

## Foundation's Focus

by **Denver Drake**

# \$2 Million Given to Hereford Youth

"I cried tears of joy because I was honored to have been selected among my peers for this prestigious scholarship," says Briana Katzenberger, Monroe, Wis., 2016 Vanier Family Scholarship recipient. "The Vanier family changed my life

with this scholarship by giving me the financial freedom I needed to focus on getting the most out of my education and to reach my goals."

The Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) was established in 2000 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to providing scholarship and educational support for youth raising Hereford cattle. Since the first award in 2004, these scholarships have changed the lives of countless National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members by providing educational opportunities.

The scholarships awarded during the 2024 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) marked \$2 million in scholarships since HYFA's inception.

"With the Hereford scholarship as a guiding light, I am confident that I will be able to navigate the challenges of college with resilience and determination," says Logan Topp, Grace City, N.D., one of the 2024 Hereford Herdsman Scholarship recipients. "It will ultimately assist with developing me as a more confident, capable and successful individual."

HYFA provides close to \$200,000 annually to support Hereford youth, thanks in part to generous industry supporters and endowments. Because of these supporters' passion for the Hereford breed and its junior members, young people across the country thrive as they accomplish their goals and dreams.

JW Cox, Flemingsburg, Ky., 2023 Vanier Family Scholarship recipient, says HYFA's scholarship opportunities helped set him up for success at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine.

"The Vanier family scholarship certainly will go leaps and bounds into helping with my future and

hopefully my ability to give back one day just as it's been given to me," Cox says.

HYFA has immense pride when it comes to Hereford youth and the dedication they exhibit in all they do. George Sprague, HYFA scholarship selection committee member, enjoys watching applications improve each year as NJHA members get closer to reaching their goals.


"They were indeed an impressive group: thoughtful, accomplished, articulate and ambitious," says Sprague, referring to the 2024 spring scholarship applicants. "It's amazing that each year the applicants seem better than the previous year's applicants."

This seems to be a common statement each year. Reaching \$2 million in scholarships makes HYFA incredibly proud. NJHA members and donors go to great lengths to ensure they are doing all they can to make a difference in the future of the Hereford breed, ensuring the funds have an impact on the industry.

"A Hereford scholarship represents an investment in my potential and support for my career in the beef industry. I grew up in the suburbs of Minneapolis, so agriculture and the beef industry were rarely talked about," says Sydney Heins, Wayzata, Minn., 2024 John Wayne Memorial Scholarship recipient. "Receiving a Hereford scholarship is a life-changing opportunity that enables me to pursue and complete a college degree with confidence and determination."

Scholarships hold a special place in the heart of those who founded them and those who receive them. Juniors are encouraged to create and leave a legacy much like the scholarship they received. **HW**

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