

THE MILDRED P. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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NHLTA Treasurer

At its September 1964 Annual Meeting, the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association embarked on the most ambitious project in its eight year history, the creation of a scholarship, for the Public Library Techniques Course at the University of New Hampshire, in honor of former State Librarian Mildred P. McKay. When learning of NHLTA's intent, Mrs. McKay said nothing had pleased her more. At that time only 17 of 231 New Hampshire public libraries were administered by professional librarians. The UNH course trained the lay librarian in four, three-week summer sessions. Upon completion in the fourth summer, the lay librarian graduated from the program. However, the course costs were beyond the means of many lay librarians. Therefore, scholarships were needed, and donors were sought by the NHLTA for a new scholarship program for the UNH course. Increased book circulation and improved library services would be the result with trained librarians.

In September 1965, the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association formally established a perpetual scholarship fund with the New Hampshire Charitable Fund, now known as the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF), naming it after the former State Librarian Mildred P. McKay. The net income from the fund provides scholarship aid to residents of New Hampshire for the purpose of improving library services in the state. This new fund's broad, general purpose not only allowed scholarship aid for the UNH techniques course, but it allowed scholarship aid for other courses as well. The NHCF manages and invests the fund, and the NHLTA distributes the fund's proceeds to scholarship recipients.

NHLTA members and other individuals provided part of the initial funding for the scholarship in 1965, but other, NHLTA-sought-donations from foundations and more individuals were also added to the fund's initial balance. Additional donations from foundations, individuals and libraries were made in later years. From the 1965 inception, the McKay Scholarship Fund grew steadily from these donations, along with the fund's appreciation and income generation. In 1966, the first partial scholarships were granted. In 1967, income generation allowed somewhat larger grants to four recipients. In 2013, twenty-five full or partial scholarship grants were awarded.

The scholarship-recipient-selection criteria for the Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund are determined by the Board of Directors of NHLTA. The criteria have changed over the years. Today, NHLTA's three-member Scholarship Committee selects the recipients and the amount of scholarship aid. Today's applicants must be either a current trustee board member or presently employed in a New Hampshire library. Scholarship aid is provided for courses, workshops and conferences. NHLTA's Board of Directors believes that continuing education is the prime factor in providing the highest quality of library services.

The qualifying requirements for scholarship aid consideration by the Scholarship Committee, for board members and for library staff, as well as an application for a scholarship, can be found on NHLTA's website, <https://www.nhlta.org/aboutscholarships.asp>.