



CHS Alumni Association, Inc.

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The CHSAA to Present \$42,000 in Scholarships for 2023



Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the hard work of the CHSAA committee, the Coventry High School Alumni Association will be presenting \$42,000 in scholarships this year to 27 CHS seniors. The scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Many scholarships are sponsored by families in memory of a family member who has passed away or by business or individuals who wish to support students entering specific disciplines such as science, art, engineering, or the trades. Donations can be made at <https://www.oakeralumni.org/donate>.

This year's scholarships bring our total to \$244,000 since 2011. As always, the CHSAA is always looking for new members to work on its committees. More info is available by emailing chsaa2009@gmail.com.

CTA Scholarship Recipients 2023
\$13,000 presented by the CHSAA

Class of 1981 60th Birthday Party



The following individuals were inducted into the CHSAA Alumni Hall of Fame for 2022 on November 2, 2022: The class of 1981, one of CHS's most close-knit and active classes ever, held a 60th birthday celebration at the Olde Theater Diner on Saturday, March 18th. The event was extremely well attended. There was plenty of food, dancing, and fun for everyone. The class took up a collection to help fund its scholarship and presented the CHSAA with a \$1,230 donation!

Grants Presented by the CHSAA in 2023



Math Department



Science Department



Yearbook Class



NJROTC



Welding Class

Ernie DiMicco shown above presenting the grants.

The CHSAA recently awarded grants totaling \$3,375 for school projects this year. The Math Department received funding for an online Statistics AP Review Course to prepare for the AP exam in May. The Science Department will use their funds to cover costs for an aquaculture tour and boat trip to an oyster bed site for their Aquaculture Farm to Table project. The Yearbook Class will be able to purchase a new camera to use in creating the Yearbook. NJROTC will be able to fund the acquisition of new equipment and uniforms. The Welding Class will be Paying It Forward for supplies to design and construct a project to be donated to an organization as a fundraiser.

PV Rotary and the CHSAA to Host Funny4Funds Event

Come and join us at Club Jogues in Coventry on October 21st for a night of fellowship and comedy as the CHSAA and Pawtuxet Valley Rotary team up to raise funds for scholarships for Coventry High School student and community service projects. Sponsored by Rotary. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from members or at <https://www.oakeralumni.org>. While some snacks will be provided, please bring your own snack and avail yourself of the cash bar as you prepare for an amazing night of comedy.

We are also looking for sponsors. Donate \$100 to become a sponsor or purchase a whole table for you friends or business associates at \$250. The evening will feature raffles of gift baskets, silent auctions and a 50/50 raffle. Special vacation raffles will also be available. Please join us to help us support the seniors at CHS!

Alumni Corner...



Emily Vieira '22

The transition to college is something that everyone in your life tries their best to prepare you for. However, some parts of the transition were just difficult no matter how much preparation. For starters, I was away from home and had to adjust to not seeing my family every day. Granted, I go to the University of Rhode Island, so I'm only about an hour away from home and I have the availability to go back whenever I'd like. I live in a dorm room on campus with a roommate who I love, but she's not one of my family members that I'm used to seeing every day! I call, text, and facetime them whenever I can, and

I enjoy hearing about what's going on in their lives. The best days are when they visit me on campus, and we can spend time together.

Another difficult part of the college transition is being responsible for yourself. There's no parent waking you up telling you to get ready for school and ushering you out the door. There's no one calling up to your room to tell you dinner is ready and on the table. Now, I'm in charge of making sure I get out the door and to class on time. There are also the little things to keep track of, like keeping the room clean and taking out the trash. These little, mundane responsibilities that you're now put in charge of can quickly overwhelm you. Now that I'm in college, there's no one telling me when to eat lunch or dinner. I must decide when and what works best for me. It was strange at first not having a set time to eat, but I've gotten used to it. I'll grab lunch with a friend between classes or go have "family" dinners with my new-found family of peers.

As difficult as the transition to college can be, finding that right group of friends makes it so much more manageable. The friends that I have made here at college have become my second family and they have made this transition so much easier. We often get together in the library or at someone's dorm to sit around and do our homework and enjoy each other's company. We've built a strong, supportive community and always have each other's backs. My new friends have made this transition a breeze.



Thank you to the members of the class of 1981 for sponsoring such a great event and for their generous donation. The Class of 1981 Scholarship will be presented on May 18 at Senior Awards Night.

CHSAA Accepting Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations for the CHSAA Alumni Hall of Fame are being accepted through Aug. 1, 2023. Forms are available on our website at <https://www.oakeralumni.org>. Please consider nominating a deserving person. Inductees will be announced in September with the induction set for November 1, 2023, at Quidnessett Country Club. Over 50 amazing people have been inducted since 2012, but there are many more deserving CHS alumni and faculty who deserve the recognition. Thank you in advance for your help identifying these individuals.

Notes....

CHSAA is accepting volunteers to serve on various committees of the organization. If you can and would like to help, please go to our website at <https://oakeralumni.org> to sign up.

CHSAA is inviting all alumni to submit items that would be of interest for the newsletter. Please send your info to higchsaa@yahoo.com.

Thank you in advance for your help in maintaining our organization and providing news you wish to share.

About our Organization

The Coventry High School Alumni Association (CHSAA) is a nonprofit, 501-(3)(c) tax-exempt organization founded in 2009. Our mission is to: 1) provide scholarships for CHS seniors, 2) provide funds for school educational projects, and 3) recognize successful and community-minded individuals who have attended CHS, been employed at CHS, or who have been benefactors to the CHS community.

Since 2011, the CHSAA has awarded \$202,000 in scholarships including \$42,000 for this year. Over the last five years, \$11,550 has been donated for school projects. Our goal is to help students identify their career pathways before leaving high school to minimize the wasting of time and money by changing colleges or majors, extending the time, and increasing the cost of college.

All of the committee members are volunteers, so virtually all the money raised through fundraisers or donations goes to the students of CHS. Our website is www.oakeralumni.org and donations may be made there via credit card or by mailing a check to: CHSAA, P.O. Box 705, Coventry, RI 02816. Some individuals have also arranged bequests to the organization to help ensure that future CHS seniors will continue to receive support through CHSAA Endowment and other investments. Please consider helping us.

A Debt of Gratitude...

Many thanks to the members of the CHSAA committee, the Alumni Hall of Fame Selection Committee, and all our generous donors. Members of the committee give generously of their time and personal resources to help make the scholarships and grants possible.

CHSAA Committee members: John Ball, Jim Kuipers '85, Mary Ann Cantino, Kathy Lavallee '83, Amanda Lavallee '12, Mary Vandervelde '76, Maureen Jendzejec '75, Andrea Hopkins '64, Kate McCarthy-Barnett '85, Stacy Ferrara '83, Kevin Dolan '80, Pat Johnson '81, Jean Boucher '68, Ernie DiMicco '66, Jo-Ann Passarelli '80, Lori DiCostanzo, Sarah Charette '95, Helen Gray '64, and Diane and Robert Tremblay, Karen Davie '71, James Hopkins '58, and Stephen Bestwick '80.

