Thank You for Working with NEO!

Your support is allowing children to attend schools that better suit their learning needs.

By funding scholarships, we are giving students the tools to achieve their dreams and to develop the confidence and ability to compete in today’s workplace.

We are building bridges for children from schools where they are struggling to schools where they can succeed.

You are directly:

• Empowering hard-working families to choose schools that are right for their children.
• Empowering students to equip themselves for independence and leadership.
• Changing the landscape of education.
• Making a huge difference in the lives of children, families and communities.

Thank You for Working with NEO!

Your generous contribution is altering the course of education in our nation.

NEO became an approved New Hampshire Scholarship Organization in January and we are proud to be the only fully operating Scholarship Organization (SO) in New Hampshire, but being the only SO has its blessings and challenges. It means that NEO is handling all promotion, legal and government relations for the Education Tax Credit program statewide as well as scholarship program implementation and education tax credit fundraising.

In just ten months of operations, we have been able to establish a scholarship organization in New Hampshire, raise $235,000 in education tax credit contributions, reach 1000 applicants, stave off aggressive repeal of the program, engage education and community leaders, and have been featured favorably in news articles and interviews.

We are leading the battle to launch and protect school choice in New Hampshire, and thousands of New Hampshire families are counting on us to empower them to overcome the barriers to choice.

We will not rest until we deliver on our promise to them.
In its inaugural year, NEO awarded more than 100 financial need-based scholarships totaling more than $100,000 to highly deserving children.

91% or more of our scholarship recipients qualified for free or reduced lunch.

Family income was verified by an outside grant/aid provider and scholarships were awarded based on highest financial need.

The average value of the scholarship awarded to each schooled student was $2,500, with the balance of tuition costs being paid by scholarship families together with other financial aid provided by private schools.

The average value of the homeschool scholarship awarded was $220 and we were able to award 56 scholarships to high need families for homeschooling materials.

Scholarship awards from your contributions to The Network for Educational Opportunity (NEO) resulted in children attending schools with better educational settings and outcomes.

In our first year of operations, more than 1000 children applied for scholarships showing a clear need among New Hampshire families to receive education tax credit scholarships and the opportunity for NEO to grow to assist many more children in the years to come.

“'The NEO scholarship has enabled us to purchase a program to specifically meet an educational need that we could not have afforded without it.'”

“We are thrilled with the improvement we have seen in our son, both academically and socially.”
Zac Attends The Community School in South Tamworth.

Ann Pinkham of Conway, single mom to Zac, experienced difficulty due to inadequate discipline at the middle school level. Zac now attends The Community School in South Tamworth. Ann speaks glowingly of the close-knit, respectful environment TCS fosters. “I feel TCS is home schooling for those who are not able to provide it for their family. The school offers a unique environment that celebrates the student’s individuality. The children take part in all aspects of their education including making and instituting rules, discipline, and educational class trip choices. Bullying is not tolerated. I feel lucky that we found the Community School!”

As for her financial situation, Ann is like many parents in that she’s determined to surmount any obstacle that prevents her child from accessing the best education possible. “I have and will continue to borrow whatever it takes for my son to attend The Community School. The scholarship I received lessens the load,” she said of her NEO award.

Ivy Attends Southern New Hampshire Montessori Academy.

Kathy Bochinski of Derry, also a single mother, sends her daughter Ivy to Southern New Hampshire Montessori Academy (SNHMA).

SNHMA teaches Spanish in kindergarten and practical life lessons such as table-setting, folding clothes and cooking. Students wear unadorned uniforms to limit distractions and maintain the focus on learning; students participate in cleaning and maintain orderly classrooms, and assist their peers in learning so confidence among all increases. Despite its inclusion of music and the arts alongside rigorous academics, “SNHMA is not a school where, “ Kathy wrote, “five and six year olds know who Justin Bieber is.”

Kathy’s financial situation due to the absence of Ivy’s father has been altered, and absence of funding such as scholarships, financial aid, and the like could mean Ivy would have to leave SNHMA.

Samuel Now Attends Sant Bani School.

Unsurprisingly, recipients of NEO scholarships have a message for critics of the tax credit law that makes possible NEO scholarships. Some wrote to NEO with measured incredulity. “I don’t understand why people would be against helping families get the best education for their children other than not being informed enough, or having their political strings pulled,” wrote Lori McLaughlin of Franklin, mother of Samuel Peter.

“Would you want the best available for your own children?” she asked.
Parents Writing to NEO
Expressed Hope and Gratitude

“Thank you to all businesses that support NEO. Without this scholarship, home school would not have been an option for us. We are a large family with very limited resources for supplies, books, workbooks and electronic technology. The generosity of NEO has made it possible for us to purchase everything we needed to become a successful home schooling family. We cannot thank you enough!”

We Cannot Thank You Enough!

Megan homeschools her daughter, Liberty, now using a greater array of up-to-date, unused learning materials, thanks to a NEO scholarship.

“I know that you care very deeply about the poor. This program is a creative, innovative, and cost-effective way to empower lower-income families to make choices for their children that will improve their standard of living now and in the years to come…a worthy goal we can all agree on,” wrote Megan Ebba of Barrington. Megan homeschools her daughter, Liberty, now using a greater array of up-to-date, unused learning materials, thanks to a NEO scholarship.

Megan homeschools her
daughter, Liberty, now using
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Schools

Green Valley Montessori
Meeting House Montessori
Liberty Harbor Academy
The World School
Tilton School
American Vivekananda Academy
Monadnock Waldorf School
Montessori Schoolhouse
The Beech Hill School
Kimball Union Academy
Phillips Exeter Academy
The Well School
Pine Hill Waldorf School
Proctor Academy
Sant Bani School
Southern NH Montessori
The Community School

NEO also awarded 56 scholarships for homeschooling materials.
Dear friends of education:

I take this moment to bring to your attention to why contributing to the Network for Education Opportunity scholarship fund makes you a true supporter of equal education for the youth of New Hampshire.

There are many children in New Hampshire as elsewhere that seem to “fall through the cracks” in our current educational system.

Being the proud parents of twins (later in life) we have experienced the full spectrum of public education. Our daughter was blessed with exceptional intellect and spent years in elementary school not understanding why she had to conform to the pace of her other classmates. Our son was learning at a non-typical pace and was diagnosed as “learning disabled” in the second grade.

As parents with limited financial resources we had no choice but to accept the mandates of our public school system. Yet as parents who questioned the lack of alternative educational options for our children, through due diligence were able to locate a small independent school for our daughter that had a most generous scholarship program. Even with this we had to make major financial sacrifices to allow her to attend.

Her twin brother continued in public school through Junior High and started his freshman year at a large regional high school. Even though he received the available support from the Special Education Department he was overwhelmed, and having struggled through his first season begged us not to send him back for his sophomore year.

His Individual Educational Plan prepared by the Special Education Department stated that he needed the benefit of “hands-on education.” Unfortunately, the regional school could not provide this. Again we searched for an alternative school for him and found a small independent school that would work within our financial abilities. During his first year he flourished. He became confident and realized that he could do as well as others as a result of the hands-on teaching methods of his new school.

Everything looked so promising. However, things took a turn for the worse as a result of an industrial accident that found me disabled, and our financial condition became dire. We knew that we would not be able to send the twins to their respective schools and dreaded the thought of having to explain it to them.

We desperately sought funding options, yet conventional bank loans were out of the question. During our search for a remedy we discovered the Scholarship program offered by the Network for Educational Opportunity and promptly applied. We have been most fortunate to have been awarded scholarships for the twins that allowed us to work out financial arrangements with their individual schools, allowing them both to complete their senior year.

The twins have flourished at their respective schools. Our daughter has obtained high honors and plans to be a veterinarian. Our son has become a respected member of the student body and is well-liked by his fellow students and faculty. He plans to be a writer and is already completing his first novel with the support and encouragement of the school.

Thank you for your contribution to NEO which allows families in need of financial assistance the opportunity to find the best educational opportunities for their children.

Sincerely,

Thomas Burke
Thank You To Our Donors

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Virgil & Lois Swearingen
Virginia Leiby
Wade & Kimberly Hamilton
Warren & Yvonne Goddard
Wesley & Deborah Butler
William & Melinda McNicoll
William Anders

In Their Words
The difference we’re making...

“I am very satisfied and so filled with gratitude that my daughter can attend the school that I feel meets her in the best way for her to develop and meet her full potential. It is a very well rounded program, strong academically with a very extensive exposure to literature, math and science, but also rich in the arts, producing very confident, talented and responsible young people with a love of learning and a desire to make a positive difference in the world.”

“I feel like the private school saved my daughter. After being bullied and harassed so severely in public school I made the choice to move her, no matter the sacrifices I had to make to afford it. She is accepted, loved, and thriving at her new school.”

“This school is incredible. My daughter has already shown improvement in confidence and is becoming more outgoing. She is participating more in classes as they are small. Her teachers are all connected to her in many ways as advisors or coaches. She feels part of a community at this school. She is taking courses like Mandarin and getting an A. This would not have been possible in the public school option. I am extremely happy and grateful that my daughter is at this school. I have cried more than once as I watch her reach new highs.”

“My son is immersed in a challenging and rigorous academic program. He is thriving and very happy in his new school.”

“Our school has always tried very hard to make it possible for my daughter to attend, but with a modest income and growing basic family expenses (such as housing, heating, transportation and fuel costs) continuing at a private school has been increasing difficult and stressful. I am grateful that in combination with the Network for Educational Opportunity, we somehow have managed to enroll my daughter for this year’s school term, which would have been impossible without the help of our school and that of the additional funding from the Network.”

“This school has been a lifesaver for my child. She is noticeably different and improved both socially and academically. Public school did not work for her. This school has been a miracle for our family.”

“The Community School is a wonderful alternative to the public middle school [that our son] attended in the past. I feel TCS is home schooling for those who are not able to provide it for their family. They offer a unique environment that celebrates the student’s individuality.”

“We are extremely satisfied with the private school he is attending. It is a dream come true for us to be able to have him there at this time in his life.”

“I am extremely satisfied with his current school, he comes home and excitedly shares what he is learning.”