

MAINE BLUE COLLAR SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2023



Our mission is to remove the barriers for motivated individuals pursuing a career in the skilled trades. We are challenging the persistent belief that a traditional four year college degree is the only answer for our youth. MBC aims to reinvigorate the trades that built America.

2023 Highlights

- ◆ Raised **\$359,164**
- ◆ Awarded **157** scholarships and toolships to individuals entering the trades
- ◆ Provided **\$175,000** in scholarship awards ranging from **\$500 to \$2500**
- ◆ Invested in our future skilled trades professionals in over **22** different careers
- ◆ Enhanced the livelihoods of individuals in over **100** communities in Maine
- ◆ Connected our future trades people with businesses for employment opportunities
- ◆ Provided Instructor Scholarships for CTE Instructors to work for a full week at a best-in-class business in their respective field



100% of Donations Go Directly to Individuals in the form of Scholarships and Toolships

Story of Impact

Landon Ritchie was a recipient of a MBC scholarship in 2023 and his brother **Mason** received one in 2020. Landon shared what receiving the scholarship meant to him and his brother. “We both agree that it helped so much. Our programs both required a fairly long list of tools, protective wear, etc that was costly. We were able to get what we needed before our program started without the stress of how we were going to pay for it.”

Landon is currently studying heavy equipment and will pursue his CDL in a couple months. Mason recently graduated and is working as an electrician. They were able to gain a lot of experience in the trades because their father has a construction business. Landon stated, “I know that I will have a lot of options with my experience and what I have learned at WCCC, I am setting myself up for great success!”

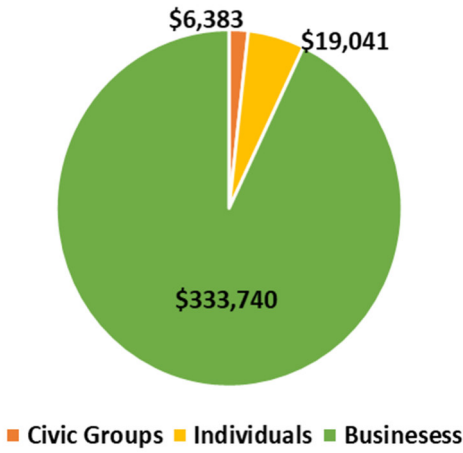
Mason shared on his application, “Receiving the honor and money from this scholarship would help me pursue my career to become an electrician. It would ensure that I could come straight out of college, enter the workforce and be able to start saving money to better myself and the ones around me!” Mason is currently realizing success in his chosen field of electrical work, that he enjoys very much!



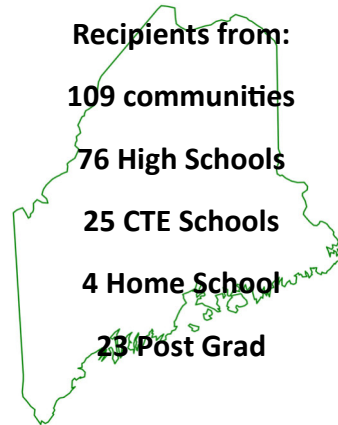
MBC scholarships allow our next generation of tradespeople to build human capital. Once they have learned a skill they can take that powerful knowledge to any company. They are growing self-confidence, self-worth and earning potential with a career in the trades.

By The Numbers

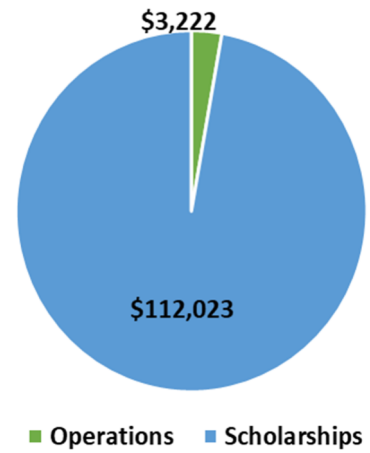
2023 Revenue Sources



229 applicants = 157 Recipients



2023 Operating Expenses



Year	Scholarships	Amount
2017	32	\$ 16,000
2018	25	\$ 22,000
2019	40	\$ 50,000
2020	82	\$ 75,000
2021	80	\$ 94,000
2022	94	\$ 105,000
2023	156	\$ 175,000

Trades Supported	
Auto Collision	Electrical
Auto Technology	Healthcare
Building Construction	HVAC/Plumbing
CDL	Police/EMT/Fire
Cosmetology	Precision Machining
Culinary Arts	Small Engine Repair
Diesel Tech/Heavy Equip	Welding

Business Spotlight

Risbara Bros Construction Co., Inc. is proud to be a partner with the Maine Blue Collar Scholarship Foundation. Rocco Risbara, President, stated, "We all have a vested interest in the state of Maine, and for Maine to continue to be a terrific place to live and work, we need skilled tradespeople. Working in the trades can be very challenging, but it can also be very gratifying and rewarding both financially and personally."

After the death of our parents in 2014 my brother, Marc & Bill and I dedicated the funds from the sale of their prized '62 Corvette and '55 Thunderbird to fund the Marcia and Rocco Risbara Jr Memorial Maine Blue Collar Scholarship. Our intention is to honor our parents for their commitment to helping others. Our parents started our business 55 years ago. Since then we have seen a decline in the availability of talented trades people. We saw the establishment of the MBCSF as the perfect opportunity to support students who have demonstrated a commitment to pursue a career in the trades, which is something our parents supported.

Grateful for our Business Partners \$2500 + Donated

Board of Directors

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