

Acorn Scholarship Fund Newsletter



April, 2023

Message From the ASF Board President



Welcome to the first edition of the Acorn Scholarship Fund (ASF) Newsletter!

I have been asked what sparked my interest to create a scholarship program here at Cypress. It emanates from my personal experience of dealing with financial challenges to achieve a degree. I benefitted from scholarships to help with my college expenses.

While living in a community in California, and again while at Governors Club, I worked to develop a scholarship fund for employees. My efforts have been rewarded in many ways. Here is just one example: at Governors Club the children of employees are eligible for scholarships. A child of a member of the housekeeping team was able to attend, and graduate from, UNC Chapel Hill partially because of the scholarship support she received. She is the first generation in her family to complete college. It was a moment of pride for all of us when she graduated.

Those moments of pride await all of us as ASF launches its first year of awarding scholarships. We are currently accepting applications for scholarships from Associates and will announce the first group of recipients by July 1st. My vision is that ASF will become an integral part of Cypress and the program will expand in coming years to include all employees and children of employees. I invite you to help us achieve that vision by providing a donation. On the back of this newsletter is information regarding how to donate. ASF is a 501 (c) (3) organization ; your donation will be tax deductible.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will meet the ASF Board members and learn more about the commitment of the Partners, Tom Ford and Lesley Olsen to this program. And if you have any questions, please contact me or any other Board member.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Patter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Who We Are and What We Do

The mission of the ACORN SCHOLARSHIP FUND (ASF) is to provide financial support to qualified Associates (employees) of The Cypress of Raleigh as they work to achieve their educational and career goals.

Eligibility

ASF scholarships are available to all full-time and part-time Associates who have worked an average of 15 hours per week for at least six months at the time of application. Eligibility requires Associates are in good standing according to Human Resources. Associates may submit an application for a scholarship program *before* they are officially accepted into a course of study. However, in order to secure a scholarship, Associates must be accepted for admission to an accredited degree-granting institution or certification training program as recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Volunteers

More than twenty Cypress members are contributing their time and talent to the ASF Board and committees. Please let any Board member know if you would like to join us in this initiative.

Results as of April 7, 2023



Support from Cypress Leadership

“I was pleased to learn of the Acorn Scholarship Fund when I began my role as Cypress’ Executive Director. Scholarship funds have been integral to other communities in which I worked; I know the benefit and morale boost they provide.”

Tom Ford, Executive Director

Both Tom and Lesley Olsen, Human Resources Director, view the Fund as a win-win-win situation.

Win for Associates: More than twenty Associates are advancing their education while working at the Cypress. Associates appreciate the investment members are willing to make in their educational futures.

Win for Management: The Fund promotes a culture of care and support for Associates.

Win for Members: Members experience the satisfaction of helping Associates who work hard to make Members’ lives comfortable and safe.

ASF Donors Meet the Partners’ Match

In December, 2022 Mark Andrews, Craig Huggins and Michael Sandman announced their commitment to ASF by committing to a donation of \$12,500 for each of the next three years. Their donation is made as a ‘matching fund’ meaning the Fund is required to receive at least \$12,500 from other donors to retain the Partners’ donation. The ASF Board is pleased to affirm that the 2023 donation has been matched and wants to thank the Partners for their endorsement and support of ASF.

Meet the ASF Board



Mary Cichocki, Dana Robinson, Betty Anne Martinelli, Bill Shaffer, Larry Potter, Tom Roberg, Pam Rideout

In the summer of 2022, seven Cypress members came together, as volunteers, to form the ASF Board. The Board has responsibility to obtain, manage and distribute funds for scholarships awarded to eligible Associates. Each Board member brings a strong belief in education. Four Board members are the first in their families to graduate from college. Several have benefited from scholarships and financial aid while obtaining degrees. These life experiences motivate each Board member to support Associates seeking to advance their education.

What follows is brief information about each Board member together with a 'fun fact' you may not know.

Larry Potter – President. Larry and his wife Barbie moved to The Cypress in 2022 and live in a cottage. When Larry graduated from high school he was not awarded his diploma; he was told he needed to take one more class. So in 1958 Larry did something few men did back then... enrolled in typing which turned out to be one of his better decisions. Larry went on to graduate *summa cum laude* in Electrical Engineering.

Dana Robinson – VP. Dana and Jim live in a cottage, next door to the Potters. They moved to Cypress from Pittsburgh, PA and have lived here for 11 years. A 'fun fact' about Dana is that she is the grandmother to seven and the mother to none.

Betty Anne Martinelli – Secretary. Betty Anne and her husband Al live in Villa E and have been residents since Thanksgiving of 2020. Betty Anne owned and managed a children's boutique retail store for more than two decades. One of her customers was Whitney Houston who purchased a custom layette ensemble for her infant daughter to wear when coming home from the hospital.

Bill Shaffer – Treasurer and IT Support. Bill and his wife Ellen moved into Villa D in July of 2022. By his own acknowledgement, Bill is a nerd and proud of it!

Tom Roberg—Fund Raising Chair. Tom has lived at Cypress since 2008. He was born in Germany and moved to the US when he was three years old.

Pam Rideout – Scholarship Chair. Pam lives in Villa B and has been a member of Cypress for more than 11 years. Pam has a unique story to share: she was married by proxy. She spent the first year of her marriage, and gave birth to her first child, in the Congo.

Mary Cichocki – Mentoring Chair. Mary and her husband Joe have lived in Villa E for two years. If you wonder how to pronounce Mary's last name, she provides assistance. Just say "sea hockey".

Please contact any Board member if you have questions about the Acorn Scholarship Fund.



The ACORN SCHOLARSHIP FUND (ASF) provides financial support to qualified Associates (employees) of The Cypress of Raleigh as they work to achieve their educational and career goals.

ASF is a nonprofit corporation founded by members of the Cypress of Raleigh Club, Inc. (Club). Any donations made to the Fund are tax-deductible.

How to Donate to the Acorn Scholarship Fund

Donate by Check

To donate by check, please place it in member mailbox D511 or mail to:

Bill Shaffer
Acorn Scholarship Fund
9650 Strickland Rd, Suite 103-313
Raleigh, NC 27615

Make the check payable to: Acorn Scholarship Fund Inc.

Donate by Credit Card

To donate by credit card, open your browser and navigate to:

<https://acorn-scholarship.org/donate-by-credit-card>

Click on the **Donate** button and complete the form.

Acknowledgement Letter

When the Fund receives your payment, you will receive an acknowledgement letter.