



UPDATE

Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund
SPRING 2022

Hunter's Fund

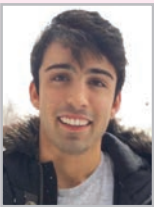
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(703) 448-0436

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.

You Helped Fund Four New Grants

Filmmaker, "This is a Love Story"

Currently studying psychology at Manhattan Community College, Ava Bodnar is a dedicated dancer, filmmaker, and actor whose previous production experience includes serving as an executive producer, co-creator, and lead for the film *Wilde Flowers*, produced by 2021 Hunter's Fund grant recipient Sophie Fazio.

Bodnar's grant will aid with production costs for her upcoming short film, *This is a*

Love Story, which tells the tale of two estranged siblings reconnecting due to traumatic circumstances.

"Movies can help us to better understand our lives, provide catharsis or perspective, and may suggest new ways of thinking, feeling, and pursuing our lives," Bodnar says. "As a filmmaker and student of psychology, I was determined to find a link between our mental health and film."



Ava Bodnar, New York, NY



Jeremy Boyd, Tuscaloosa, AL

Ceramic Artist

University of Alabama student Jeremy Boyd is a ceramic artist and Hunter's Fund Grant Recipient working on opening his own ceramic studio. In addition to creating a space to make his own art, Boyd hopes to expand the studio's mission to provide private ceramic classes and rentable studio space to other artists. He also intends to provide community engagement projects to introduce ceramic

art to underprivileged youths and those living with physical or intellectual disabilities.

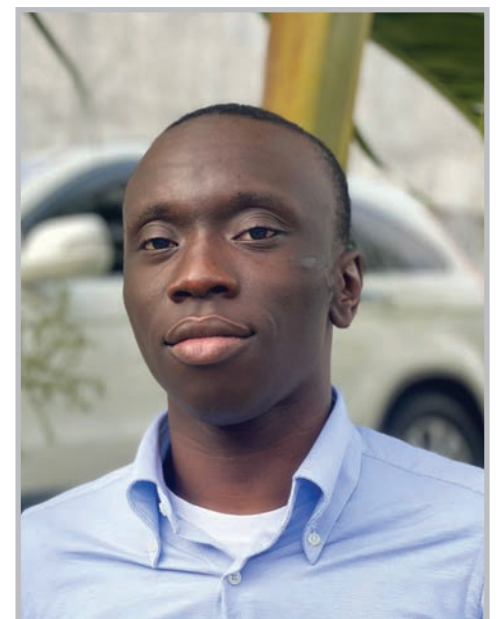
"Being a person living with a mobility disability, I find that the everyday world doesn't always take me into account," Boyd says. "This has created a hunger in me to prove, to myself above all others, that persons living with disabilities are capable beyond the realities that we, and society at large, have created for us."

App developer, "DeliverCo"

St. Vincent and the Grenadines native Hudson Adams is a young tech developer behind the app "DeliverCo," a food service delivery app serving Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The on-demand delivery service works with local businesses to provide food delivery services through an easy-to-use app, employing locals to sign up as "runners" to make deliveries and earn a flexible income.

"The ongoing pandemic has increased the demand for delivery services significantly but because we are currently operating on foot, I am unable to meet demands and operate outside of hours when our public transport system is not operating," Adams says. "This grant would enable me to purchase my first scooter and allow me to take advantage and expand on the current market opportunity, allowing my business to become more reliable and efficient."



Hudson Adams, St. Vincent

Continued on page 2

You can support these Young Entrepreneurs and Safe Driving Campaigns at: www.hunterwatson.org/donate

HUNTER'S FUND UPDATE

SPRING 2022

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

Hunter's Fund has dual missions in support of young adults. The first is to provide resources to help advance the dreams of passionate, curious young people.

The second is to reduce deaths and injuries from distracted driving by increasing awareness among young drivers and gaining their commitment to change.

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Hunter's Grants, Continued

Continued from page 1



Justin Gluska, Syracuse, NY

App developer, "BusPoint"

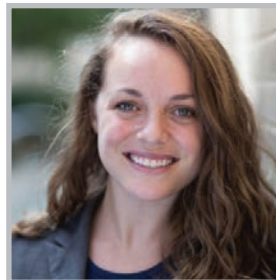
Syracuse student Justin Gluska is the developer behind "BusPoint," a web-based app that allows students and teachers to monitor where school buses are and provides real-time monitoring and alerts to parents to keep them informed on bus delays. The app uses GPS technology similar to ride-sharing apps like Uber to track drivers along their

routes and send arrival notifications to users.

"School bus transportation is lacking connectivity, transparency, and is extremely unoptimized. Parents should have comfort knowing where their child is and students should know when they need to catch their bus," Gluska says. "My goal is to create an application that can be scalable and adaptable across the country."

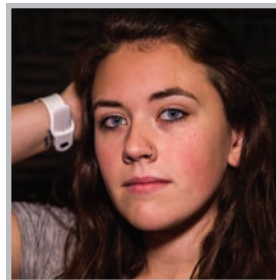
Total of 15 Volunteers Served on Your Grants Review Committee for Spring and Winter Grants Rounds

The Committee reviewed applications from more than 30 promising young people and recommended 9 of these to be awarded grants from the Spring and Winter Grant Rounds.



Samantha Brown
Seattle, WA

Currently a Product Manager on Microsoft's Modern Workplace Transformation team, Sam has a decade's worth of experience in software, healthcare, and entrepreneurship.



Cassity Leachman
Columbus, OH

A 2020 graduate of Syracuse University in Television, Radio & Film, Cassie is now working on her music production company, Capricious Productions, in Nashville, TN.



Jacob O'Connor
Columbia, IL

A previous winner of Hunter's Grants and the founder of the Venture Mentality brand and podcast, Jacob has interviewed over 150 of the world's most successful people including the Co-Founder of Netflix and professional athletes.



Hannah Kliot
New York, NY

Associate Producer at HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel" in New York City and 2017 graduate of Northwestern University.



Natalie Kwon
Fairfax Station, VA

A graduate of James Madison University, Natalie worked with Hunter's Fund for two years as Program Manager. She is now entering her career in physical therapy.



Ted Watson
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 project manager for DOTS.



Madeleine Bunbury
Mustique, West Indies

An equestrian artist based in Gillingham Dorset, UK. Madeleine is our Fundraising Chairman and manages our programming in the West Indies. in St. Vincent.



Nirmal Kagolanu
New York, NY

Born in India, Nirmal is a graduate of New York University Stern School of Business and currently resides in New York City working as a Senior Product Manager at American Express.



Chris Savold
Bethesda, MD

A student at Syracuse University, Chris works as an intern for his school's football program and partners with Hunter's Fund as a volunteer for Syracuse's annual Safe Driving Week.



Semesha Corea
Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

A Venetian media entrepreneur, Semesha is the founder of EDGE Media Center specializing in creating videography, photography, and graphic design content in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Sophie Fazio
Brooklyn, NY

A native of Brooklyn, NY, and graduate of Boston University Sophie is a passionate filmmaker currently working as an executive assistant to film producers



Will Snape
New York, NY

A 2018 graduate of Trinity College, Will is currently working in the advertising business as an account executive at Google in New York City.



Carly Danielson
New Castle, PA

A previous Hunter's Fund grant winner and 2020 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, Carly is developing an educational YouTube video series on mental health for children.



Luigi Ambrosi
Milan, Italy

2017 graduate of Georgetown University in Business Management and Anthropology now working in Food and Venture Capital in New York.



Judith (Judie) Fister
McLean, VA

Recently retired from 30 years of corporate event planning, Judie now spearheads donor relations and the Mentorship Program for Hunter's Fund.

You can support these Young Entrepreneurs and Safe Driving Campaigns at:
www.hunterwatson.org/donate

Interview with Hunter's Fund Founder Jerry Watson



Jerry Watson encourages high school students to “follow their dreams” while they are still young.

When Hunter Watson was killed in a distracted driving crash in June 2016, his parents, Judy and Jerry Watson, didn't initially plan to start a Memorial Fund. Fast forward five years and Hunter's Fund is a thriving nonprofit that has distributed over two hundred thousand dollars in grants and established safe driving campaigns on more than 40 college campuses across the country.

Now, Jerry Watson is sharing some of their favorite memories and what makes Hunter's Fund so special.

Q: How does Hunter's Fund choose who receives a grant?

A: “Hunter's Fund is unusual because, unlike other scholarships, we don't consider a person's grades. We don't prioritize people who were in student government or those who were team captains... we care about the ideas people have and the passion behind them. We also understand that some people may not be able to express their ideas through writing, so if we think an idea is good, we'll ask that applicant to send in a video discussing their idea so they can express it verbally.”

Q: What makes Hunter's Fund different from other grant-giving organizations?

A: “It's young people winning grants, and it's young people reviewing and awarding the grants. We've created a community of young people and they all get to know each other very well.

When someone older like me is involved, they carefully listen to my thoughts and then apply their own vision. In a serious and creative way, they select the most promising ideas that might have an impact on the future and the lives of the applicants.

Q: Do you have a favorite moment or memory from the first 5 years of Hunter's Fund?

A: “A couple of the Hunter's Fund founders were over at our house for dinner one night when the phone rang. On the other end was Jackson Hirsch, a musician and NYU student who applied for and won a grant for recording equipment two years earlier in order to record a demo to send to record labels. That night, Jackson called us and said, “You guys won't believe this, but I signed a contract with Epic Records,” and Epic Records gave him a signing bonus — and he chose to donate his grant money back to Hunter's Fund and told us to use it to fund another musician's dreams.”

Q: How do you hope to see Hunter's Fund grow in the future?

A: “Our biggest challenge is to reach more promising grant applications and expand the hugely successful safe driving campaigns. Working with part time staff and volunteers has got us to where we are but to grow and have an impact we need to raise enough additional money to add at least one full time staff member.”

If you or someone you know is interested in entering the nonprofit world and working for Hunter's Fund, email Laurel@HunterWatson.org.

Meet this year's Hunter Brooks Watson Scholar, Jack Ramza



Jack Ramza, 2022 Hunter Brooks Watson Scholar

Each year, Syracuse University awards The Hunter Brooks Watson Scholarship to a young person who is working to make a positive impact on the world.

Jack Ramza — a senior studying accounting and advertising in the Martin J. Whitman School of Management and Newhouse School of Public Communications — received the scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic school year.

Ramza's journey began in 2018 when he was first introduced to the Blackstone LaunchPad — an entrepreneurship and innovation hub at Syracuse — after competing for the Hult Prize, a global competition that challenges students to tackle social issues through entrepreneurship.

Along with three team members, Ramza was invited to the

regional competition in San Francisco where he pitched an idea of right-sized markets supplied by urban farming systems to combat high obesity rates and food deserts created when grocery stores have closed in inner cities.

Following the competition, Ramza became increasingly interested in community engagement and entrepreneurship.

“In a world where resources have become increasingly more inaccessible, cultivating an attitude of entrepreneurship can connect peoples' motivation to make money with improving the lives of those within their local communities,” Jack says.

As the Syracuse University Hunter Brooks Watson Scholar, Ramza will be helping to organize the Hunter Brooks Watson Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards at Syracuse University, an annual spring competition that awards funds to students who are launching start-up projects.

“I am honored to be carrying on Hunter's passionate and entrepreneurial spirit by working with other inspiring and curious go-getters to make a positive societal impact,” Ramza says.

The Hunter Watson Scholarship was endowed by the Watson family to support a promising young student each year.

5th candlelight vigil to kick off Safe Driving Week

Phi Kappa Psi, is raising awareness against distracted driving and fundraising for Hunter's Fund.



Syracuse University students gathered outside Hendricks Chapel for a candlelight vigil in honor of Hunter Brooks Watson and Vincent (Vinny) Gian Maugeri, two brothers of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity who lost their lives to distracted driving in 2016. Photo by Gavin Lidell. Reprinted with permission of Gavin Lidell and TheNewsHouse.com

Two University Students embrace during the candlelight vigil. Photo by Gavin Lidell. Reprinted with permission of Gavin Lidell and TheNewsHouse.com

The night was dark and Hendricks Chapel loomed tall, but Phi Kappa Psi's brotherhood shined.

On Monday night members of Syracuse University fraternity held their annual candlelight vigil to commemorate the start of Safe Driving Week and remember the lives of Hunter Brooks Watson and Vincent (Vinny) Gian Maugeri, who both lost their lives in distracted driving accidents.

emphasized the importance of this event in the scope of the greater Syracuse community. Swift said that not only are they honoring the impact of Watson and Maugeri on Phi Kappa Psi, but any lives lost to distracted driving.

"By getting awareness out, we can really prevent people from texting while driving, from driving while intoxicated and things like that," said Kervick. "It's something that needs

music, computer science, and entrepreneurship while he was a student at SU.

He said that Hunter's death is something that changed his family's life forever, and urged the audience to follow their passions and dreams.

"You will never again experience this moment of youth," he said.

Jerry's speech was followed by the lighting of candles and a moment of silence. About 150 fraternity brothers and community members attended the event.

Syracuse University students gathered outside Hendrick's Chapel for a candlelight vigil in honor of Hunter Brooks Watson and Vincent Gian Maugeri, two brothers of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity who lost their lives to distracted driving.

Syracuse University students gathered outside Hendrick's Chapel for a candlelight vigil in honor of Hunter Brooks Watson and Vincent Gian Maugeri, two brothers of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity who lost their lives to distracted driving.

Phi Kappa Psi has held Safe Driving Week since 2016. Philanthropy chair Will O'Shea said the fraternity's two goals

are to raise awareness against distracted driving and fundraise for the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund. Their goal is to raise \$25,000 this year, and they'll also be hosting tabling events Tuesday and Wednesday for students to sign pledges against distracted driving.

Jerry Watson stressed to the crowd the importance of signing pledges. He said that studies have shown that people are 47 percent more likely to change their driving behavior.

The SU chapter of Phi Kappa Psi has set the benchmark at 2,000 pledges for other chapters to match.

"We're trying to help save lives," O'Shea said.

"YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN EXPERIENCE THIS MOMENT OF YOUTH."

JERRY WATSON

The philanthropy chair of Phi Kappa Psi, Isaac Reisman, spoke at the ceremony on the steps of Hendricks.

"Both Hunter and Vinny are a true embodiment of what it means to be a friend and brother," Reisman said.

The fraternity strives to preserve Watson and Maugeri's legacies during a weeklong safe driving initiative that is now recognized at 31 other college campuses.

Fellow philanthropy chairs Griffin Kervick and Noah Swift

to stop happening."

Psi Upsilon Fraternity vice president Rocco Fanelli teared up as he said that his friend Maugeri was the reason he wanted to come to Syracuse, and urged the crowd to not do anything that would jeopardize their lives. The strong sense of community and friendship were evident as other students rushed to embrace Fanelli after the ceremony.

Jerry Watson, Hunter's father, shared fond memories of his son including Hunter's love of



A photo of Hunter Brooks Watson was held during the vigil.

Photo by Gavin Lidell. Reprinted with permission of Gavin Lidell and TheNewsHouse.com

Innovative Ideas to Build Awareness

Louisiana Lafayette uses social media campaign to share stories and encourage safe driving



Example of side walk Chalking Event on campus

Jacob De Gruy is the Philanthropic Chair at the Louisiana Lafayette Beta chapter of Phi Kappa Psi, the latest chapter to join the Hunter's Pledge to End Distracted Driving campaign. In Fall of 2021, De Gruy led his chapter to an impressive first year, running tabling events, organizing a powerful social media awareness campaign, hosting a "Pie a Phi Psi" fundraising event, and establishing a restaurant partnership to fundraise for Hunter's Pledge.

"For the last couple of years, our chapter didn't have a strong philanthropic goal," Jacob said. "All summer I was searching for a good organization to work with, but I really had no idea what I was doing until our chapter president forwarded me an email for an interest Zoom session with Hunter's Fund."

Jacob and the Louisiana Lafayette Phi Kappa Psi chapter had two key goals for their philanthropy campaign: make a big impact and find a way to work with other fraternities on campus and involve them in the campaign.

"I wanted the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the Panhellenic communities to be more involved with each other. I had been pushing our guys to attend their events all year and asked them to work with us in return," Jacob said. "I was also thinking about the fact that none of our brothers really

knew anyone who had been involved in a distracted driving accident... I knew distracted driving was a huge problem, but I wanted to find a more personal angle."

To do so, Jacob reached out to fraternities and sororities across campus

and told them that he was looking for people to share stories about how distracted driving has affected them.

His plan was to post people's stories to social media and then encourage readers to sign Hunter's Pledge to End Distracted Driving.

"I had a vision in my mind for how it was going to go, and I was prepared for it to be a complete flop," Jacob said. "But as soon as we posted that first story, people started commenting and talking about it... everyone was sharing the stories and reaching out to us asking how to get involved. And all of this was weeks before school even started."

In addition to the social media campaign, the chapter teamed up with five other sororities and fraternities on campus to host a chalking campaign where students wrote and drew messages and murals about safe driving on campus walkways.

Throughout the Fall 2021 semester, Jacob's chapter inspired more than 600 students to sign pledges promising to not drive distracted.

"Not a single person nowadays, at least people our age, can honestly say that they haven't been distracted before while driving," Jacob said. "It's something we're all guilty of, but the most important thing to realize is that it's never too late to change your driving habits."

COMMENTS FROM PLEDGE SIGNERS

We asked students why they want to put an end to distracted driving and what being a safe driver means to them.

"Distracted driving means a chance to ruin another life and/or your own life."

- Ben S.

"Not respecting the privilege of driving by taking the time to focus on the safety of yourself and others."

-Kenton F.

"Protecting myself, my loved ones, and those I share the road with.."

-Quinn W.

"To me, distracted driving means that you fail to value the lives of others as well as your own."

- Mikyle A.

"I almost lost my sister to a distracted driver. I pray that others will not drive distracted."

- Nick M.

"It's dangerous, and people need to learn that it is just as dangerous as driving under the influence."

- Liv K.

"Someone not paying attention fully in the road. It doesn't have to be a phone but anything that is taking their attention away from driving."

- Joe D.

"It means putting peoples lives at risk for a text or call that can wait till later."

- Lauren V.

CAMPUS CAMPAIGN MAILBOX

Messages Received by Campus Volunteers

"Great work for a great cause."

- K.E., Overland Park, KS

"So proud of you Jaxon and all that you are doing in your college experience!"

- D.H., Clayton, NC

"Drive Alive! Focus without all of the distractions."

- D.H., Saratoga Springs, NY

"Thank you Max, for raising awareness & money for this important cause."

- S.M., Norwalk, CT

"Happy to help Jack! Thankful for all the driving you have done for our family!!"

- J.B., Saunderstown, RI

"Great initiative on important issue. Thank you Phi Kappa Psi."

- R.G., Newton, MA

Distracted Driving Campaigns Return to Campuses

Campus organization sets record-breaking Safe Driving Week



Syracuse University students encourage classmates to sign pledges Not to Drive Distracted.

In October 2016, the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity at Syracuse University held their first annual Safe Driving Week in memory of Hunter Watson and Vincent “Vinny” Maugeri, two fraternity brothers who passed away in separate motor vehicle crashes involving distracted driving in that year. The event was centered around celebrating their lives while educating the community about the dangers and risks of distracted driving.

Five years later, the Phi Kappa Psi brotherhood is holding true to its mission: their Fall 2021 Safe Driving Week campaign shattered fundraising and safe driving pledge-signing records.

During the week-long event in October, the chapter encouraged more than 3,200 students to sign pledge cards promising to practice safe driving behaviors, like keeping their cell phones out of reach while behind the wheel. Additionally, the Syracuse chapter raised more than half of all funds from Safe Driving/Hunter’s Pledge programs across the country.

“One of the major things that made this year’s campaign so special is that despite Syracuse University being much smaller than some of the other campuses Hunters Fund runs campaigns on, we were able to set a new record for safe driving pledges signed,” says Griffin Kervick, Philanthropy Co-Chair. “This new record of most pledges signed came as the result of teamwork throughout the entire fraternity. While at the table, brothers were extremely active in pursuing safe driving signatures, something which made my job very easy as a philanthropy chair.”

In addition to tabling events, the Phi Kappa Psi brothers teamed up with food delivery service Good Uncle to create a fundraising partnership program. By using a coupon code and ordering food from the app, participants could donate dollars to the Safe Driving Week campaign.

“If you ask any brother in the Syracuse New York Beta Chapter what their favorite part of the year is, they will tell you that it is Safe Driving Week,” says Noah

Swift, Philanthropy Co-chair at Phi Kappa Psi.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 campaign faced challenges including a ban on indoor tabling, a transition to virtual pledge cards, and the restriction on communal on-campus events.

“Since the 2020 campaign felt like a very dulled-down version of the normal safe driving week, all the brothers were super energetic for this year’s safe driving week and did everything they could to participate,” Kervick said.

“It was really special seeing the younger members of our fraternity desire to learn about Hunter and Vinny’s upbringing and time at Syracuse,” said Isaac Reisman, Philanthropy Co-Chair. “It’s great to know the campaign will be left in good hands and our brother’s legacies will continue to be shared for years to come.”

Syracuse’s Safe Driving Week Campaign was led by Phi Kappa Psi Philanthropy Co-Chairs Griffin Kervick, Noah Swift, Will O’Shea, and Isaac Reisman.



Hunter’s Pledge
Saving Lives on
45 Campuses

- Univ of Alabama
- Allegheny College
- Beloit College
- UC Berkeley
- Univ of California, Davis
- Cal State Northridge
- Cal State-San Luis Obispo
- Case Western
- Coe College
- Cornell Univ
- DePaul Univ
- Drexel Univ
- Edinboro Univ
- Elberta High School
- Emporia State Univ
- Fairmont State Univ
- Foley High School
- Univ of Georgia
- Indiana State Univ
- Iowa State Univ
- Univ of Kansas
- Lafayette College
- Univ of Louisiana, Lafayette
- Lycoming College
- Univ of Maryland
- Univ of Minn Duluth
- Univ of Minn Twin Cities
- Univ of Rhode Island
- Northern Illinois Univ
- Penn State Univ
- Potomac School
- Univ of Pennsylvania
- Rochester Institute
- Simpson College
- Southern Illinois Univ
- Stanford Univ
- SUNY Oneonta
- Syracuse Univ
- Univ of the Sciences
- Univ of Texas
- Texas Tech Univ
- Univ of Toledo
- West Point High School
- Univ of Virginia
- Washington & Jefferson College

You Can 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, changing an existing will or when creating a living revocable trust, if you wish to include a gift for the Hunter's Fund Grants Program and Safe Driving Program.

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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



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Contributions are tax deductible.



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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, 401(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.

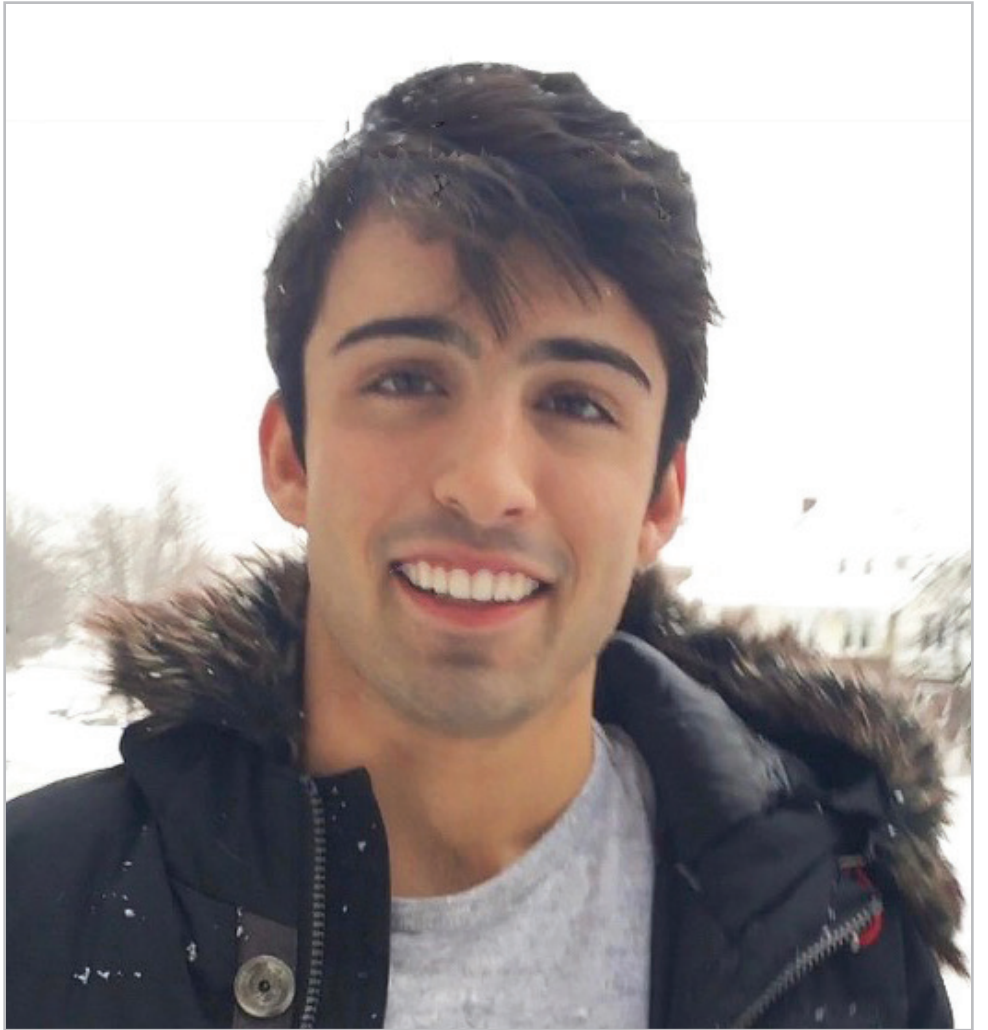
For additional information, please contact:

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

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Hunter's Story

- By *Merrill Holt*



Hunter Watson, 1995-2016

I was closest with Hunter throughout middle school and into early high school. I have a few memories from that time with him, but one in particular sticks out in my mind.

During middle school, my friends and I, for whatever reason, spent many a weekend evening at the mall. One Friday night in early fall, my girlfriends and I gathered as many middle school girls do — worrying about how we looked and hoping that we appeared cool, older, and interesting.

And then, we met up with Hunter. He took us up to the top level of the parking deck at Tysons and suggested we have a dance party. He created such an ambiance of acceptance, delight, and comfort. We didn't care how we looked, we didn't care if we seemed "cool."

The trials and tribulations of being a 13-year-old fell to the way-side and we danced and danced. I couldn't say if there was even any music playing, but at that moment, we didn't need it.

I thank Hunter for that, for his warmth, exuberance, for the impromptu wholesome moment that would follow me into adulthood and beyond.

Hunter's Fund Receives Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency

GuideStar, the world's largest source of nonprofit information, has awarded Hunter's Fund their Platinum Nonprofit Seal of Transparency, their highest level of recognition.

Founded in 2017, Hunter's Fund has provided more than 60 grants to promising young people and, with the support of more than 1,000 volunteers, funded safe driving campaigns on 38 campuses resulting in 25,000 students signing Hunter's Pledge to End Distracted Driving.



You can support these Young Entrepreneurs and Safe Driving Campaigns at:
www.hunterwatson.org/donate

Many Interests – One of a Kind



At Hunter's Fund you are supporting young men and women of diverse interests and talents, so they can let their passions shine.

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 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 Hunter's Fund, so that young men and women with talent, energy and passion can have a chance to follow their dreams ... *just as Hunter did every day.*

BOARD MEMBER, EMMA ROTHMAN, ON HER COMMITMENT TO HUNTER'S FUND



Emma Rothman, Board Member and 2020 Hunter Brooks Watson Scholar

My name is Emma and I graduated from Syracuse University in May with a BS in Food Studies and Nutrition. Before serving on the Hunter's Fund Board of Directors, I had the honor of being the Hunter Brooks Watson Scholar at Syracuse University for almost half of my college experience.

When I first met Jerry Watson my sophomore year, he put me to work right away. We set up tables for students to sign distracted driving pledges and recorded videos for The Safe Driving Campaign. After working with Jerry for just one day, I knew that I wanted to be a part of promoting Hunter's Fund's mission.

Working with Hunter's Fund as an undergraduate student awarded me an opportunity that was so incredibly fulfilling. Mentoring students was one of the highlights of my college career and it was particularly special that I got to represent Hunter and his spirit while I did my job every week.

As cliché as it sounds, I was so excited when Jerry asked me to join Hunter's Fund Board of Directors. Transitioning from mentoring students and helping them apply for Hunter's Fund grants to becoming the youngest board member for the organization to award grants has been extremely rewarding.

Even though I am no longer physically at Syracuse, serving on the Board of Directors keeps me connected to one of my favorite places and doing what I love; enabling changemakers to make a difference while honoring Hunter Watson.