing over a hundred scholarship recipients share their stories and walk across the stage at the Annual Scholarship Gala is a powerful testament to the program's success. "Removing negativity has changed their lives," they say. "You see so much gratitude from the scholarship recipients, and it's a joy for us to be part of their educational journey."



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEXT STEP'S

GRACE A.
Cardiac Sonography

NEIL A.
Fire Chief Administration

CHRISTOPHER B.
Criminal Justice

BRIANNE B.
Nursing

ERICKA B.
Nursing

RIAN B.
Business

PATRICK B.
Social Work

TINA B.
Addiction Studies

DANIEL B.
Social Work

SETH B.
Divinity

TODD B.
Counseling

ARIEL B.
Consciousness

GEORGE B.
Welding

SARAH B.
Dental Hygiene

FRANCHESTA B.
Human Services

CHARLIE B.
Human Services and
Addiction Studies

WANDA B.
Organizational Leadership

PAMELA C.
General Studies

CHRISTINA C.
Transportation

JULIA C.
Nursing

JOSH C.
Business Management

NICHOLAS C.
General Transfer Studies

DARRICK C.
Photography

CRYSTAL C.
Human Services

JOSHUA C.
HR Management

ZETH C.
Social Work

BREANNA C.
Social Work

JIMMY C.
Hospitality Management

MARK D.
Public Policy

KAYLA D.
Business Administration

JENNIE D.
MFA - Creative Writing

JAMISSA E.
Nursing

ALYSON E.
Paralegal Studies

JOSHUA E.
Construction Management

SARAH F.
Social Work

JAMIE F.
Substance Use Disorder
Counseling

SARAH F.
Social Work

PAUL F.
Computer Science

JOSEPH F.
Social Work

JESSICA F.
General Transfer Studies

MICHAEL F.
Human and Social Services

DARREN F.
Psychology

MARLOWE G.
DEI Certification

BRITTANY G.
Cosmetology

IDA G.
Life Coaching Health
and Wellness

KARL G.
Psychology

ILKIM G.
Biology

CHARLES G.
General Transfer Studies

JAVIER G.
Functional Nutrition

SAMANTHA G.
Behavioral Health
Counseling

ILKIM G.
Biology

CHARLES G.
General Transfer Studies

MICHAEL H.
Addiction Studies

LUCAS H.
Cybersecurity

BRADLEY H.
Certificate of Barbering

MICHAEL H.
Addiction Studies

JEREMY H.
Nursing

HANNAH H.
Psychology

BRYAN H.
Clinical Mental Health

JESSICA H.
Nursing



2024-25 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

KRISTIN I.
Masters of Social Work

HEATHER J.
Social Work

MANDY J.
General Studies

RYAN J.
Business Administration

GRACE J.
Masters of Occupational
Therapy

DEVON K.
Nursing

PAIGE K.
Nursing

TIMOTHY K.
Ministry

NATALIE K.
Nursing

TYLER K.
Associate of Arts and
Sciences

RYAN M.
Business

AARON M.
Nursing

CAITLIN M.
Psychology/Sociology Minor

DORIS M.
Vocal Worship Arts

JEAN M.
Social Work

MEAGAN M.
Associate of Arts

LATONYA M.
Nursing

NANCY M.
General Studies

HENRY M.
General Studies

LINDSEY M.
Communications

NICOLE N.
Nursing

JANE P.
Masters of Social Work

AMETRIA P.
Psychology

RUTH R.
Nursing

CHRIS R.
Masters of Health
Administration

ELESIA R.
Nursing

JOSEPH R.
Business and Information
Technology

MATTHEW R.
Nursing BSN

ANGELA R.
Organizational
Leadership

SELA R.
Alcohol and Drug
Counseling

AMY S.
Nursing

PARKER S.
Information Systems

CHAVETTE S.
Human Services

AVANISH S.
Doctor of Pharmacy

JACOB S.
Mental Health Nurse
Practitioner

SAWYER S.
Business Administration
Healthcare Management

JEAN S.
PhD Social Work

SIMONE S.
Master of Social Work

MIKAYLA S.
Business Management

ADAM S.
Mental Health Counseling

TYLER S.
Exploring Options

KEARA T.
Licensed Practical Nursing

JORDAN V.
Masters of Leadership
and Management

NICHOLAS W.
Business Administration

WILLIAM W.
Culinary Arts

AARON W.
Human Services

BEVIN W.
Nursing

LISA W.
Business

VERONICA W.
Instructional Design
and Technology

NICOLE W.
Business Operations
Specialist

REGINA W.
Business

MOLLY Z.
Nursing

WENDY Z.
Special Education

PRESENTING SPONSORS

Spirit*Jets*

Soaring above and beyond for students in recovery.



The 2024 Annual Scholarship Gala was held on Saturday, October 5 at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel. Some of the highlights:

- The Fund a Future raised an unbelievable **\$366,000!**
- Our fundraising total, including sponsorships, tickets, and raffles, was a **record-setting \$670,000.**
- We sold out the event with over **500 attendees.**
- **72 scholarship recipients** volunteered at the event and an additional 31 recipients helped with setup and thank you notes.

We are incredibly grateful to our hardworking gala committee, board, ambassadors, staff, and amazing volunteers. Thank you to Simone and Patrick for sharing their recovery stories, StoryTrack for producing our videos, and Adam Jokisch for bringing the energy as our fantastic emcee and auctioneer.

We're not sure how to top this gala, but we will try at our **20th Anniversary Gala** on **Saturday, October 4, 2025**, at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel. Save the date now!

ADVOCATE SPONSORS

*The*WOOL
FAMILY

STORYTRACK

RENT ONE
HOME FURNISHINGS

RNR TIRE
EXPRESS



Johnston Family
FOUNDATION

Steve Miller, Vicky Fraser, and Family

ADVOCATE SPONSORS

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Fit Body Boot Camp
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Recovery STL
Mike and Laura Sanders
SolutionPoint Behavioral Health



Thank you to **Jeanie Liautaud Photography** for the amazing event photos! Scan the QR code to view the entire gallery. Download Pin: 7483



Jim and Nancy Murphy



Amber Harris



Tommy Bahn, Chris R., Cissy Bahn



Sandy and Karen Wool



Steve and Sue Hartley and Bob and Peg Callahan



Janet Eto and Toni Whitworth



Paige Roland and Christy Ivory



Andrea and Brent Cantor



Jimmy C. and Paul F.



Leslie and Doug McCollum



Richard and Tracie Knott, Melanie Kollins, and Dan Marshall



Ida G.



Michael, Dini, and Julian Golden



Mark Leadlove and Jim Lawrence



Ariel B.



Joe and Allison Bamberger



Adam Jokisch



Julia C., Rian B., Lindsey M., and Nancy M.



Scott and Terrie Stiles, Lynn and Clay Jenkins



Jean M. and Ametria P.

Thank You to Our Donors

We would like to acknowledge our donors from **11/1/2023 - 12/1/2024** for supporting the educational goals of students in recovery. These donations represent all contributions to the organization. Funds donated to St. Louis or Kansas City or named scholarships are exclusively allocated to the program or scholarship for which they were intended.

\$20,000+

Anonymous (2)
Richard and Nancy Arnoldy
Larry and Sharon Carrico
David P. Diemer, MD and Kathy Diemer, MD
Susie and Chris Kanaga
Janet Eto and Ron Moser
Steve Miller, Vicky Fraser, and Family
SpiritJets, Doug and Leslie McCollum
The Harlene and Marvin Wool Foundation
Nick and Jennifer Tompras
Ron Wiese
Sandy and Karen Wool

\$10,000 - \$19,999

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Tegethoff Development, Anna and Jeff Tegethoff

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Michael H. Staenberg
Scott and Terrie Stiles
Zach and Emily Wayhart
W. Grant Williams III, The Sayer Foundation
Erin and Jeff Wist
Marc and Maggie Wright

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Armanino
Brian and Kathleen Bauer
Chris and Lisa Becraft
Elliot Benoist
Joel Boyd
John and Lynne Brauch
Hunter Brown
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Alan Carney and Tina Hoester
CommunityAmerica Credit Union
Jo Cummins
Driftwood Recovery
Daniel and Mary Fahey
Fit Body Boot Camp
MaryAnn and Miguel Garcia
Gateway Garage Door Solutions, Steve George
Darcy and Dan Glidewell
Harris House
Heffernan Insurance Brokers
Eric and Amy Holland
David and Karen Irwin
Chris and Jessica Kerckhoff
William Lapp
Julie and Mark Leadlove
Lift-STL, Eric and Analicia Humes
MAI Capital Management
Rosina Margiotta and Robert Buzzell
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Amy and Brian McGinnis
Ron Moser IV and Amy Moser
David and Anna Poger
John Qualy
Fleet and Kim Rand
Julie and William Shearburn
Mary Claire Smith
The Gene and Joan Slay Foundation
Bradel Velez
Kevin and Jenna Wingenbach
Denise Wool

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous
Jack Barnett and Terry Miller
Liz Beaty and Jason Miltonberger
Jamie and Mindy Bethke
BJC HealthCare
Kirby and Cathi Boyd
James Brennan
Brown & Crouppen
John Callahan and Tom Shipp
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Mike Neatherton
John and Mary Jo Neff
Dave and Mary O'Brien
Michael O'Hara
Parkside Financial Bank & Trust
Peggy and Tom Phillips

Barbara Murphy Single Parent Scholarship

The **Barbara Murphy Single Parent Scholarship** was founded in 2019 by Jim and Nancy Murphy in honor of Jim's mother, Barbara. This scholarship provides additional assistance to single parents who are balancing recovery, parenting, and education. These funds are in addition to their scholarship from The Next Step can be used for anything that will help ease their financial burdens as single parents.

Because of the generosity of additional donors giving to this fund, we were able to award two scholarships this year! Congratulations to **Heather J.**, a single mother of 1 child pursuing a degree in Social Work, and **Bevin W.**, a single mother of 3 children pursuing a degree in Nursing.



2024 Recipients Heather J. and Bevin W.



Learn more or make a donation at:
[THENEXTSTEPSTL.ORG/MURPHYFUND](https://thenextstepstl.org/murphyfund)

\$1,000 - \$2,499 (cont)

Ande Pietoso
Christine Remming
Al Rheinnecker
SolutionPoint Behavioral Health
Dawn Smith
Aaron Teitelbaum
Mark Temkin
Tim Temmen
The Retreat
Bruce and Sherrie Wehner
Alan Widman
John Wohlgemuth
Mary and Mike Zorich

Michael Danis
Sarah and Matt Davis
Annie Deboer
Christine Denney
Dan Diemer
Lori and Douglas Dowd
Joseph Dugan
Leslie Eden and Carl Vasant
Mike Ehrhard
Kevin Ellege
Laura and David Epstein
Brandon Gall
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Stefanie and Tod Greenberg
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Katie McGrath
Larry McMahon
Charley and Ann Meyer
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Chris Nitzsche
Kathy O'Neill
OG Cares, Brant Baldanza
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Colton and Mikayla Stafos
Alicia and Torri Suedmeyer
Bart and Kelly Wall
Nathaniel Walsh
Scott Weiler
Angie and Michael Whelehan
Shane and Jax Wool

Up to \$499

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Tom and Cherri Adams
Rochelle and Kevin Albright
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Sara and Nathan Arunski
Charles Bailey
Allison and Joe Bamberger
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Rachel Barton
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Mary Gaal

John S.
Anonymous

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Dr. Marlys Schuh
Dan Diemer

Darcy Glidewell
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Daniel Diemer**
DJ and Nancy Diemer
Donna Giddings

**Andrew, Claire, and Miles
Hennesey**
Glennon and Liz Kraemer

Tracey Joe
Darcy Glidewell

Clay and Lynn Jenkins
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Ron Moser
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Joseph Elder

Bruce Schmidt
Tracey Jasper

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Nathan and Nicole Overboe
Robert Pelley
Christine Remming
Kurt and Brenda Seelbach
Marsha Toll

Kevin Kohring
Ann Rabbitt
Shane Wool

Up to \$499 (cont)

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Derek Hartley
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Krista Horn
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Rick Navarre
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Jack Neyens
Masao Nishi

Jenny Norris
Michael O'Brien
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Ted Pavlovich
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Porzelt and David Porzelt
Corey and Lindsey Poteet
Lissy Rand
Max Rava
Stephen Rhoads and Aiko Eto
Samuel Ribaldo
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Ben and Angela Roberts
Emily Rodgers
Nancy Rodgers
Paige Roland
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Elythe Rowan-Damico
Jack and Kerri Rowe
William and Andrea Rubin
Collin and Hannah Salzenstein
Kathy Sanders
Jennifer Sawyer
Jacqueline Schaffner-Burks and
Randy Burks
Ray Schopper
Kurt and Brenda Seelbach
Taylor Shelton
Sarah Soltow
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Tara Welch
Jeff and Lisa Wilson
Jay Winig and Emily Nishi
Edward and Georgene Winkelmann
John and Michele Yancey
Ronald Yancey



Special thanks to Michael Keane, Fit Body Boot Camp, and Phoenix A+ Coaching for raising over \$17,000 in donations this year!

Gina May Wiese Memorial Scholarship



The **Gina May Wiese Memorial Scholarship** was founded in 2022 by Ron Wiese in honor of his late wife, Gina. Gina was a grateful member of the recovery community and was kind, caring, and giving her entire life. Gina's scholarship aims to make a difference in people's lives by funding tuition, textbooks, and supplies in addition to their scholarship from The Next Step. Eligible students meet criteria focusing on classroom excellence and respecting and caring for others.

Ron has committed to funding \$20,000 for this scholarship every year, with additional funds donated by Gina's family and other generous donors.



2024 Recipients Jane P., Simone S., Matt R., and Jessica H.

2024 Gina May Wiese Scholarship Recipients

Jane P.
Master's Degree
Social Work

Matthew R.
Bachelor's Degree
Nursing

Simone S.
Master's Degree
Social Work

Jessica H.
Bachelor's Degree
Nursing



Learn more or make a donation at:
[THENEXTSTEPSTL.ORG/GMWFUND](https://thenextstepstl.org/gmwfund)

In-Kind Donations

- Andrew Ahr, 801 Restaurant Group
- Bob and Peg Callahan
- Todd Callahan
- Adam Christman
- Crown Linen Service
- David P. Diemer, MD and Kathy Diemer, MD
- David and Teri Grieger
- Steve Finerty, Monteta Group/The Finerty Team
- Gerard Germain, Tony's
- Darcy and Dan Glidewell
- Eric Hoffman
- Frank Kane, Citizen Kane's
- Paul Manno, Paul Manno's Restaurant
- Ted McNulty
- John Morrow, Dalhousie Golf Club
- Jim and Shelly O'Day
- Ande Pietoso, Napoli 2
- Ian Rockwell, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse
- Jake and Sara Sciales, Sciales Catering
- Thom Sehnert, Annie Gunn's
- StoryTrack
- Chip Wagner
- Jeff and Erin Wist
- World Wide Technology Raceway
- Sandy and Karen Wool

Give with Confidence

Our strong financial health and ongoing accountability and transparency have earned a **Four-Star Rating** from Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized independent charity navigator. This is the highest possible rating and demonstrates that our donors can give with confidence knowing their gifts will be used responsibly.

We have also achieved the **Platinum Seal of Transparency Rating** on Candid (formerly Guidestar), the world's largest source of information on non-profit organizations. This rating puts us in the top 0.1% of charities nationally regarding transparency.





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Saint Louis, MO 63122
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info@thenextstepstl.org

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Do you know an individual in a 12-step recovery program who wants to take the next step in their education? Encourage them to apply by **April 1, 2025!**

thenextstepstl.org/apply

MORE INFORMATION

314.719.2880 (call or text)
scholarships@thenextstepstl.org

