

Published by the **Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund.**

### OUR VISION

## THE POWER OF YOUNG IDEAS



Hunter Watson

Where will the next great ideas come from? Who will provide the insight, inspiration and hard work to create a better tomorrow?

The Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund sees those questions answered in the young people around us, young people who don't merely question today's world but who are using their talents and passions to find ways to improve it. Their dreams are of things yet to be seen.

This isn't an unrealistic goal. Who, a generation or two ago, would have foreseen a world of cell phones, flat screen TVs, space exploration for medical advances, worldwide GPS systems, any of the numerous positive changes recent decades have brought?

While we don't know what tomorrow will bring, we do know that today's youth and their ideas will be propelling the changes to come. They, and those ideas, are why the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund grants exist.

The HBW Memorial Fund works to identify young people who have demonstrated talent, experience and passion for taking new ideas and making them a reality.

HBW Memorial Fund grants are not scholarships nor are they tied to school studies, GPAs nor any particular religious affiliation. They are grants to reward passion and innovation, to help bring dreams to reality.

These grants reflect the talents and passions that Hunter Watson brought to his life. They honor his legacy, and provide support for young people who also approach life with powerful ideas. From music to entrepreneurship to computer technology, Hunter demonstrated talent and innovation that inspired and motivated others. We now want these grants to carry on what Hunter inspired.

## HBW Fund Awards 8 New Grants Plus 4 Awards

Following a large increase in the number of grant application inquiries and completed grant applications, the Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund Grants Committee faced a number of very noteworthy applications. Nearly 100 students requested applications and a final selection of 18 applications were selected for consideration.

The grant approval process began

with having the sixteen members of the Grants Committee evaluate and score the completed applications. After this initial evaluation process, a total of eight of the most promising grant applications were forwarded to the full HBW Founders Committee for their final review and funding approvals.

HBW Memorial Fund Grants are made to young men and women be-

tween the ages of 16 and 25 who have demonstrated passion in areas in which Hunter Watson excelled during his too short life. The HBW Memorial Fund is proud to provide grants to the following individuals who have demonstrated their abilities in several noteworthy fields:

*Continued on page 2*

## “Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards” Presented At Syracuse University in Honor of Hunter Watson

Syracuse University is known for its innovative programs in entrepreneurship and information technology. In March, the winners of the 2018 RvD iPrize, named after former Dean Raymond von Dran, competition were announced and included for the first time this year was the award of \$10,000 to individuals in the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards competition, sponsored by the Hunter B. Watson Fund.

The Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards were created to recognize young people who had demonstrated a real passion and enthusiasm for their venture or ideas. The awards, for \$2,500 each, were presented in the four competition categories to teams of students from a variety of Syracuse schools.

These Awards, part of the Blackstone Launchpad programs at Syracuse, help to celebrate the life of Hunter Brooks Watson, a Syracuse student at the iSchool who tragically lost his life as a passenger in an automobile accident in 2016. Hunter demonstrated a strong gift and enthusiasm in music, computer technology, performance art and entrepreneurship. The students

selected for the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award follow in that mold. This year's inaugural winners included:

- In the Product Category: **Julia Haber**, Newhouse, class of 2019, founder of WAYV.
- In the Service Category: **Chase Guttman**, Newhouse, class of 2018, founder of Chase Higher
- In the Software/IT Category: **Scott Pecoriello**, Arts and Sciences, class of 2020, founder of Weather Optics
- In the Sustainability Category: **Jason Kuperberg**, Arts and Sciences, class of 2018; **Serena DeSeta**, Whitman School, class of 2018; **Matthew Goodman**, Visual and Performing Arts, class of 2019.

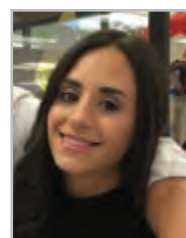
Judging criteria for the Awards included:

- Passion and spirit
- Intrinsic drive that pushed the entrepreneurs to pursue this venture, and the likeliness that the team will pursue the venture
- Level of cooperation and candor between the team members
- Innovativeness and capability
- The team has an innovative idea and a clear plan as to the continuation of the venture
- Personality and comfortability during the Q & A, showing rapport as well as competence.

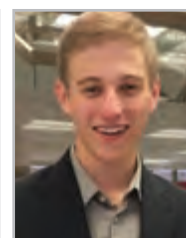
The awards were presented by iSchool Dean Liz Liddy, along with two of Hunter's close friends, Matthieu Menand and Jason Reif, both of whom serve on the Founder's Committee for the Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund.



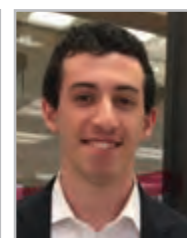
HBW Founders Committee Members: Matthieu Menand, Jason Reif, Hanna Horvath



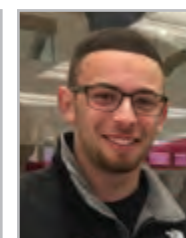
Julia Haber



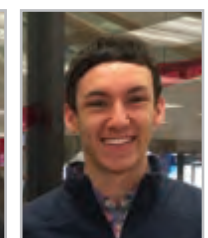
Chase Guttman



Scott Pecoriello



Jason Kuperberg



Matthew Goodman

### SPECIAL THANKS

The Founders Committee and the Watson family thank Dean Liddy, Associate Deans Kim Pietro and Ron Thiele, Executive Director of the Blackstone Launchpad Linda Hartssock, Program Director of the Blackstone Launchpad Braden Croy and the administration of Syracuse University for their continued support for the programs of the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund. We especially thank Dean Liddy and the iSchool for partnering with us to include our Fund with the entrepreneurship awards in honor of Hunter Watson.



## HBW UPDATE

Published by  
Hunter Brooks  
Watson Fund

SPRING 2018

### OUR VISION

To live in a world where our youth may follow their hearts.

### OUR MISSION

The Hunter Brooks Watson Fund seeks out young people who dream of something they are deeply curious and passionate about and gives them the resources to explore that passion. Our goal is to support the young person financially, mentor their journey and give them the chance to change the course of their lives.

### EDITORS

Hannah Kliot and Will Snape

### GRANTS CHAIRMAN

Matthieu Menand

### ADMIN CHAIRMAN

Matt Salutillo

### FUNDRAISING CHAIRMAN

Madeleine Bunbury

### MARKETING CHAIRMAN

Matt Kimm

### EVENTS CHAIRMAN

Jordan Parent

### FOUNDERS COMMITTEE

Luigi Ambrosie  
Abigail Breslin  
Madeleine Bunbury  
Liam Catto  
Forrest Crane  
Chris Dale  
Yannick Della Schiava  
Ilana Dunn  
Zack Green  
Hanna Horvath  
Matt Kimm  
Hannah Kliot  
Matthieu Menand  
Jordan Parent  
Mark Ramsey  
Jason Reif  
Matt Salutillo  
Will Snape  
Connor Sweeney  
Ted Watson

Tell us what you think about what we are doing. Send your comments and suggestions to: Editor, HBW Update, 850 Dolley Madison Blvd, McLean, VA 22101 or email to [editor@hunterwatson.org](mailto:editor@hunterwatson.org). All letters are assumed to be intended for publication unless otherwise noted.

The Hunter Brooks Watson Fund is an all volunteer organization established as a division of CharitySmith Nonprofit Foundation (EIN 87-0636433), [www.charitysmith.org](http://www.charitysmith.org) which administers all donations for memorial funds like Hunter's. All donations are tax deductible in accordance with federal tax law and are administered by CharitySmith. For questions regarding your donation or administration of this memorial fund please contact CharitySmith at (866) 558-2064.

# HBW Fund Awards 8 New Grants Plus 4 Awards

Continued from page 2



### Grant Recipient:

Tara McLaughlin

### Area of Interest:

Study of International Relations and Policy

Tara, a junior at The Potomac School in McLean, Virginia, has been awarded a grant to attend the 19-day Hands of Peace program being held this summer in Chicago and San Diego. Hands of Peace is an international program bringing together high school students from Palestine, Israel and the United States to learn about the problems facing the Middle East. The program provides opportunities for students to interact with and learn from each other. Tara has attended various diversity conferences through The Potomac School and has been a participant in Model UN competitions. Through the Hands of Peace program she hopes to bring back a better understanding of the issues facing the Middle East, and to share her knowledge with The Potomac School community. She will use her grant to cover registration for the conference.



### Grant Recipient:

Taylor Lotte

### Area of Interest:

Expanding Adventure Travel Services

Taylor, from Boulder, Colorado, is a

Creative Leadership major in her junior year at Syracuse University. Her love of the outdoors and travel that involved more than standard tourist destinations inspired her company, Ravle.com, that is partnering with top adventure travel filmmakers. They are producing travel films and online travel planning that can allow others to duplicate the travel these experts have taken. Taylor's grant will go toward partnering with more travel filmmakers, as well as expanding her online services that display these travel videos. Her goal is to be able to turn these travel videos into bookable travel experiences around the world that any individual can enjoy



### Grant Recipient:

Akshay Ramaswamy

### Area of Interest:

Growing An Innovative Social-Academic Network

When Akshay began his college career at Stanford University he found himself unsure as to what classes to take or what clubs to join. With a strong background in computer technology from his high school years in Lakeland, New York, he developed the concept for an online solution to help other students in similar situations. Now in his junior year at Stanford, Akshay has co-founded a college-exclusive online network where students can connect

with their peers to share college experiences, gain advice on classes and other activities, and expand social connections. Launched on the Stanford campus, the online service gained more than one thousand users in just its first three weeks. Akshay will be using his grant to support growth of this online site at [www.AlmaCampus.com](http://www.AlmaCampus.com), and to expand its services to additional college campuses.



### Grant Recipient:

Jackson Hirsh

### Area of Interest:

Creating New Music Production Services

Beginning with learning to play the violin at age three, music has always been an important part of Jackson's life. This Seattle, Washington native, now in his sophomore year at New York University as a Performance Studies major, has been involved in writing, recording and producing music for a number of years. Jackson has been awarded this Hunter Watson Memorial Fund grant to expand the recording studio services he uses for his own work and in support of other young artists. The grant will allow him to acquire cutting edge technology to help in the creation and distribution of high-quality productions of original music. It will also provide him with professional studio time to complete the

Continued on page 3

## Putting A Grant To Good Use



### Calum Smeaton Benefits From New Equipment

Callum Smeaton, a junior at the University of Virginia, was a grant winner in the HBW Memorial Fund's initial grant cycle. An aspiring musician, Callum was looking for funding to improve the quality of the recording

studio he has established.

Although an accomplished musician and composer himself, Callum's interest in raising the capabilities of his studio was to be able to provide high quality recording capabilities to new artists who couldn't yet afford to use a large studio.

It's an ambition he's already made a reality. More than half of the recording hours he has produced to date with his new studio have been done for free for new musicians.



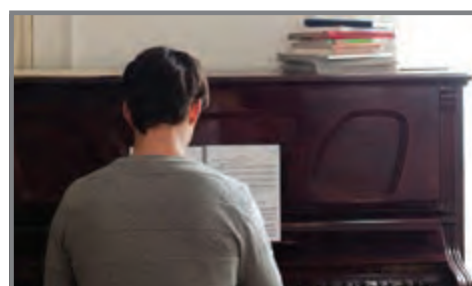
Update from  
**Calum Smeaton,**  
Fall 2017 Grant Winner

I just finished recording a audio tour for two Smithsonian museums.

They never would've picked me for the job without the improvements in equipment and marketing I was able to make thanks to you all.

I'm more grateful for the grant all the time.

*Calum Smeaton,*  
*University of Virginia*



### Looking for Enthusiastic, Passionate Young People.

3rd Round HBW Fund Grants are now open for those age 16 to 25.

Deadline is June 15, 2018.

Applications available at: [www.hunterwatson.org/grants](http://www.hunterwatson.org/grants)



## HUNTER STORIES

### “THE KISS” BY MATT KIMM

*Founders Committee Member Matt Kimm first shared this story at Hunter Watson's memorial service on July 9, 2016*



It's 7th grade, and I'm in the middle of my none too gracious transition from boyhood to adulthood, with a sweet rack of braces and thoughtfully placed acne across my face. Hunter and his family, being the ridiculously generous people they are, had invited me to spend spring break with them in Mustique, a beautiful island in the Caribbean. A big topic of discussion on the trip was how I had yet to kiss a girl, unlike the coolest 7th grader of all time, Hunter Watson, who had gotten his first kiss decades ago. On the trip, I met someone special—a beautiful girl with the perfect English accent. I couldn't believe how well my awkward jokes were landing with this girl, and I knew that this was my moment to shine.

And then comes Hunter: my supremely confident, 7th grade rockstar friend. He swoops in, chats her up, then starts speaking in French and swing dancing with my love interest. I can see this girl practically falling in love with him, as many girls have. Feeling betrayed, I emotionally flicked my Bieber-style hair, sat alone on the beach, and played some angst-y Green Day off my iPod Touch.

A few minutes later, to my surprise, the same girl meets me on the end of the beach with a smile. She tells me how Hunter spent their dance telling her what an amazing friend I was and what an amazing guy I was in general, with so many accomplishments. I'm fairly certain Hunter fibbed quite a bit, but I didn't care. I flashed my red white and blue braces at her, and I finally got my first kiss, all thanks to my best friend Hunter.

This story may seem silly but I think it encapsulates Hunter. He was a confident, charming, amazing guy who could grind my gears at times, but he also could bring joy to my life in an instant. As tragic as Hunter's death is, I am still so happy that I got to spend the best years of my life with the best friend I will ever know. I will forever cherish the years we shared together, with no regrets.

To Hunter I say, “you lived 20 incredible years, and I am so happy to have spent many of them with you. I love you Hunter, and I miss you so much”.

## MESSAGES FROM THE GRANT WINNERS

I am so incredibly thankful for the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund's grant because it will enable me to further explore my passions in conflict resolution and foreign policy. I know that the things I learn at the program will stay with me for a long time, and that they will help me build skills that will help me succeed in college and beyond.

**Tara McLaughlin.**  
*The Potomac School*

So incredibly blessed to have received this grant - truly an honor. It is hard to describe just exactly what doors this will open for me but it such an amazing step forward! Thank you Hunter and thank you Hunter Watson Fund .

**Jackson Hirsh**  
*New York University*

## HBW Fund Awards 8 New Grants Plus 4 Awards

*Continued from page 2*

two Extended Play albums of original music that he is currently creating.



**Grant Recipient:**

Ethan Warden

**Area of Interest:**

Creating An Advanced Audio Studio

Ethan, a University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate student from Owensville, Missouri, is an experienced trombone player who has become proficient in the use of new audio technology to create unique sounds for brass instruments. Ethan's interest is to incorporate these advances in innovative audio technology in his own trombone performances, and also to educate young brass instrument musicians in the capabilities of this new technology to expand their performance abilities. Ethan's grant will cover the equipment to establish an advanced audio studio where he will be able to teach music students in the use of this new technology.



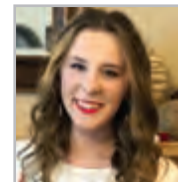
**Grant Recipient:**

Rishi Ramsamooj

**Area of Interest:**

Obtaining Commercial Pilot's Certificate

Growing up on the small Caribbean island of St. Vincent, Rishi didn't have had the same opportunities to follow his dreams of becoming a pilot that someone from a larger, more affluent place might have enjoyed. That initial lack of resources, however, was not an obstacle that Rishi was willing to let limit his dreams. After graduating from St. Vincent & The Grenadines Community College with majors in math, physics and computer science, he made the move to Florida where he is now enrolled at the Epic Flight Academy and is well on his way to earning his private pilot's license. He sees this as the first step toward his final goal of being a commercial pilot. He will be using his grant to continue his flying education toward his commercial license. His goal is to be able to return to St. Vincent, which has recently build a new airport, and to fly for one of the airlines that have been expanding their services and need for pilots there. He also wants to work with young people in St. Vincent who also have an interest in flying.



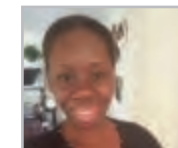
**Grant Recipient:**

Paige Smith

**Area of Interest:**

Becoming A Music Therapist

Paige is an accomplished performer as a singer, piano, guitar, ukulele and banjo player, taking her first music lessons at age four. This Dayton, Idaho high school senior also teaches piano and ukulele, but her real passion is to use her musical abilities providing help to people suffering from various physical and psychological issues. She hopes to eventually earn a college degree as a Music Therapist, but has already started down that path by gaining permission through her high school to teach ukulele to special needs students in the school's special education program. She will be using her grant funding to acquire high quality recording equipment and software that she will be able to use in her work as a Music Therapist. Her interest in the field has been prompted by research showing music therapy not only can provide comfort, but also can play a very meaningful role in dealing with mental issues, in relieving physical pain and in improving the overall quality of life, outcomes Paige would like to be able to provide to patients.



**Grant Recipient:**

Dumona Charles

**Area of Interest:**

Growing Online Store

Dumona is a woman who is passionate to fulfill her dream of becoming a doctor and has been working hard to make it happen. Now a fourth-year student at All Saints University School of Medicine in the Commonwealth of Dominica, she is well on her way to that goal. But this resident of the Caribbean country of St. Vincent and The Grenadines, who found that the expenses of a medical education were high, has demonstrated strong entrepreneurial skills to help make her dreams possible. Starting in high school, she began a small business selling baked goods to help pay for her extra courses. In time she founded an online company to import affordable goods not usually available in St. Vincent. The proceeds of that effort has helped pay some of her student loans, while also enabling her to begin her medical education. Dumona will be using her grant to help expand the services her online store offers, and to employ an assistant so that she will have more time to focus on her medical studies and additional income to complete her medical schooling.



## Two More Friends of Hunter Join Founders Committee

The Hunter Watson Memorial Fund has added to its Founders Committee two talented students with valuable experience to help guide the organization.



**Zack Green** (New York City) is a 2017 graduate of the University of Michigan where he studied political science. Hunter and Zack became close friends while vacationing on the island of Mustique. The friendship formed between him, Zack, and board member Hannah Kliot was forged through childhood adventures in the Caribbean and maintained through contact in the States. Hunter's innate confidence and humor

has made a lasting impact upon Zack, and he carries it with him everyday.



**Hanna Horvath** (Washington DC) is a senior at Syracuse University studying news and online journalism. Hanna first met Hunter in high school, and followed him to Syracuse where they remained great friends. Hanna and Zack joined the Committee in December and have deep ties to Hunter Watson.

## Meet The Other Founders



**Luigi Ambrosi** (Milan, Italy): 2017 graduate of Georgetown University with a degree in Business Management and Anthropology.



**Abigail Breslin** (Hollywood, California): Oscar Nominated Actress and singer/song writer.



**Madeleine Bunbury** (Mustique, West Indies): Madeleine, an emerging young artist, grew up on the Island of Mustique the daughter of the Island's only doctor.



**Liam Catto** (Boulder, Colorado): Senior at the University of Colorado studying Business and Advertising.



**Forrest Crane** (Lexington, Kentucky): Junior at the University of Kentucky studying Political Science and Business Management.



**Chris Dale** (McLean, Virginia): 2017 graduate of the University of Virginia with a degree in History.



**Yannick Della Shavia** (Milan, Italy): 2017 graduate of Georgetown University with a degree in Operations and Information Management.



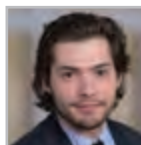
**Ilana Dunn** (New York, New York): 2016 Syracuse University graduate now working in the music industry in NYC.



**Matt Kimm** (Austin, Texas): Senior at the University of Texas at Austin, where he studies Advertising and Business.



**Hannah Kliot** (New York, New York): 2017 graduate of Northwestern University who studied broadcast journalism.



**Matthieu Menand** (Syracuse, New York): Senior at Syracuse University studying Entrepreneurship and Supply Chain Management.



**Jordan Parent** (Blacksburg, Virginia): Junior at Virginia Tech studying Computer Science and Cyber Security.



**Jason Reif** (Syracuse, New York): Senior at Syracuse University from Fair Lawn NJ studying Finance, Accounting and Information Management & Technology.



**Mark Ramsey** (Charlottesville, Virginia): Senior student at The University of Virginia studying Economics, Entrepreneurship, and Classical Studies.



**Matt Salutillo** (Sterling, Virginia): Graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Art and Architecture.



**Will Snape** (Hartford, Connecticut): Senior at Trinity College majoring in Urban Studies.



**Connor Sweeney** (Great Falls, Virginia): Student at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania majoring in Economics and minoring in Business.



**Teddy Watson** (New York, New York): Hunter's older brother. 2016 graduate of New York University with a degree in Computer Science.

## Founders Committee Celebrates Hunter's Life with Event



The Friends of Hunter Fund held an Island wider party in memory of Hunter on the island of Mustique over the holiday break. Hunter's parents hosted the party so all the proceeds would go 100% to the Fund.

More than 250 attended the gala event and raised money to Fund grants for students living in the West Indies. Already young people with a passionate interest in something they could not afford to pursue are benefiting from the program. Like a young student being able to study Robotics in Junior College so he can qualify for continuing his passion for computer science in a 4 year college.

Another student dreams of becoming a commercial pilot and fly for the local island airline will soon begin attending flight school in Florida. And then there is the female entrepreneur who wants to expand her internet shopping business so those in her country of St. Vincent can obtain products not easily available from on-line stores in the US.

Growing up, Hunter and many of his friends on the Founders Committee visited the Island nearly annually and four of the members have a close family connection to the area. The support of their many friends from the area has been important to making the grants to the amazing young people of the West Indies. All donations received from there are dedicated to these young people to help them achieve their dreams.

## MAILBOX

I love everything that the fund stands for and intend on sending another donation this week. Looking forward to hearing about the students in the upcoming years that will benefit from the fund.

**J.M.**  
Needham MA

Hunter was certainly an inspiring young man who drank life to the lees. May we all strive to live as fully and with as much gusto. He left a legacy of modeling for others how to dare to reach for ones dream.

**S.P.**  
Bethesda, MD

It is lovely to see our young adults involved in such a wonderful thing.

**L.B.**  
Mustique

We joined the mentor program at \$20/month - but this is a little extra. Hope the New Year brings you and the Fund much success.

**S.J.**  
Winnetka, IL

To support a wonderful cause - with very best wishes.

**G.M.**  
Oxford, UK

Just wanted to do a bit more this year. The wonderful grants you are making spurred me on. All my best

**K.W.**  
Falls Church, VA

It's so nice to see Hunters zest for life carried on in his friends and the recipients of the award. Great to see this terrific program by Hunters friends and family.

**S.S.**  
The Potomac School

To the HBW Fund board: what wonderful work you have done in Hunters name. Thank you for honoring him in this way

**M.T.**  
Arlington, VA

We look forward to learning about the grant recipients and plan to continue our modest support of Hunter's Fund in the future.

**C.&W.V.**  
Great Falls, VA

What a beautiful way to honor Hunter, his life and legacy! May his spirit live on in the lives of others!

**V.M.**  
Chapman, AL

My son, Will attended Camp Highlands with Hunter. We are so sorry. The world has lost a good one! Wonderful to have Hunter's legacy continue and to grow. We are always happy to be a part of the scholarship supporters.

**J.B.**  
Chicago, IL

Good luck with the initial grants. What a great way to honor Hunter. He would be proud!

**T.B.**  
McLean, VA

It is so wonderful that Hunter's spirit will live on through the students and families who will be honored with these grants.

**R.G.**  
Pound Ridge, NY

Thanks for carrying on this work in Hunter's name. I appreciate the information you sent on the first grantees.

**F.A.**  
Clinton, MS

## 55 New Charter Members Bring Total to 483

We are thrilled that following our first Newsletter, 55 more friends joined to help provide grants to promising students. We warmly welcome them!

Since we only began awarding grants this past September, the Founders Committee has decided to keep our Charter Member Club open until August 31 so all our friends have the opportunity to join as a Charter Member.

Sam Ackerman	Brett and Charles	Mark Kimsey	Glenn Rice
Jose Alvarez	Field-Marsham	Peter Lynch	Haley Robertdon
Chris Amicone	Daniel and Linda Gans	Kate and Shawn	Linda Rubin
Tiqui Atencio	Ellen Grass	McCarthy	Cassie Smith
Andrew and Julie Austin	Zack Green	Stewart McCormack	Karen and Jim Sowell
Jason Beckman	Kevin Havermann	Devin McVeigh	Rupert Sturgeon
Sally Browning	Paul Henkel	Walter and Monica Noel	Tim Syder
Alex Cluff	David Herrick	James and Genevieve	Caleb Toomey
Mary Jo and Elmer	David Higgins	Osborne	John Van Kuffeler
Copoolse	Pavel Hill	Margaret Parr-Recard	Crayber Voute
Jamie Corelli	Lisa Hodge	Paul and Charlene	Christina Wers
Jim Cregan	Jack Johnson	Pascivcco	Silne Winckler
Colby and Gina Crenshaw	Sandy and Paul Johnson	Corina Piedrahita	Barbara Yosantos
Yvette and Alan Dale	Braun and Tina Jones	Tahana Predrahita	Vlad and Manana
Randall Dillard	The Kimsey Foundation	Linda Reubin	Zebelin

### TRIBUTE GIFTS

#### In Honor of & In Memory of Lost Loved Ones

The Names of the following came to us alongside gifts of financial support. These names demonstrate the power of our friends and their commitment to this mission - to help passionate young people achieve these dreams.

Bill Banks	Sarah Koster
Will Barclay	Vinny Maugeri
Isaac Chevron	Frank Newell
Carol Watson Christian	Jordan Parent
Gabe and Sebas Corrochano	Joan Redlefsen
Robert Fairies	Christy Rocks
Susan, Alan, Gabby	Jason Smith
and Zack Green	Syracuse Phi Kappa Psi 2018
Adelle Hanks	Syracuse Alpha Zeta
Robert Hutson	Pledge Class
Britany Kabic	Hunter Watson
Matt Kimm	Teddy, Jerry & Judy Watson
Jim Kimsey	Edna Way

### WAYS TO JOIN

To become a Charter Member, return the Reply Envelope with your donation, make a Tribute Gift on the page below or donate on our secure website at [www.hunterwatson.org/donate](http://www.hunterwatson.org/donate)

### THOMAS F. BANGASSER

Dear Grants Committee,

Last year I made my first gift to the HBW Fund in honor of Hunter. Today I am making my second gift to honor his vision and your commitment to support other young people like Hunter as they pursue their dreams.

Every year our family contributes to many different non-profit programs, initiatives and organizations but we believe the HBW Fund is quite unique in its goals and youthful outreach.

We know of and support many scholarships that award for academic excellence. But few encourage young men and women who want to be our future musicians, or poets, or start small businesses or nonprofits. Many of our greatest heroes today made it just because someone reached out and helped them when they needed a little help or encouragement.

Over the last two years, I have learned two things about Hunter.

First, he was an enthusiastic young man of many talents and ideas. And second, his family and friends supported and encouraged him. But many youth do not have similar opportunities because their families lack the means to do this.

I often look back and wish that, when I was young, someone would have encouraged my own ideas and creativity just a little bit more, or provided me with the means to pursue my dreams further while I was still young.

Maybe, one of the young men and women who receive a grant from the HBW Fund will change the world. As for me, I want to encourage that opportunity.

Maybe they will only change their own life or bring a little more joy to those around them. Regardless, I want to support and be a part of it, and to nurture the belief that anything is possible.

Please invest my donation today in the future of a young man or woman ... to encourage their light to shine!

*Tom*

### MAKE A TRIBUTE GIFT

The HBW Fund accepts gifts in memory of someone who has died or in honor of a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary or graduation. Donors may also give a gift just to say "thank you". The HBW Fund will send a card to the person honored or the family of the deceased. Complete this form and mail it with your contribution.

**PLEASE PRINT**

I am enclosing a special gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

To celebrate his/her/their \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GIFT TO**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**INDICATE ON ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT GIFT IS BEING MADE BY:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (In case of questions) \_\_\_\_\_

**Hunter Brooks Watson Fund**  
13100 Filly Lane • Truckee, CA 96161



## New iPhone iOS Can Limit Distracted Driving



Yes, Apple does like offering upgrades for its iPhones, and while you may wonder if some of them are really necessary, there's at least one good reason to make sure your phone, and especially the phone of a teen driver in your household, is running iOS 11 or later.

While we all supposedly know not to use our cell phones when driving, it sometimes can be an automatic reflex, especially for young people, to reach for that phone when there's an incoming call or text. However, a new feature on the latest operating system goes beyond the "Do Not Disturb" setting that was always there.

If you set the "Do Not Disturb" feature to "Automatically" it senses when the car is in motion and blocks all incoming calls and texts. That doesn't mean important calls can't get through. If someone calls again within 3 minutes it allows the call on the assumption that it's important. It also allows a text through if the word "Urgent" is included, a new feature if Mom or Dad really need to reach their teen.

This latest version of the "Do Not Disturb" feature offers a number of other settings and options and is well worth checking out. It's a feature any parent should make sure is turned on in their children's phones to help minimize a common cause of distracted driving.

## Fraternity Holds Distracted Driving Event

BY HANNA HORVATH



Distracted driving bracelets encourage students to pledge to end Distracted Driving

Hunter Watson was a member of the Syracuse University chapter of Phi Kappa Psi. This past fall the fraternity put together a Safe Driving Week to both honor Hunter's memory, increase awareness of distracted driving dangers and raise funds to benefit the National Safety Council's safe driving campaigns.

The week began with a candlelight vigil honoring Hunter's life and other Syracuse students who had lost their lives last year. Held in conjunction with Delta Delta Delta sorority, some 300 people were in attendance. Hunter's father spoke at the vigil about

how the loss of Hunter has affected his family, and how Hunter's life has inspired friends to create the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund which is now providing grants in Hunter's memory to young people nationwide.

The vigil was followed over the next couple of days by the fraternity holding sales of T-shirts and distracted driving bracelets across the Syracuse campus, raising funds for the National Safety Council and asking students to sign pledges to end distracted driving.



A fun event ended the week with the fraternity offering opportunities for students to buy the chance to throw a pie at any of the fraternity brothers.

In total Phi Kappa Psi's Safe Driving Week managed to raise \$13,000 and obtained safe driving pledges from over 1,000 students.

## They Say You Die Twice

EDITORIAL BY WILL SNAPE



I recently had the opportunity to see the Broadway show *Dear Evan Hansen*, the winner of six Tony Awards this year.

This play is a story that follows an awkward high school kid who sits alone at lunch and blinks with never-ending embarrassment as he jumbles his words any time he is put into a situation that requires social interaction.

When a fellow misfit classmate, Connor, takes his own life, Evan manages to jumble his words into creating a fake storyline where he and Connor were best friends. Through a bizarre turn of events Evan becomes the accidental mastermind behind a viral lie.

I'll leave the rest of the plot a mystery but highly recommend the play. It is a moving play that can affect people in different ways. I saw it principally as a story calling attention to the subtle intricacies of 21st century life. I realized the story of Evan Hansen is symbolic of the human tendency to forget.

There are people who have passed away far too soon, just as my dear friend Hunter Watson did. But what has more recently become a part of our culture, at least in the United States, is that these tragic events have become opportunities for people to post their statements of their grief online just for the sake of posting. This is not to say that the condolences from loose acquaintances are less valuable than those from that of a close friend, but rather a serious reminder to be conscious of how you go about sharing those condolences.

Does a Facebook post of a picture and a memory with the deceased have more of an impact than a hand-written note to the family? Will the memory I'm sharing help others remember him or her in a kind way.

I believe more thought needs to go into the content of the message someone is about to share. The practice of using the death or a friend, classmate or acquaintance as the reason to post a message on social media just for the sake of posting is both selfish and unhealthy, despite being commonplace today.

My final takeaway from *Dear Evan Hansen* was that it made me think of an obscure quote I had read months earlier from the graffiti artist Banksy. He wrote "I mean, they say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing, and a second time, a bit later on, when somebody says your name for the last time."

As I'm writing this, the Hunter Watson Fund has just wrapped up its second round of grant application review and awards. I have had sufficient time to reflect on how proud I am to be part of this organization that has worked so hard to ensure that Hunter's name lives well beyond his last breath, and how lucky everyone here at the Hunter Watson Fund is to have such an extensive, diverse, and thoughtful group of readers and supporters who have been essential to helping us to live up to our mission. It's also wonderful to see the grant recipients living up to their dreams so that Hunter's name and dreams will live on in those we help fund.

## Founders Committee Creates Endowment for Future Work

The Hunter Watson Memorial Fund's grants would not be possible without the financial and moral support of caring individuals.

Because so many have stood with us, the HBW Fund has been able to award eighteen grants to promising young people with dreams like Hunter's in just our first year.

But securing the future of this Fund is important to us. That's why in our second year, our Founders Committee began setting aside a percentage of the gifts we received to build an endowment. They named this reserve the Hunter Watson Legacy Fund to honor Hunter, their promising young friend who inspired them to carry on his passion for life and the future.

Although colleges and museums

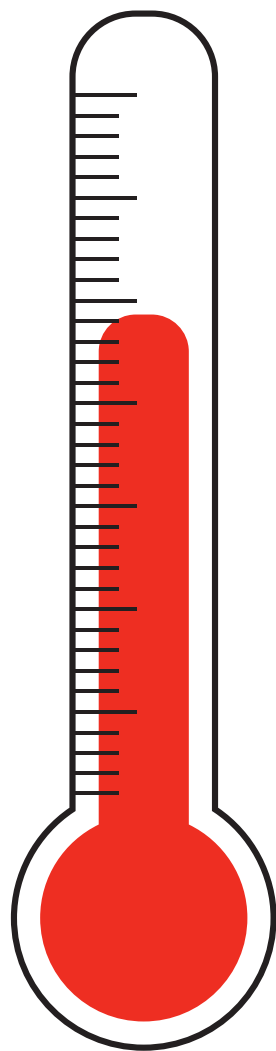
have long understood the wisdom for building endowments, most organizations, that touch the lives of young people in such a special way, have not set aside funds for the future. As a result, some groups have not been able to sustain themselves and continue their valuable work.

We remain a nation of promise, but in communities across this country, many young people live with dreams they cannot afford to try and to achieve.

As our young people grow so will their dreams grow.

This endowment will be there to help insure that we will be ready to help them achieve their dreams far the future. To able to see Hunter's dreams live through them.

## Friend-To-Friend Campaign Gains Support



The launch of the Friend to Friend campaign this Fall was successful with dozens showing interest in the Fund's mission of supporting young people with passionate ideas.

Friends of the Fund set up their own fundraising pages in less than a minute and invited those they knew to join. These new donors are already helping spread the word of our Grants program and helping us in the fight against Distracted Driving.

50 have joined us in this very special mission so far but our goal is to add another 50 supporters this year so we can replace the funds we have already awarded and make sure this special cause lives on into the future.

Will you help us reach that goal?

If only 10 of current friends like you would volunteer just a minute of their time to sponsor their own fundraising page and post it to their Facebook, Twitter or Instagram page, results from our first effort show we can add 5 new friends for each sponsor and meet our goal of 50 new friends this year.

It's that simple so please join us and help reach the 100 new friends we need this year.

Join at this link: [www.hunterwatson.org/VOL](http://www.hunterwatson.org/VOL)

## Your Charitable Gifts After Tax Reform

### *Gifts from IRA's and Appreciated Property Remain the Same!*



When Congress enacted the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, tax rates were lowered and many widely used deductions were curtailed or eliminated.

Fortunately, the charitable deduction was retained and enhanced for many taxpayers who will still benefit from itemizing their gifts and other deductions for tax purposes.

This booklet will help you make effective charitable gifts in light of the new tax law.

Whether you plan to support the programs of the Hunter Watson Fund or even another favorite charity, you can request a Free copy of "Your Guide to Effective Giving After Tax Reform" without obligation by checking the box provided on the enclosed Reply Envelope and returning it to us, or write to request a copy.

Do it today and make sure you get the most tax savings from your gifts in 2018!

## BEQUESTS

You can help provide for the future of the HBW Fund Grants Program by leaving a gift in your will to the Fund. We recommend that you consult with your attorney when drafting a new will, or when changing an existing will or creating a living revocable trust, if you wish to include a gift for the HBW Grants Program.

HBW Fund official name:

**The Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund  
a Division of CharitySmith Memorial Funds**

HBW Fund & CharitySmith mailing address:  
**13100 Filly Lane, Truckee, CA 96161**

HBW Fund & CharitySmith telephone number: **(866) 558-2064**

CharitySmith identification:

**A not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of  
the Internal Revenue Code**

CharitySmith tax-exempt number: **EIN 87-0636433**

### Sample Language

"I give, devise and bequeath to the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund a division of the CharitySmith Memorial Funds for its general purposes [state fraction or percentage of the rest, residue and remainder] or [the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ] in my estate, both, real or personal"

**For additional information, please contact:**  
Stacey Spain, Executive Director, CharitySmith,  
13100 Filly Lane, Truckee, CA 96161  
Phone: 1-866-558-2064



DON'T MISS FUTURE NEWSLETTERS, SIGN UP AT: [WWW.HUNTERWATSON.ORG/GRANTS](http://WWW.HUNTERWATSON.ORG/GRANTS)



## Many Interests — One of a Kind



At the Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund we're supporting young men and women of diverse interests and talents, so they can let their passions shine.

Our inspiration and our mission come from Hunter himself. He was a young man of extremely diverse talents and interests. Wherever he went, whatever he did, he brought a spark and a smile and a contagious energy that inspired

those around him.

And while his life was too short, and the hurt that those who loved him feel will never fully heal, there is a peace that comes from knowing that Hunter succeeded in *getting the most out of every day he lived*:

**As a boy and a young man ...** Hunter lit up the lives of his mother Judy, his father Jerry, his older brother Teddy, and all his extended family.

**As a friend ...** Hunter cultivated deep and lasting relationships and will never be forgotten by those who knew him best.

**As an athlete ...** Hunter loved baseball, soccer, football and wrestling, excelling as an individual while always striving to lift up his teammates.

**As a musician ...** Hunter formed his first band at age 10 and never stopped loving, playing and performing music.

(You can watch a video of Hunter's Black Out Band playing their song "Video Games" on YouTube.)

**As a student ...** Hunter graduated from Potomac School, enrolled at Syracuse University and joined Phi Kappa Psi, learning and growing and making new friends each year — while never forgetting his old ones.

**As an entrepreneur ...** Hunter worked with area nightclubs to encourage teens-only, no-alcohol nights which he then managed and promoted. He was also beginning work on his own technology-based business.

**As a person ... there will never be another Hunter.** While he had many interests, he was one of a kind. Thank you for supporting the Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund so that young men and women with talent, energy and passion can get to follow their dreams ... *just as Hunter did every day.*

## Candlelight Vigil at Syracuse University



Hunter Watson's father spoke at a Vigil to remember students lost in the past year. He said he missed Hunter from the moment he awakes until when he falls asleep, and that he finds some comfort in seeing how Hunter's loss had inspired his friends to form the Hunter Watson

Memorial Fund. The fund reported that in its first year was able to award grants to more than a dozen students who share Hunter's passion and vision for life and how they were pleased that Hunter's life will live on in the dreams of others.

### HBW FUND SPEAKS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Hunter Watson's father spoke to 500 members of The Potomac High School about how grants from the HBW Fund are available for students with passionate interests, but lacking the resources to follow them. He also asked for their commitment and support of the Fund's Distracted Driving campaign and to remember how easy it is to lose a close friend or family member while texting and driving as so many of us do.

One of Hunter's popular home work videos was also shared with the audience and can be seen at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ycy35ar9>

### MORE MESSAGES FROM THE GRANT WINNERS

It is such an honor to have received this grant along with the amazing support from The Hunter Watson fund committee. My company has been able to take big steps forward in growing and supporting our network of travel filmmakers with this grant and we know that Hunter would be very proud to see us supporting this community of creatives. I can't thank the committee enough and am excited to continue to work on building this dream!

**Taylor Lotte**  
Syracuse University

This Grant is going to help me achieve goals I never saw possible this early in my life. Thank you so much for this opportunity and I hope others can continue to benefit from this in the years to come.

**Dumona Charles**  
St. Vincent