

The Mel Hetland Scholarship Fund was established in 2004 to honor UU Asheville member Mel Hetland. Funding for this scholarship is provided solely by the generosity of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville. The scholarship is distributed through the Asheville City Schools Foundation.

The Asheville City Schools Foundation is an independent 501 c3 organization dedicated to educational success for all students in Asheville City Schools. Our new mission statement: We collaborate with our community to do whatever it takes for all Asheville City Schools students to thrive. Ensuring equal opportunities and access to education for all students is central to our mission. Our work impacts over 4,400 students each year through after-school programming, grants to educators, emergency assistance, classroom artists in residency and college scholarships. Since 2000, ACSF has awarded over 2 million directly to teacher-led projects, served over 2,200 unduplicated students in after-school, and awarded over 3 million dollars in college scholarships. Community Plate donations award a scholarship in memory of UU Asheville member, Mel Hetland, to an Asheville High School or SILSA senior who will be attending an accredited college, has given back to their community through volunteer service, and who demonstrates financial need. We give special consideration to students who are first generation college attendees and identify as belonging to the global majority. Previous scholarship recipients, in good standing with their academic institution may be eligible for additional funding. ACSF offers volunteer opportunities for community members to support high school students with their scholarship and college applications. Please visit our website at www.acsf.org for more information.

The quote below is from our 2021 scholarship recipient, Kenny.

“The support from this scholarship played a fundamental role in this semester. I’m so grateful, and blessed to have their support. Without them, my college experience would’ve been so rough and I would’ve had to find a part-time job to cover those expenses. I’m so thankful for winning the scholarship because not only is this providing financial support but it’s also a reminder that people believe in me