



# UPDATE

Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund  
SPRING 2020

## Hunter's Fund

P.O. Box 326, McLean, VA 22101  
(703) 448-0436

*This publication paid for with a gift from the Watson family*

### OUR VISION

#### YOU MAKE THE POWER OF YOUNG IDEAS POSSIBLE



Hunter Watson

Where will the next great ideas come from? Who will provide the insight, inspiration and hard work to create a better tomorrow? Hunter's Fund believes young people hold the answers to these questions. Young people are using their talents and passions to find ways to improve the world. Their dreams are of things yet to be seen. 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.

Hunter's Fund invests in young people who have shown talent, experience and passion. The grants you make possible reward innovation and 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. We hope these grants will carry on what Hunter inspired.

### OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We are deeply honored that you have placed your trust in Hunter's Fund's work. We work hard to make the most of every dollar you donate by using volunteers and keeping overhead costs low. When you give to the Fund, you can give with confidence, knowing that most of your gift will propel young people's dreams and help end distracted driving.

## 55% of Students Signing Hunter's Pledge Report Less Distracted Driving

With the hope of changing the driving habits of an age group most affected by distracting accidents and deaths, our supporters began funding Hunter's Pledge program on college and high school campuses.

Hunter lost his life as a passenger in a distracted driving accident, and Hunter's Fund wanted that tragic event to be a catalyst for change.

One study showed that signing a written pledge was 47% more effective in changing behavior than any other incentive.

Armed with that data, Hunter's Fund began asking organizations on high school and college campuses to partner in setting up tables around their campuses to encourage students to sign pledges not to drive distracted.

Twenty-five campuses joined this program, and...

**In the first year, more than 17,000 students signed Hunter's Pledge.**

These young people were just as concerned as the parents, and the

ment of over 800 volunteers has turned this activity into something they want to do every year.

As the campaigns grew, stu-

who we claimed had changed their behavior. We shared this concern with the Dean of the iSchool at Syracuse University, where Hunter had been enrolled.

He found a team at Syracuse to study those who had signed Hunter's Pledge.

The earlier studies had found the 47% behavior change was only maintained if the test group was reminded of their pledge. So, we asked the pledge signers for their contact information to periodically remind them to: wear the safe driving wrist band they had received; be a safe driver; and, remind others to also drive safe.

The team began inviting those who had made pledge commitments to participate in research to determine if signing Hunter's Pledge has lasting impact.

**The final results showed that 55% of those signing Hunter's Pledge said their behavior had changed.**

Although more studies need to be done, at least for now we know the program is heading in the right direction, and hopefully, lives are being saved as a result of this effort.

Thanks for your help in making this happen!



Students signing Hunter's Pledge report 55% change in driving behavior.



Campaign Kits Used in Safe Driving Program

Source: Capstone Project, Syracuse University, Julia Friedberg, Quinn Hecker, William Fruce.

## HUNTER'S FUND UPDATE

SPRING 2020

### OUR VISION

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

### OUR MISSION

Hunter's 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. We also work to reduce deaths and injuries from distracted driving accidents by sponsoring programs to change the behavior of our young people.

### CHAIRMAN

Jordan Parent

### EDITORS

Hannah Kliot and Will Snape

### GRANTS CHAIRMAN

Matthieu Menand

### ADMIN CHAIRMAN

Matt Salutillo

### FUNDRAISING CHAIRMAN

Madeleine Bunbury

### MARKETING CHAIRMAN

Matt Kimm

### HUNTER'S TEAM

Luigi Ambrosi  
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

### DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEER

Kathy Ward, CFRE

Tell us what you think about what we are doing. Send your comments and suggestions to: Editor, Hunter's Fund Update, P.O. Box 326, 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.

## You Made Two New Grants Possible



### Jacob O'Connor

Columbia, Illinois

#### Area of Interest:

Expanding his podcast focusing on mental health and entrepreneurship

Jacob started his podcast with one mission in mind -- to change people's lives. He wanted to illustrate, and share with others, the traits and actions that have helped people achieve success. His aim was to inspire others, through the

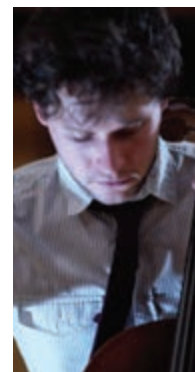
podcasts, towards the paths of success, and around obstacles and failures that business entrepreneurs, artists and other successful people have followed.

"Venture Mentality" is Jacob's podcast, featuring interviews that emphasize personal development, mental health, entrepreneurship and the lifestyles of successful business leaders and other high performers. Jacob's stated purpose behind the podcasts is to help listeners overcome their own personal challenges and see how they might reach their own goals.

Jacob is an outstanding student

who will be graduating from Columbia High School this coming spring. In addition to his academic success, including a National Honors Society membership, he is also on the Student Council and varsity basketball team in addition to having started and operated three small businesses.

The grant Jacob has earned will be used to upgrade the recording equipment used for his podcasts, as well as to cover the hosting costs for podcast distribution. His goal is to continue helping educate people on how to follow their dreams.



### Chris Baker

Falmouth, Cornwall, England

#### Area of Interest:

Providing professional location sound recording

Music has always been an important focus in Chris Baker's life. A recent graduate of Falmouth University with a degree in music, he's a performer, a songwriter, and the leader of his

band, "Lunacci + The Lunatics," a folk music based group.

But his related interest and experience, and the reason for his grant application, is his current work as a composer and sound designer for young film makers in the area. In the past he was worked on a number of film projects recording location sound. These young film makers have limited or no budget, and unable to afford his own professional quality equipment, Chris has had to turn down projects or some-

times travel hundreds of miles to obtain the needed equipment.

With the HBW Fund grant he will be to purchase professional level equipment for location sound recording, helping to support young film-makers and increasing artistic collaboration in the Cornwall area. In addition, the higher level equipment will allow Chris to bid on larger film projects and to increase the income he can achieve from his composing and sound recording work.

## How Grants are Selected

It might seem a relatively easy process for Hunter's Fund to award grants to deserving individuals - an application is submitted, the application is reviewed, and the grantee is sent a check.

The Committee insists on a more thorough approach.

Hunter's Fund has been established to provide support to young people between 16 and 26 years old who have innovative ideas for projects within the Fund's focus of interest. And while the application is long and detailed, it is still a difficult evaluation task for the 20 volunteers who review and grade the many applications.

The reason is that most of the applications are proposing truly

new, often innovative ideas, ideas about which they are excited and passionate, but which can be difficult to measure while still only in the idea stage.

To do this, the application consists of mostly essay type questions that give the reviewers a chance to feel the applicant's passion. Since each reviewer brings different areas of interest, experience, and expertise to the evaluation process, the scores are totaled to give an overall score that can be compared with other applications.

**To support new ideas as they are developed, the Fund accepts applications twice a year.**

Before final approval, the Grants Committee asks applicants with the most promising ideas to submit a 2-minute cell phone video to express their idea visually.

After a grant is approved, a careful follow-up procedure takes place. Each grantee is assigned a mentor, with whom they check in regularly, reporting on progress and problems, and there is careful monitoring of how the awarded money compares with the grant winner's original project budget.

The grants awarded clearly have gone to deserving individuals. And each round of applications is much larger than the last and just as challenging to evaluate. We are looking forward to that.

## Young Musician Scores Record Deal after Receiving a Grant From Hunter's Fund



Jackson Hirsh, a.k.a. Rence.

Twenty one year-old artist and producer Jackson Hirsh, a.k.a. Rence, recently signed a recording contract with Epic Recording Studios after his songs hit big on New Music Friday. His songs are

episodes straight from his daily life and inner monologue. Born in Washington D.C. and raised in Seattle, WA, he makes genre-bending songs that reflect his wide range of influences which include John Mayer, T-Pain, and Sade.

In the music world, I go by Rence. But the guy behind the music — Jackson Hirsh — will forever be indebted to my early mentors, and Hunter's Fund.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my middle and high school music teachers. It was in my eighth-grade sound design class that I really fell in love with music production — my classmates were making these incredible beats, and it ignited my curiosity and drove me to keep learning more. Then, when I moved to New York, I was surrounded by fellow creatives who pushed me to hone my songwriting skills and explore different genres and styles.

Hunter's Fund supported me at a pivotal time in my journey as a musician. I was working full time, studying performance art at New York Univer-

sity, and interning in the music industry. New York is expensive, and without the support of Hunter's Fund, who knows how long it would have taken to save up for the keyboard, computer, and equipment I needed to build my at-home recording studio?

---

**The grant from Hunter's Fund helped me buy the equipment I used to record my first demo.**

---

The demo became a hit on New Music Friday and helped me score a record deal with Epic Recording Studios. It's amazing to think that I'm on the same label as Travis Scott and Mariah Carey . . . and, while my own hard work and dedication played a role in that, so too did the investment and influence of others.

## California State University Northridge Fraternity Sponsors Safety Awareness Program



California Theta Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi

Our campus is very diverse, and so are our 32 brothers of Phi Kappa Psi. We are known for being very vocal and supportive, and for our strong brotherhood.

When I learned about the Hunter's Pledge: Safe Driving Campaign, I became invested right away.

Not only did around 500 students sign Hunter's Pledge, but

many more people wanted to learn what it was about — and tell us what it meant to them. Several professors stopped at the table and applauded our efforts making us feel really great. There aren't too many campus-wide events sponsored by students that bring attention to safety. One professor who signed the pledge talked about how much it meant to him because he has children; I realized we were making a difference.

many more people wanted to learn what it was about — and tell us what it meant to them.

Several professors stopped at the table and applauded our efforts making us feel really great. There aren't too many campus-wide events sponsored by students that bring attention to safety.

A friend told me that now, whenever she thinks about getting her phone out while driving, she remembers signing the pledge, and she can't do it anymore.

It's things like this that bring awareness to people and potentially save their lives and prevent more accidents from happening. It helps you realize that even a slight second of driving distracted can be enough to cause an accident — or worse.

---

**Max Rotter**  
California Theta

*Max Rotter served as Phi Kappa Psi's CA Theta Chapter President and spearheaded the Safe Driving Campaign along with Erick Hernandez and Luis Coria-Gomez in early April.*

---

## Hunter's Team

Each member of the Hunter's Fund was a close friend of Hunter Watson. Their encouragement led the Watson family to establish the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund, with Hunter's Team making the important decisions. They wanted to award and encourage young people with novel and creative ideas who might not ordinarily receive recognition or win awards. Three years later, the Committee has identified more than 30 such dreamers who could not have explored their dreams without financial assistance.



**Luigi Ambrosi**  
From Milan, Italy  
2017 graduate of Georgetown University in Business Management and Anthropology now Marketing Manager for Ambrosi Food USA in Brooklyn, NY.



**Chris Dale**  
From Washington, DC  
2017 graduate of the University of Virginia with a degree in History. Chris is now working with Marcus and Millchap in Washington, D.C.



**Matt Kimm**  
From Potomac, MD  
2018 graduate of the University of Texas with a degree in Advertising and a minor in Business. Matt is now working in the digital advertising industry in Austin Texas. Matt is Marketing Chairman of Hunter's Fund.



**Jason Reif**  
From New York, NY  
2018 graduate of Syracuse University with degrees in Finance, Accounting and Information Management & Technology now working with Disney in New York City. Jason is Treasurer of the Grants Committee of Hunter's Fund.



**Abigail Breslin**  
From New York, NY  
Oscar Nominated Actress and singer/song writer living in Hollywood, CA.



**Yannick Della Shavia**  
From Milan, Italy  
2017 graduate of Georgetown University with a degree in Operations and Information Management and now working in management with Anheuser-Busch InBev in Los Angeles, California.



**Hannah Kliot**  
From New York, NY  
CNBC Associate Producer in New York City and 2017 graduate of Northwestern University. Hannah is a Producer for Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel and is an editor of the Hunter's Fund Newsletter.



**Matt Salutillo**  
From McLean, VA  
2017 graduate of the Penn State University now working as a Project Manager at a telecommunications firm in Reston, VA. Matthew is the Admin Chairman of Hunter's Fund.



**Madeleine Bunbury**  
from Mustique, West Indies  
An emerging young equestrian artist, based in Gillingham Dorset, UK. Madeleine is our Fundraising Chairman and manages the Fund's program to mentor grant winners from St. Vincent.



**Ilana Dunn**  
From Armonk, NY  
2016 Syracuse University graduate now working for Hinge, a start up in NYC.



**Matthieu Menand**  
From Senlis, France  
2018 graduate of Syracuse University and now an Area Manager with Amazon in California. Matthieu is the Grants Chairman of Hunter's Fund.



**Will Snape**  
From New York, NY  
2018 Graduate of Trinity College majoring. Now working with Darktrace a cyber security firm in New York City. Will is an Editor of the HBW Newsletter.



**Liam Catto**  
From Chevy Chase, MD  
Recent graduate of the University of Colorado studying Business and Advertising and now working in sales in Denver, CO.



**Zack Green**  
From New York, NY  
2017 graduate of the University of Michigan where he studied political science. Now working as a Publicity and Talent Agent for RKP Media in New York City.



**Jordan Parent**  
From McLean, VA  
2019 graduate of Virginia Tech in Computer Science and now attending graduate school at the University of Maryland studying Cyber Security. Jordan is the Chairman of Hunter's Fund.



**Connor Sweeney**  
From Great Falls, VA  
2017 graduate of Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania majoring in Economics and minoring in Business. Now working as a Business Development Representative at Apian Corporation. Lives in Arlington, VA.



**Forrest Crane**  
From Alexandria, VA  
2018 graduate of the University of Kentucky and now continuing his studies at the University of Kentucky and working.



**Hanna Horvath**  
From Washington, DC  
2018 graduate of Syracuse University in news and online journalism and now working with Policygenius as a content marketer in New York City.



**Mark Ramsey**  
From Great Falls, VA  
Attended the University of Virginia and now working in private capital markets at Stifel Financial Corp in Great Falls, VA.



**Teddy Watson**  
From New York, NY  
2019 Graduate of New York University Stern School of Business with a MBA degree in Technology now living in New York, NY and working as a Product Manager for DOTS.

## How 20 Young Friends are Changing the World

In 2016, Hunter Watson's promising life was tragically ended when he was fatally injured as a passenger in a distracted driving automobile collision.

In the months following Hunter's death, his family and friends and the communities in which he was nurtured, all searched for a way to continue his presence and ideals.

His friends, nearly all 20-year-olds, were part of a new generation of young people who had grown up during a time when ideas were changing the world. Hunter's imagination and personal accomplishments had always tested these ideas, and much of this imagination emerged during his time with the many friends he made a point to develop.

From an early age music, performing arts, computer science, and entrepreneurship were the things that captured his interest and he would study the achievers in these fields to learn more about them. The energy of their achievements flowed into the imagination of Hunter and his friends. They could see how the leader in these fields had impacted the world with their ideas, and they began to believe that anything was possible.

What his friends loved about Hunter was how he made sure all new to their school were included with his other friends and that they explored all the school had to offer.

Hunter's loss was, for many of this group, their first realization

that their close "band of friends" might not be intact forever, so at this young age, they formed a charity that would support the ideals found in Hunter and others like him.

**They would seek out young people like Hunter, who had the imagination for an idea but lacked the financial resources to see where it could go.**

The Fund aims to keep Hunter's energy and optimism alive by giving grants to help young people's involvement in the fields of performing arts, music, computer science, and entrepreneurship.

Twenty young men and women organized themselves into

working groups, and since most live throughout the US, England, Italy, France, and Mustique, meet regularly on video conference calls. They move the programs forward, including fundraising, grant application evaluations, and the awarding of grants. Their second program was formed to prevent the loss of life from distracted driving and has already become established on 25 school campuses where thousands of students are signing pledges not to drive distracted.

Memories of Hunter's spirit, interests, and love will always remain with his family and friends, but it is so gratifying to see how many people his life has touched and the good things that are being accomplished in his memory.

# Southern Illinois University Sponsors Hunter's Pledge With Plans to Expand

Marcus Kwasa first heard about Hunter's Pledge on Instagram.

"I first thought it was an add from the state about distracted driving. I'm on the parking and traffic committee for my school and student outreach on driving safety is one of its priorities and our fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi, thought this might be a philanthropy event we might want to sponsor.

Marcus and his chapter's philanthropy chair had no idea what kind of goal to set for participation. So they decided to learn as much as they could and build for the future. They set modest expectations to gain 50-80 pledges and raise \$50.

"Our results skyrocketed beyond our goal, with 130 signed pledges and \$248 raised," he shared.

A group of Delta Phi Epsilon sisters told of their tragic loss several years ago when a fellow sister died after being hit by a drunk driver. The sorority sisters

took selfies as they signed Hunter's Pledge and posted them on their group chat page, and later wrote a thank-you note to us for taking on the cause.

Marcus admits he had a long way to go in his own driving habits. "I personally was atrocious for driving and playing on my phone. Now I text or call before I start driving. When I get tempted, I'm like, 'it's just not worth it.' I do a lot of long commutes for my drum line rehearsals so I make sure I have a long podcast and an energy drink/coffee on standby."

"Distracted driving affects everyone. I appreciated how this event was built around outreach to the entire community, not just certain organizations or types of people." Our fraternity has big plans to extend next fall's Campaign to an entire week of safe driving activities, involving speakers, a major ballroom gathering hosted by the chapter, and a pool party. Hunter's Pledge tables will be set up at each event.



## Hunter's Pledge to End Distracted has spread to the following campuses:

- University of Alabama
- UC Berkeley
- Univ. of California Davis
- Cal State Northridge
- Cornell University
- Elberta High School
- Drexel University
- Edinboro University
- Elberta High School
- Fifth Street School
- Foley High School
- University of Georgia
- University of Kansas
- Lafayette College
- University of Minnesota Duluth
- University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- Northern Illinois University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Penn State University
- The Potomac School
- Southern Illinois University
- Syracuse University
- University of Texas
- University of Toledo
- West Point High School

## "YOUNG PEOPLE'S DREAMS DESERVE OUR SUPPORT"

### Q & A with Bryan Adams

*Bryan Adams is a globally acclaimed singer, songwriter and producer, beloved for his music as well as his philanthropy and activism. We are proud that he supports Hunter's Fund. Our newsletter team had a chance to interview him recently about his commitment to our work.*



Bryan Adams

#### 1. HF: How did you learn about Hunter's Fund?

Bryan: I heard about it through Hunter's father Jerry.

#### 2. HF: Who encouraged your music and artistic side when you were young?

Bryan: my family supported my dream to do music as long as I was going to work for it. I went and got jobs when I was a teenager, I used to go down to the job center in Ottawa and take jobs off their board. I washed dishes to buy my first proper guitar.

#### 3. HF: Your donations to Hunter's Fund allow us make grants to young people to pursue their dreams, artistic or otherwise. Why do you think that's important?

Bryan: All young people have dreams and those dreams deserve our support.

#### 4. HF: Hunter's Fund provides grants in the areas of arts, technology, innovation. Tell me more about your interest in technology?

Bryan: Our world needs technological innovation more than ever right now. I believe technology holds the key to harnessing energy from the sun and wind and decreasing our dependency on fossil fuels. The more we push our leaders to think about conservation and to embrace renewable energy, the better.

#### 5. HF: Tell our readers a bit about your philanthropic values and how supporting Hunter's Fund fits in with your beliefs?

Bryan: I admire the Hunter Watson Fund for its dedication to ending distracted driving. As a long-time touring musician, I know how dangerous the roads can be. And, now, with phones and texting, there are even more distractions.

#### 6. HF: What's next for your career? Anything we can share with our supporters?

Bryan: Sure. I just released my 14th album entitled "Shine A Light." I do a lot of touring, about 10 shows a month. This year and next, I'll be focusing on my music and photography around the world.

*All of us at the Hunter Watson Fund are grateful to Bryan Adams for investing in young people through our work. Thanks Bryan!*

# 1,500 High School Students Sign Hunter's Pledge "Overwhelmingly Positive" Safe Driving Week



Archonette Club of West Point High School

Mississippi's West Point High School counselor Danielle Spencer is responsible for identifying meaningful community service projects that middle and high school clubs can head up during the school year.

"One area I was interested in for our high schoolers this year was a 'no texting while driving' campaign," she says. "Sadly, we've seen about six teen deaths in West

Point and surrounding communities due to distracted driving in the past few years. I wanted to draw attention to what seems to be an increasing problem."

Danielle ran across Hunter's Fund during her online search; she decided Hunter's Pledge would be a great campaign to participate in.

"Our Zeta Archonette Club members sponsored the high

school's first Safe Driving Week in November. Daily announcements were read about distracted driving, with statistics featuring teen drivers. At tables set up in the lunchroom, students gathered to ask questions and sign pledges to drive distraction-free. We had an overwhelmingly positive response."

**Total pledges topped 1500 - 75% of our students, and the effort also raised \$215 to assist Hunter's Fund.**

Danielle hopes to conduct Hunter's Pledge annually, and plans to invite local news media to cover next year's events. "I would definitely recommend to any high school to conduct a Safe Driving Week using Hunter's Pledge. Hearing Hunter's story made the statistics more realistic for our students."

## University of Toledo Fraternity Celebrate Success of Inaugural Hunter's Pledge Campaign



Ohio Theta Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi

Matt Stojavljevic says it's harder than it seems to catch the attention of people bustling about campus. But once they take a moment to listen, it's "very easy" to find support for safe driving and get Students to sign pledges.

Matt decided to lead his chapter's 69 brothers in undertaking this effort for several reasons. UT

does not have a similar program, and Phi Psi's are already known for our active involvement in charitable organizations.

We recognize that driving distracted is a serious issue."

**In just eight hours of tabling, the Toledo Phi Psi's gathered 538 signatures from students and others pledging to not drive while distracted - well above their goal for this first-time effort.**

One student Matt spoke to admitted she'd had a close call just a few weeks earlier as she was texting while driving. Her car spun

out, and she nearly smashed into a road barrier. She gladly signed the pledge, and so did each of her friends with her.

"My wristband helps me remember that I took Hunter's Pledge to be a better and safer driver," Matt says. "I no longer answer phone calls while driving, and I only ask passengers to answer texts."

"People were eager to listen, sign a pledge, and grab a wristband. Some campus administrators even stopped by and complimented us on our work."

For next year's event, he foresees planning more tables at different locations around campus and beefing up fundraising by using the Awareness Building platform provided by Hunter's Fund.

## MAILBOX

Great work bringing attention to such a cause as this!

**T.W.**  
Olive Branch, MS

When our son was in the 8th grade, his friend was killed by a distracted driver. It was a terrible loss for our community and we need to do something about it!

**C.H.**  
Hopkinton, MA

Hopefully this will raise awareness and save lives.

**J.B.**  
Clifton Park, NY

We hope this will be of help to encourage safe driving.

**J.G.**  
Huntington, NY

A very worthwhile cause!!

**J.B.**  
Marblehead, MA

As a mother I definitely do not want to see anyone lose their loved ones over distracted driving!

**K.B.**  
Goodyear, AZ

Thank you for doing this!

**C.G.**  
Baldwin Place, NY

What a wonderful mission.

**M.J.**  
Washington, DC

Great cause!

**P.M.**  
Harrisburg, PA

Such a HUGE problem today, thanks for taking a stand!

**J.N.**  
Tequesta, FL

Thank you for raising awareness for this important issue!

**D.C.**  
Great Falls, Virginia

With a new driver in my household now, this campaign means more than ever to me.

**H.M.**  
Bethesda, MD

What a great cause to help educate people on the dangers of texting and driving.

**E.S.**  
Deerfield, IL

Hunter's Fund (The Hunter Watson Memorial Fund) is a tax exempt Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which was formed to award grants and scholarships to promising students and promotes programs to improve of the safety of our young people.

# Thank You For The Difference You Are Making

If you sometimes wonder if the support you've given to Hunter's Fund has made a difference, the answer is in the responses we've received from our grant winners. Although they may not be able to thank you directly, your generosity has helped each of them turn their dreams and passions into reality.

You may not know a lot about computer robotics, earning a commercial pilot's license, participating in a conference on international relations and conflict resolution, or establishing a charity to support research and education for people suffering traumatic brain injuries, but the grants you have helped

Fund have enabled the innovative young grantees to do those things and so much more.

The Hunter's Fund Grants Program was established to carry on Hunter's legacy and his interests following his tragic death as a passenger in a distracted driving accident.

The support you have given, and we hope you continue to give, is making that possible.

So, please accept our thanks and the thanks of the young people you have helped support and know that you and your gifts really are making a difference.

# You Can Help Save Lives

## Join the Fight Against Distracted Driving



Every year so many thousands of lives, like Hunter's, are lost as a result of fatal automobile crashes.

Teens and young adults are the largest age group involved in distracted driving accidents. Texting and cell phones are suspected as major causes. But eating, socializing while driving and even putting on make-up are also causes of distracted driving.

Hunter's Fund has launched more than 25 campaigns on campuses in the US where students sign Hunter's Pledge Not to Drive

Distracted and receive a free wristband in return. Behavioral studies have shown that signing a written pledge can result in a 47% better chance of changing behavior than any other incentive.

The Fund provides free of charge, posters, pledge forms, and wrist bands to help organizations encourage young people to sign pledges not to drive distracted.

You can help us with these campaigns by including a special donation to Hunter's Fund. We are a volunteer organization, so every penny you give will help this effort.

### Other Ways You Can Give

**1. Retirement Fund Gifts** - Beneficiary designations - Name the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund or any charity you choose to support as an ultimate beneficiary of your IRA, 402(K) or other qualified plan.

**2. IRA** - Did you know if you are 70 1/2 or older there is a provision that allows you to make cash gifts from your IRA to the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund or any charity you wish without having to pay any taxes that would otherwise be due.

**3. Securities** - Donating appreciated stock or Mutual Funds is quick and simple and may provide you with significant tax benefits.

**4. Donor-Advised Funds** - Manage your charitable giving through this convenient, flexible, and most effective alternative to establishing a private foundation.

*For additional information, please contact:*

Kathy Ward, Volunteer Development Director, Hunter's Fund at 1-703-448-0436.

### Make A Lasting Difference

You can help provide for the future of the Hunter's 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 Hunter's Fund Grants Program and Safe Driving Program.

Hunter's Fund official name: **The Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund**

Hunter's Fund mailing address: **P.O. Box 326, McLean, VA 22101**

Hunter's Fund telephone number: **(703) 448-0436**

Hunter's Fund identification: **A not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code**

Hunter's Fund tax-exempt number: **EIN 83-0574041**

#### Sample Language

*"I give, devise and bequeath to the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund 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:*

Kathy Ward, Volunteer Development Director, Hunter's Fund, P.O. Box 326, McLean, VA 22101, Phone: 1-703-448-0436

### Make a Special Gift

I am enclosing my tax-deductible gift to help the Hunter's Fund for their:  
 Grant's Program  Hunter's Pledge Program  Both

#### PLEASE PRINT

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

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I want to charge my gift.

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Mail This Form To: **HUNTER'S FUND**

**P.O. BO 326 • MCLEAN, VA 22101**

Please make check payable to Hunter's Fund. Contributions are tax deductible.

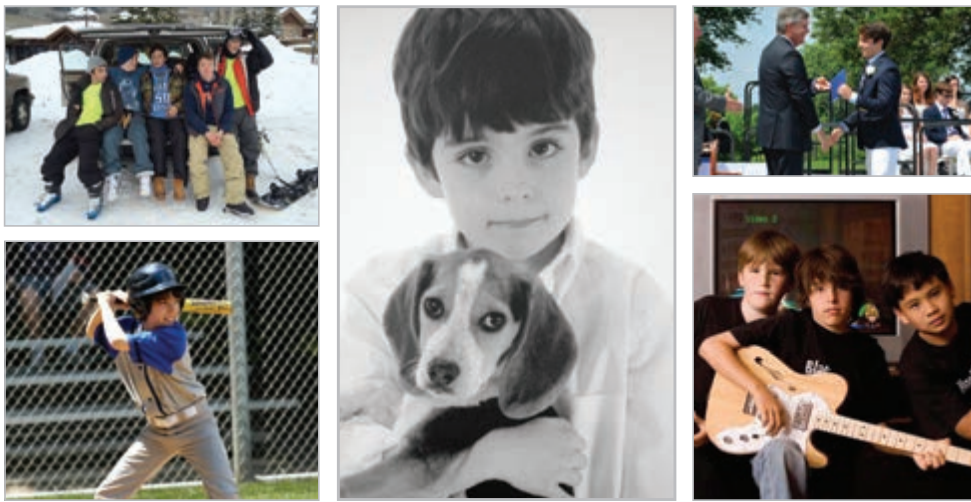
For an easy way to support Safe Driving Campaigns,  
**venmo @pledge**



**YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING ON-LINE AT OUR SECURE DONATION WEB SITE:**

<https://secure.donationpay.org/hunterwatson>

## Many Interests – One of a Kind



The 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 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.

## Adventures With Hunter

- By Luigi Ambrosi, *Milan Italy*



Luigi Ambrosi, member of the founders committee

Hunter was one of my first and oldest friends in the world. In fact, I have a picture from my 1st birthday, in Mustique, with Hunter. And from the day on which that picture was taken, Hunter and I went on to craft some of the most amazing memories I have. We grew closer while having fun together.

Having a lot of stories to tell from our Mustique days, I was a little bit undecided, and so I made the choice of sharing a story from a place where Hunter and I didn't get to spend as much time together as I would have wished for... Washington DC.

When I was 17, I embarked with my family on a US college tour and made it a point to spend time with the friends I had in each city we visited.

Hunter has always been my main cultural reference when I imagined how Americans and their lifestyle would be - having heard so many stories from his life back home. I was so excited to see him there.

I met up with him at "Dolley", the Watson Home in Virginia, better known as US HQ of Fun. I remember he was in trouble during those days because he had hosted a party that got a little bit out of hand. Nevertheless, we were both so happy that Judy and Jerry granted him a 'free pass' since I was in town.

I was enchanted as he brought me down to the infamous basement. Seeing the then empty stage of Blackout Band actually made me feel so nostalgic. I remember I used to tell Hunter I was going to be his manager.

At some point, I told Hunter I wanted to live a real 'American night', at which he told me: "I got you, bro!".

We headed over to the mall, where we met with Liam and settled on a Mexican restaurant. Hunter explained that after we would go to an iParty... Showed me the event on Facebook, and it

actually looked like fun. I told him that we might have a problem because I didn't have a 'fake ID,' at which he replied: "Don't worry. They will ask for your ID... Only to make sure you are under 18! Because that's the rule of the party".

It turns out that he was himself one of the organizers of this event and that the whole concept behind it was that it would be a safe and fun environment in which under-18-year-olds could party and feel as if they were in a club.

**I was amazed and also remembered thinking, "Damn. How cool is Hunter!" and how lucky I was to have a friend like him.**

At the end of the dinner, we asked the waiter for Tequila shots, which he refused to bring. Wrong people to challenge, though. After some strategizing, we proceeded to ask a 20-something looking guy to help us out and order two shots for each of us, and we gave him the cash. The moment the bartender poured them, we ran to the bar, snatched them, downed them, and ran out - a smooth operation. We ran all the way to the rooftop of Tysons Mall, as Hunter wanted to show me the DC 'Skyline' of where I would potentially end up living.

Truly a magical moment.

After that, it was time to hit the iParty. Once inside, I was overwhelmed by the number of people jumping onto Hunter and hugging him, dragging him away, cracking jokes... I was struggling to keep up with the names of everyone. We were walking around the party as if we owned the place - Hunter was king. We even managed to drink some booze from people who sneaked it in.

I had such a fun time, with my 'bro' Hunter and Liam, at my first ever American party. I remember his Dad came to pick us up, and we were laughing so much in the car, trying to hide that we were tipsy and awkwardly answering his Dad's questions about the night.

I will always remember that night. Not only as a great night with a close friend, not just as one of my first American experiences, but also as the night I decided that DC is where I would go to College.

So for that, I can only say **THANK YOU, HUNTER.**

I miss him. And I wonder how many great nights we would be having now. And I hope that from up in the sky, he's living vicariously through me from time to time. It would bring me great honor.

*Luigi and Hunter were close friends as their families grew up on Mustique.*