

# NEWS RELEASE



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## MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION AWARDS \$77,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

St. Paul, MN – June 18, 2021 – The Minnesota Grocers Association Foundation (MGAF) awarded **\$30,000 in scholarships** to employees or their dependents from Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) member companies for the 2021-2022 school year. This program helps students who are related to Minnesota’s food industry by supporting their educational growth.

Using funds raised from an annual golf event and silent auction, the MGAF is able to award scholarships and community grants. This year, the MGA Foundation received **369 applications** from **47 companies**. The 30 \$1,000 scholarships awarded represent the Minnesota food industry’s strong belief in the need for continued education. Since its inception the Foundation has awarded over **\$950,000** in scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded by an impartial committee of educators and based on community involvement and academic achievements.

**The 2021 MGAF Scholarship Winners are:** Malory Anderson from **Willie’s Super Valu**, Hannah Barthel from **Russ Davis Wholesale**, Avery Constant from **Jerry’s Enterprises, Inc.**, Stephanie Dickerson from **Central Market**, Hanna Dorff from **Olsen Fish Company**, Isabella Forliti from **Kowalski’s Companies, Inc.**, Kira Greenfield from **Cub Foods**, Samuel Groven from **Lunds & Byerlys**, Megan Hare from **Old Dutch Foods, Inc.**, Kiana Hawkinson from **Ukura’s Big Dollar**, Heidi Hutton from **Faribault Foods**, Mariah Iverson from **Hugo’s Family Marketplace**, Ethan Johnson from **Kowalski’s Companies, Inc.**, Amelia Jutz from **Jerry’s Enterprises, Inc.**, Aidan Kaddatz from **Coborn’s, Inc.**, Megan Lynch from **Lunds & Byerlys**, Sophia Marschall from **Hy-Vee**, Simon Mathiowetz from **Coborn’s, Inc.**, Merlea Mrozik from **Super One Foods**, David Nunn from **Coborn’s, Inc.**, Brandon Ortendahl from **Tom’s Market**, Isabella Ortendahl from **Tom’s Market**, Silas Pelkie from **KEMPS**, Madison Pittorf from **Lunds & Byerlys**, Samuel Poncelet from **Kwik Trip, Inc.**, Samantha Quaal from **SpartanNash**, Gabriel Qualley from **Brainerd Cub Foods**, Easton Quast, **Tersteeg’s Holiday Market**, Cailey Schlosser from **JC’s General Store**, and Cassidee Thorvig from **Chris’ Food Center**.

This year the Piggyback Scholarship Program was available for members of the MGA, allowing companies to “piggyback” on the MGAF application process in order to provide a scholarship program specifically for their employees and employees’ dependents. Nine companies participated and awarded a combined **\$47,000** in scholarships to **54 students**.

**The 2021 Piggyback Scholarship winners are:** from **Chris' Food Center:** Josey Olson; from **Cub Foods:** Francesca Heiss, Ryan Kasel, Charles Olson, Abigail Simon, and Casey Venske; from **Jerry's Enterprises, Inc.:** Jon Arias Melgar, Lila Berg, Sabine Cadet, Avery Constant, Megan Erickson, Daniel Georgioff, Kattye Gonzalez, Kurt Haugen, Dominick Heston, Amelia Jutz, Michael Krueger, Samantha Krueger, Connor O'Hara, Alexis O'Hearn, Caroline Raschke, Lily Raschke, Dylan Rubey, Jack St. George, Cody Vanderwerff, Gabriella Wenisch, and Jessica Willy; from **KEMPS:** Catherine Cuthbert, Sheyenne Hamilton, and Alexis Zuehlke; from **Kowalski's Companies, Inc./The Jim Kowalski Education Scholarship:** Kalista Borsch, Isabella Forliti, Rosa Gerds, Ethan Johnson, Josh Matara, Megan Matara, Samantha Nelson, Anna Perron, Kendall Phillips, Marilyn Simonsen, Katelyn Whitehouse, and John Wilker; from **Mackenthun's Fine Foods:** Natasha Christianson and Austin Pinske; from **Miner's, Inc. Achievement Scholarships:** Kimberlie Blevins, Nathaniel Burke, Megan Denny, Trevor Leppanen, and Amanda Paulson; from **S & R Qusberg, Inc.:** Madeleine Schuld; and from **Teal's Management/Pearl & George Teal Scholarship:** Lisa Bolduan, Andrea Eisenschenk, Sarah Goebel, and Logan Quinn.

The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are one of the oldest trade associations in the state, celebrating over 120 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 retail, manufacturers, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.

The Minnesota Grocers Association Foundation was established in 1992 to offer educational opportunities to the food industry, provide scholarships to employees of member companies or their children, and support community efforts and initiatives through grants. It has supported many notable programs and has awarded over \$950,000 in scholarships since its inception.

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