



**BUILDING THE FUTURE ONE STEP AT A TIME!**

## **July 2022 Newsletter**

### **Barbara K. Vitt Scholarship Recipients**



**Pictured above: Ellie Mady, Nemaha Central High School**



**Pictured above: Madison Lortscher, Nemaha Central High School**



**Pictured above: Carson Cross, Centralia High School**

Barbara K. Vitt has been a wonderful teacher/counselor example, serving Nemaha County for decades. Mrs. Vitt said that in all of her teaching/counseling jobs she felt as if she were working in a little piece of paradise. The students with whom she worked were considerate, hard-working, and respectful. Her colleagues, the administrators, and the school boards were wonderful. Best of all, the parents of her students

valued education, expected their children's best efforts, and were supportive of the school and the teachers. If she, had it to do over again, she would not hesitate.

Her dedication and commitment to teaching is exemplary. Thanks to a very generous anonymous donor, three \$1,500 Barbara K. Vitt Scholarships will be available to Nemaha County students annually. The first scholarship recipients are Ellie Mady and Madison Lortscher of Nemaha Central High School, and Carson Cross of Centralia High School.

Ellie Mady is the daughter of Matthew and Jill Mady and plans to attend University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in elementary education. Madison Lortscher is the daughter of Brent and Linda Lortscher and plans to attend Kansas State University majoring in elementary education. Carson Cross is the son of Robert and Lynda Cross and plans to attend Kansas State University majoring in biology/pre-med.

## August Bergman MD Scholarship Recipients



**Above Photo left to right: Taryn Ganstrom; Hailey Wurtz; Bonnie Meeks, STEP Board Member**

The Nemaha County STEP Foundation is excited to announce the 2022 recipients of the August Bergman, M.D., Scholarship. August Bergman, M.D., has been a supporter of the local community foundation for many years. He previously established the Elizabeth Bergman Memorial Scholarship and gave generously to start the B&B Legacy (Challenge) Scholarship.

Scholarship recipients, receiving \$1,000 each, are Hailey Wurtz and Taryn Ganstrom of Nemaha Central High School and Matthew Whittaker of Sabetha High School.

Hailey Wurtz is the daughter of Jerin and Stephanie Wurtz and plans to attend Kansas State University majoring in agribusiness and animal science. Taryn Ganstrom is the daughter of Jimmy and Laci Ganstrom. Taryn plans to attend Southwestern Community College then the University of Kansas majoring in kinesiology. Matthew Whittaker is the son of Douglas and Susanna Whittaker. He plans to attend Kansas State University, majoring in biology. Congratulations to the 2022 August Bergman, M.D., Scholarship recipients.



**Left to right: John Lehman, STEP Board Member; Matthew Whittaker; Elaine Mowder, STEP Board Member**



## **Harry C.M. Burger Nemaha Central High School (Burger I) Scholarship Recipients Announced**



Pictured Above Left to Right: Hailey Wurtz and Cassidy Rethman

Hailey Wurtz and Cassidy Rethman are the 2022 recipients of the Harry C. M. Burger Nemaha Central Scholarship awarded through the STEP Foundation. This endowed scholarship was established by the late Harry Burger to encourage youth to further their education. The scholarship is in the amount of \$700 and is renewable for four years throughout the student's career at Kansas State.

Hailey is the daughter of Jerin and Stephanie Wurtz of Seneca, Kansas. She plans to attend Kansas State University to major in agribusiness and animal science. Cassidy is the daughter of Doug and Deb Rethman. She plans to attend Kansas State University to major in accounting.

# **Savannah Engelken Awarded 2022 Recipient of the Kathy L. Schmelzle Academic Scholarship**



In 2005, Pat and Patty Schmelzle and family established the Kathy L. Schmelzle Academic Scholarship with the Nemaha County STEP Foundation in memory of their daughter. The Kathy L. Schmelzle Academic Scholarship for \$750 is awarded to a graduating senior from Nemaha Central High School who plans to enter a degree program with a major in teacher education.

The 2022 recipient of this scholarship is Savannah Engelken daughter of Chris and Trish Engelken. Engelken is thankful for caring, supportive teachers that guided and supported her through life's challenges. Because of them she has decided to go into the education field. Engelken plans on majoring in Elementary Education at the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota this fall. After getting her degree, she plans to teach and then become a counselor after that.

## **STEP Announces Three New Funds for Upcoming Match Day**



**Above: Justin Lueger, STEP Treasurer, and Celene Holthaus, United 4 Youth Executive Director, posed for a quick photo after establishing a new fund through the Nemaha County STEP Foundation. Left to Right: Justin Lueger, STEP Treasurer and Celene Holthaus, United 4 Youth Executive Director**

**The Nemaha County STEP Foundation is thrilled to announce three new funds for the upcoming Match Day. The**

**United 4 Youth Scholarship Fund, the Centralia Community Project Fund, and the Corning Impact Fund will be available for matching funds at the upcoming Match Day event scheduled for Friday, August 26, 2022. To check out more details, go to [www.stepupnemaha.com](http://www.stepupnemaha.com).**

**Reminder July 15 is the deadline for Grants. Click [here](#) to apply!**





**Our Contact Information**

Nemaha County STEP Foundation

PO Box 165

Seneca, KS 66538

785-294-0312

[www.nemahastep.org](http://www.nemahastep.org)