

Chairman's Corner

It's been an amazing year for the Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund!

In WCSF's 31 years, the Fund has awarded 354 grants to ETHS graduates. And the Fund continues to make a difference for ETHS graduates who are interested in education and working with youth.

The Annual Award Dinner on April 28 honored the 2024 Class of Cherry Scholars. A record amount of \$150,000 was awarded to 24 ETHS graduates! It was a spectacular gathering for the Scholars and their families, friends, the community and WCSF! The Fund greatly appreciated Sol Anderson, President and CEO of Evanston Community Foundation, as the keynote speaker and Rev. Monte Dillard for the invocation. Kudos to the Award Dinner Committee!

On June 24, WCSF hosted its 31st Annual Golf Outing at the Wilmette Golf Club. It was a gorgeous day and a huge success for WCSF. This year's Outing raised a remarkable \$112,000 for ETHS graduates! Many thanks to Golf Co-chairs Joe Keitel and Bob Reece, and the golf committee.

In the last six years, Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund has awarded \$630,000! WCSF's goal is to award \$150,000 annually to ETHS graduates,

Pat Hughes Sr., WCSF's volunteer "bookkeeper," is a CPA. He provides the Fund extraordinary support with his wealth of knowledge, professional experience and expertise. Pat also serves on the finance committee and the golf committee, WCSF is very grateful for Pat's tremendous ongoing support. Thank you, Pat!

As always, my heartfelt thanks to everyone on our outstanding board and our wonderful community of supporters and friends

Please mark your calendar for our annual award dinner on Sunday, April 27, 2025, and our annual Golf Outing on Monday, June 23, 2025.

For 31 years, the Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund has helped make the dreams of young men and women become reality. Thank you in advance for your support. Every contribution makes a difference.



Patty Cherry Reece



The Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund celebrated the award of \$150,000 to this year's scholars at its Annual Award Dinner. See pages 2 and 3 for more about the scholars, and see pages 4 and 5 for pictures from the dinner.

Speaker urges scholars to work for meaningful change

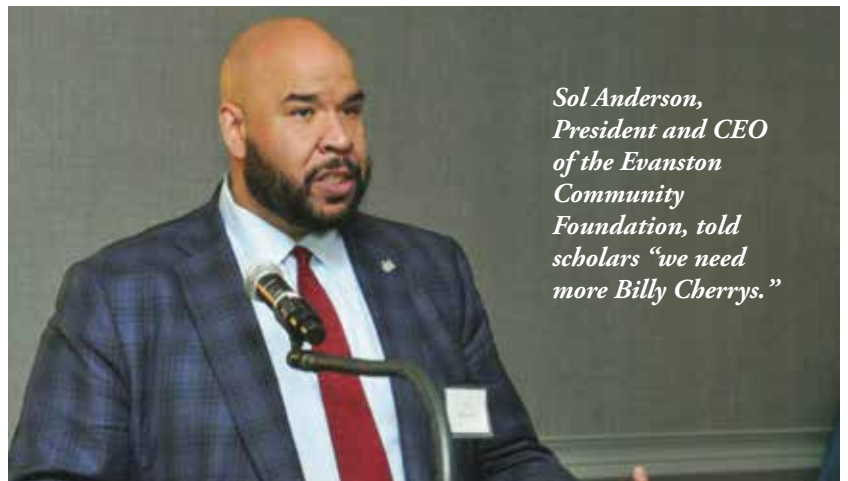
Sol Anderson, President and CEO of the Evanston Community Foundation, gave an inspiring keynote address at the 2024 Warren Cherry Scholarship Awards dinner.

In his message to the scholars he stressed the importance of making

their community a better place. He also acknowledged the admiration he has for Bob and Patty Reece.

After congratulating the scholars, he discussed the importance of community and the duty each scholar has

—Continued on page 4



Sol Anderson, President and CEO of the Evanston Community Foundation, told scholars "we need more Billy Cherrys."

Meet the 2024



*Destini
Brown*



*Victoria
Brown*

Destini Brown is attending Oakton College and plans to pursue a degree in elementary education with an emphasis on art education. Destini hopes to share her love of art to provide children with a safe way of expressing themselves.

Victoria Brown is a junior at North Carolina A&T University where she is studying psychology and plans to work with children from diverse backgrounds in mental health support.

Michael Burrell is a junior at Illinois State University majoring in information systems. After college, Michael hopes to start a nonprofit STEM program for African American youth in the Evanston community.



*Michael
Burrell*



*Kalea
Chatman*

Kalea Chatman is a senior at Marquette University majoring in education. Kalea wants to be the positive face of a female African American teacher for other Black children like her.

Jaheim Cochrane is a junior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign majoring in community health. Jaheim plans to attend medical school, specializing in orthopedics, and open a sports clinic for young athletes.

Jasmine Crayton is pursuing an undergraduate degree in trauma behavior studies at Northeastern Illinois University. Jasmine plans to use her degree to become a trauma behavior specialist at therapeutic or alternative schools.



*Jaheim
Cochrane*



*Jasmine
Crayton*

Ava Daye is a junior at Northern Illinois University studying early childhood education. Ava plans to return to Evanston and teach kindergarten or first grade and eventually continue her education in graduate school.

Karamot Fatai is the recipient of the Pat Doyle Memorial Scholarship. She is a first-year student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and plans to study health science in college, attend medical school and become a pediatrician who provides sustainable health care to children.

Celeste Gaytan-Cabrera is a first-year student at Northwestern University and plans to pursue a biology or health sciences degree on a pre-med track. Celeste hopes to be a pediatrician and be a role model to the children she treats.



*Ava
Daye*



*Karamot
Fatai*

Melisa Gonzalez is a first-year student at the University of Michigan where she plans to study nursing, following in the footsteps of many in her family who work in health care.

Andrea Guy is the assistant director of college access at Evanston Scholars and serves as a Warren Cherry Mentor. Andrea plans to attend Northeastern Illinois University to pursue a masters in higher education with an emphasis on leadership.

Rachel Holmes is the recipient of the Ann Stevens Memorial Scholarship. She is pursuing an MBA from the Keller Graduate School of Business and plans to use her skills to create programs, workshops and conferences to support needs in the community.



*Celeste
Gaytan-Cabrera*



*Melisa
Gonzalez*

Joshua Irving, the recipient of the Arthur Sutton Jr. Memorial Scholarship, works at the Rice Children's Center for District 65. He attends National Louis University and is pursuing a graduate degree in physical education. Joshua plans to be a physical education teacher and serve as a mentor and role model for youth in his community.

Cherry Scholars

Kendall Jack is a sophomore at Xavier University Louisiana where she majors in chemistry. She hopes to become a pediatric dentist and help children develop positive associations with dental care.

Kaia Magno is a first-year student at the University of Illinois Chicago majoring in nursing. Kaia hopes to work with younger and under-represented children in her community.

Aryel Mason is a senior at Howard University pursuing a degree in nursing. Upon graduation, Aryel hopes to become a pediatric nurse, advocate for youth and support children in need.

Maria Moreno-Mendoza is a first-year student at Loyola University Chicago. She plans to major in nursing and pharmacy and eventually become a pediatric nurse and bilingual healthcare provider.

Julion Michelin is a junior at National Louis University, where he studies applied behavioral science, which combines psychology and sociology. Julion hopes to have a career in social work or therapy and specialize in youth mental health.

Emily Minerof is studying nursing in graduate school at Marquette University. Emily hopes to become a pediatric nurse and specialize in working with children with disabilities and special needs.

Chassa Pratt is a graduate student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and will pursue a masters in social work with a focus on criminology, law and society. Chassa plans to continue working with at-risk youth in her community.

Ba'niah Robinson is a senior at Roosevelt University pursuing a degree in criminal justice, with a minor in sociology. Ba'niah plans to attend law school and become a juvenile criminal defense attorney and juvenile courts judge.

Anamaria Rosales is the recipient of the Paul Zelinski Memorial Scholarship. She is a former Cherry Scholar and has taught first grade in Evanston/Skokie District 65 for the past six years. Anamaria attends National Louis University and is pursuing a masters degree in education in curriculum and instruction.

Mya Shephard is a first-year student at Clark Atlanta University pursuing a degree in special education. Mya plans to be a role model and provide a support system for children.

Reina Waters is a senior at Eastern Illinois University, where she majors in elementary education. Reina hopes to teach first grade in Evanston or a nearby community when she graduates.



*Andrea
Guy*



*Rachel
Holmes*



*Joshua
Irving*



*Kendall
Jack*



*Kaia
Magno*



*Aryel
Mason*



*Maria
Moreno-Mendoza*



*Julion
Michelin*



*Emily
Minerof*



*Chassa
Pratt*



*Ba'niah
Robinson*



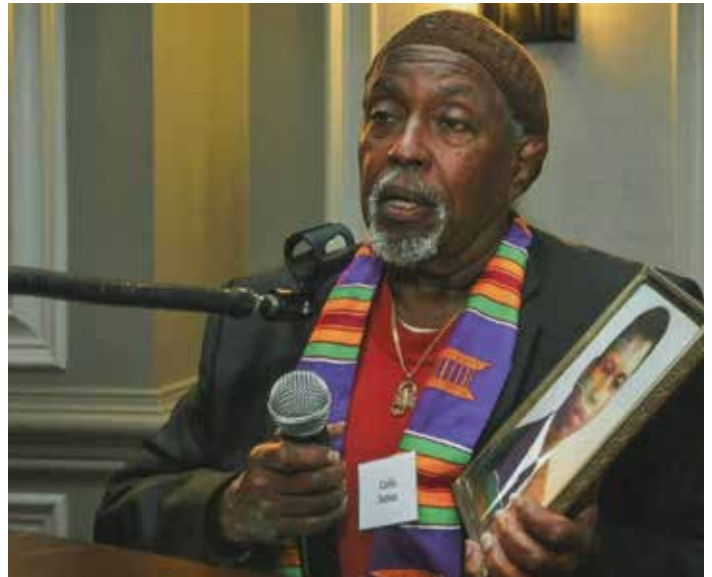
*Anamaria
Rosales*



*Mya
Shephard*



*Reina
Waters*



Keynote

Continued from page 1

to make changes that will strengthen it. He noted the impact Warren “Billy” Cherry had on education and Evanston, and reminded those gathered of Warren’s spirit and how the awardees can also change the world.

He also told the scholars that “who they are today will not be who they are tomorrow.” While they will have wins and losses in their lives, he said, they must keep working each day to get better, and to give to others.

Sol Anderson also urged attendees to show support and love for our children, and to help them be safe and strong. It is important to help young people find and conquer challenges so they will be able to make an impact on the world and their community.

He concluded by arguing that we need more Billy Cherrys in the world to bring about change. Our Scholars, he said, have both the opportunity and responsibility to give to others.

scholars!



Contributors
11/1/2023–
10/31/2024

Individuals

Carol Adams	Betsy and Dudley Brown	Marilyn Fisher	Judy and Anthony Iacuzzi	Rena Lewin
Pam and Paul Akins-Schanette	C. Louise Brown	Yvonne and James Fogerty	Faith and Jon Jacobson	Doris Lewis
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Mimi Spivack

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David Dawson
Alice Kreiman
Sallie Lambert
Dr. Laurence A. Mack
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Zelinski Family Trust
Zivin Trust

Golf outing sets new record

A total of 105 golfers turned out on June 24, once again breaking the previous record by raising \$112,000 for the Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund.

Golf winners included:

First place gross: Brody, Garrett Rothe, Pete Argrow, John Hasman

First place net: Everett McKissic, Ron Johnson, Rich Foreman

Men's longest drive: Michael Zera

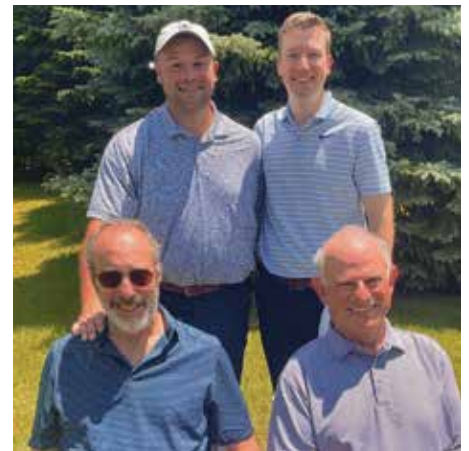
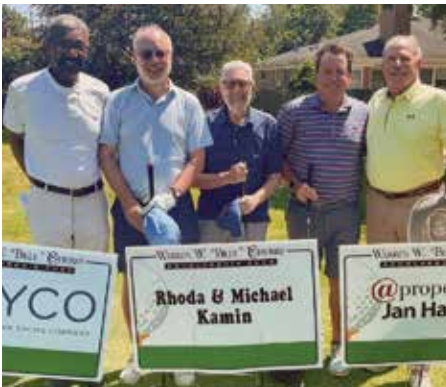
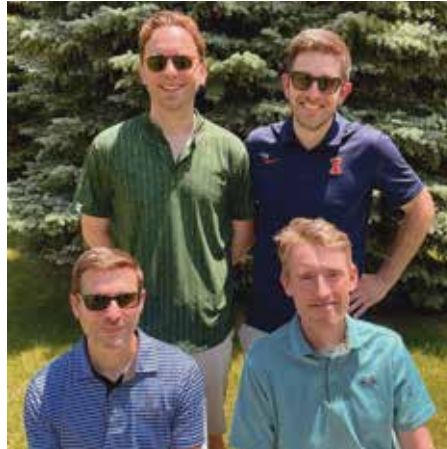
Men's closest to the pin: Russ Kohnker

Men's longest putt: Kevin Jamieson

Women's longest drive: Addie Dieckmeyer

Women's longest putt: Betsy Engelman

The hard-working 2024 Golf Committee included: Pam Akins-Schanette, Bill Bridges, Dudley Brown, Joanie Ducayet, Lynn Hammell, Jan Hazlett, Tom Hazlett, Pat Hughes, Sr., Judy Iacuzzi, Matthew Jamieson, Timon Bernstein Jandora, Tony Keitel, Bethany Mullins, Marcy Nicholson, Bart Rocca, Oliver Ruff, Gerri Sizemore, Mimi Spivack, Rommie Taylor and Courtney Wolley. Bob Reece and Joe Keitel were Co-Chairs.



Don't miss next year's golf outing, to be held Monday, June 23, 2025 at the Wilmette Golf Club.

Thanks to Our 2024 Golf Outing Contributors!

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Wine Goddess



Don't miss next year's golf outing, to be held Monday, June 23, 2025 at the Wilmette Golf Club.

Future Blooms

The Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund is an all-volunteer organization committed to the mission of Warren W. “Billy” Cherry, a much loved and respected Evanston educator. In his memory, WCSF aims to perpetuate his acceptance of all people, his commitment to the highest standards of education excellence and his energetic dedication to enriching the children and institutions of Evanston.

Honoring Billy’s legacy, WCSF seeks out students who are often overlooked, and recognizes their potential to bloom. Students who have overcome difficulties on their educational journey are given a second chance with this scholarship.

Ava Daye

The Cherry Scholarship has changed my life in many ways. It has given me another family from my hometown and high school, that support me throughout my college experiences. Being a recipient of this scholarship has allowed me to focus on school and my future career without the anxiety of my financial expenses. I have met so many amazing people and learned so much about the history and importance of this scholarship. Making the decision to apply for this scholarship is something that I am forever grateful for.



Ava Daye

Rachel Holmes

As a single mother and college student in 2007, the Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund meant one thing. In 2024, as a mother pursuing my master’s degree with daughters now in college and receiving the same scholarship, it means so much more. This scholarship has impacted my family in ways beyond the financial support — it has been a resource and a place of refuge for me and my children. Being part of a community like Evanston, where the scholarship fund genuinely cares about our success, has provided a sense of security. It’s not just financial help; it’s the encouragement to keep going, knowing that others are invested in your dreams and passions.



Rachel Holmes

This support continues to fuel my mission and motivates me to give back to a community that has nurtured our growth. When you know that people are truly rooting for you, it makes navigating life’s uncertainties a little easier.

Joshua Irving

Winning the scholarship means a lot to me. It took a lot of financial stress off my shoulders. Always I really appreciate it, that a hometown organization is helping me pursue my dreams. Winning this scholarship shows the community what giving back is all about. This scholarship always showed me how important it is to be involved in your community.



Joshua Irving

Alando Massie

There was a time in my life in which I felt very ashamed of my life’s story. I hid the trauma and tried to bury the turmoil to avoid facing it and to avoid what I thought would be standing out to what I assumed was a world of people who couldn’t relate.

Years later, I now know that my story is worth telling. I overcame academic difficulties during my adolescent years, as I now stand proud to be a Northeastern Illinois University grad, as well as a Northwestern University, grad which is part of my story.

I scream from the mountaintops to boast about my 15-plus years of volunteering in FAAM as a head coach with eight championship trophies and hundreds of accomplished young men. I’ve played a small role in guiding them through their trauma and helping them tell their stories.

The Fund started in 1993, giving out \$2,500 in scholarships. In 2023, the Fund awarded \$130,000 in aid. It has a long-term goal of offering \$150,000 a year to its growing cadre of scholars. The graphic on the back page shows how the number of scholars has grown over time.

Monique Parsons, a scholarship sponsor, said, “If we’re doing this together, it becomes a community effort. We are able to help our community reach their fullest potential. It is an honor to be able to be connected to a foundation that recognizes second chances.”

See below to learn what some of our scholars have to say about the impact of a Cherry Scholarship.

The Warren Cherry Scholarship and its members have played an indispensable and vital role in my world. Meeting strong men like Bob Reece, Rick Marsh and Joseph Flanagan who swayed me to tell my story and continue to build on my story, helped mold me into the confident strong man that I’ve become. The Warren Cherry scholarship money was so helpful as I navigated through undergrad and graduate school, yet the mentoring and support played an even more pivotal role throughout this process. I’ve leaned on these men for more than just financial support, they’ve been beacons when I needed them the most.

I hope to be a beacon to others and sway others to tell and build on their stories like the mentors of the Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund did for me.

Julion Michelin

The Warren Cherry Scholarship has played a significant role in alleviating my financial burdens, allowing me to focus more on my studies. With the support of this scholarship, I have been able to purchase necessary materials for my learning. The scholarship team continues to check in on me, adding an extra layer of support that feels like an extended family. This support gives me a sense of hope, rein-
—Continued on page 11



Alando Massie



Julion Michelin

Celebrating our own

Cherry supporters have deep roots in Evanston

It would be hard to find a couple more deeply established in the Evanston community than longtime Cherry Scholarship Fund supporters **Steve Hagerty** and **Lisa Altenbernd**.

They moved to Evanston in 1999 as Lisa was beginning graduate studies at Northwestern University. Since then,



Lisa Altenbernd and Steve Hagerty

they've raised two children while immersing themselves in civic life. Hagerty served a term as mayor of Evanston from 2017-2021, and Altenbernd chaired the board of the Evanston Community Foundation during the COVID pan-

dem and continues to engage with the community as what she calls "a professional volunteer."

As regular donors to the Cherry Scholarship Fund, they consider their contributions to be good investments. "Lisa and I both come from families of educators," Hagerty said. "We're very confident that our donations are really helping young adults to have careers that allow them to give back to their community."

"I'm impressed by the fact that Cherry supports adults who have not been able to go to college right away, or who might be changing careers," Altenbernd said. "In philanthropy, there's typically support for youth, but there's not so often support for adult learners."

Settling into the community, they quickly came to know the Cherry Scholarship Fund and, especially, Robert and Patty Cherry Reece. "I think they're great role models for people who want to be civically involved," Hagerty said. Altenbernd added, "I would say they are both persuasive people."

They both give the Cherry Fund high marks for its work. Hagerty noted that the Fund chooses its scholars carefully and well. "I am always impressed with the young people who receive these scholarships," he said. "They have a really good network, and have had success growing the fund over time." Altenbernd noted, "They do a great job of maintaining relations with their scholars over time, which I appreciate as a donor. And the scholars appreciate the support. It's more than just a check."

For Cherry supporters, the Fund's mission is paramount. "If we're going to advance society, we need to start with education," Hagerty said. "We're becoming a very multiracial society, and we need educators who represent a diverse population. Breakthroughs can come from everywhere."

Count former Evanston Mayor **Elizabeth Tisdahl** as another strong supporter of the Cherry Scholarship Fund.

Tisdahl has lived in the city for more than 50 years — "long enough to be



Elizabeth Tisdahl

called an Evanstonian," she said. She served two terms as mayor, from 2009 to 2017, and before that had been an alderman and board member in Evanston School District 202. She first connected with the Cherry Fund through her son's friendship with Michael Cherry, son of Warren Cherry.

She said she donates because "I think that having kids get the scholarships, go off to college, come back, live in Evanston and join the Cherry board is the most incredible recommendation for the program."

She is impressed with the Reeces and the organization that the community has built. "I think they do everything well," Tisdahl said. "You get more bang for your buck when you donate to them. It's all volunteers; they don't have an office or a building."

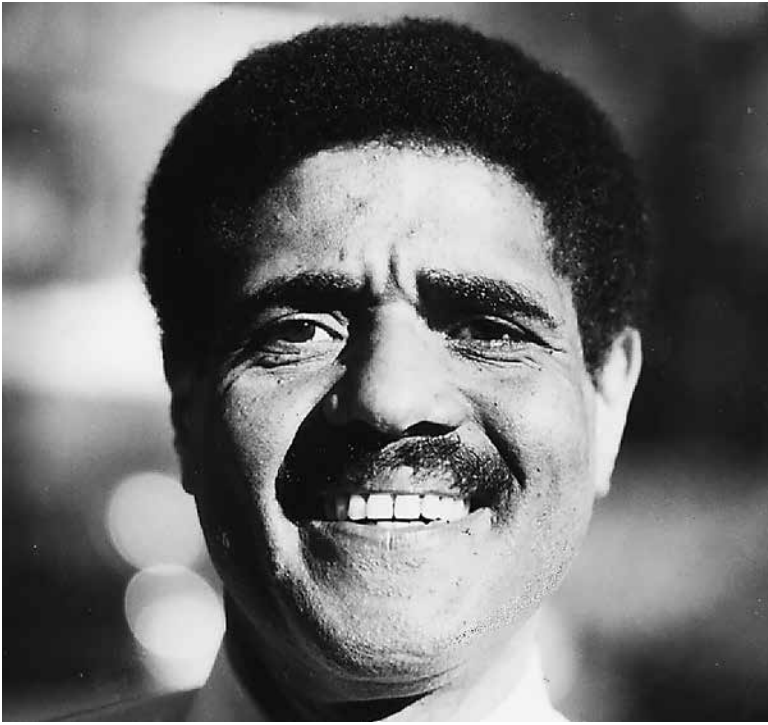
"It is wonderful to have so many Evanstonians on that board, and it's wonderful that they don't need me to do that too," she added, with a chuckle.

Tisdahl's appreciation for the Cherry Fund comes back to its place in the community she has served for so many years. She noted, "They succeed in doing what we all want, that the kids come back to live in Evanston."

Blooms

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forcing the belief that hard work truly pays off. Knowing that someone outside of my family believes in my "why" inspires me to pursue my goals with even greater determination. Additionally, having a mentor has been incredibly important; he supports my vision and reassures me that this is not just a temporary family, but a lasting connection for life. Overall the Warren Cherry Scholarship has done wonders for my education career path, and my view on life.



The mission of the Warren “Billy” Cherry Scholarship Fund, named in memory of a much-loved and respected Evanston educator, is to perpetuate his total acceptance of all people, his commitment to the highest standards of educational excellence, and his energetic dedication to enriching the children and institutions of Evanston. For more information, visit cherryscholarship.org.

The Cherry Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions can be made online at the Cherry website (cherryscholarship.org) and can also be mailed to:
 Warren “Billy” Cherry Scholarship Fund
 P.O. Box 0944
 Evanston, IL 60204-0944

Dates to Remember










The Cherry Scholarship Fund is looking for scholars—students who may have struggled in high school, but who love kids and are dedicated to working with young people. Please help by encouraging deserving individuals from the Evanston community, particularly those who will graduate from Evanston Township High School in 2025, to apply for a Cherry Scholarship. Applications are available online at cherryscholarship.org. And please note that scholarships are now also available for part-time and graduate students.

2024-2025 dates:

Applications available – Dec. 1, 2024 Interviews – April 16, 2025
 Application Deadline – March 10, 2025 Award Dinner – April 27, 2025
 Golf Tournament – June 23, 2025

OUR IMPACT

1 CHERRY = 1 SCHOLAR

1993	
1998	
2003	
2008	
2013	
2018	
2023	
2024	
2019*	

*WE CELEBRATED OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY IN 2019 WITH AN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF DONATIONS FROM OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY!

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