

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund

for HVRHS *Beyond the Classroom*

## THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT VISIONARIES IS THE SOLID FOUNDATION THEY LAY FOR THE FUTURE

In 1993, Jack Mahoney traveled around the US searching for new ideas in education.

He returned with the vision of students learning to think creatively, with strong problem solving skills and access to financial support beyond the budget.

Jack developed the *Principal's Principles* for the faculty and teamed up with local philanthropist Diane Hewat to found the **21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund**.

The new focus and **Fund** were designed to create a student centered community of learners, a foundation as essential today as it was then.

Your support of **The Fund** allows HVRHS community members to maximize their education at Housatonic, both in and beyond the classroom.



Click above or visit <https://www.hvrhs.org/new-this-is-us/>



TO THOSE WHO GUIDED THE **21ST CENTURY FUND FOR HVRHS** INTO ITS FUTURE.



Lynn Clayton, Ann Beizer, Tom Schindler, Roberta Willis, Carol Schulz and David Bayersdorfer have each served on our Board of Directors for over twelve years. Without their energy, commitment, creativity and vision we would have never become the organization we are today. Carol and Dave are still active—in fact, Dave is our longest running Board Chair. A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to you all!!

[www.21stcenturyfund.net](http://www.21stcenturyfund.net)

May 2025

## YOUTH IN DEMOCRACY

Funded by **Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation** & Managed by **21st Century Fund**



Alex and Daniel with Sen. Stephen Harding

The **21st Century Fund** partnered with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and Bard College to launch *Youth in Democracy*. The goal of YID was to encourage students to engage with local government to develop and implement a passion project that would both benefit local communities and teach students about the inner workings of local government.

Daniel Moran worked with the Town of Canaan and the North Canaan Fire Department to implement a drone program that will assist firefighters and rescue team members in assessing building safety, locating local water sources in remote areas and aiding in search and rescue missions.

Alex Wilbur worked with the Town of Salisbury and Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station to implement a pill bottle collection program that would put our empty pill bottles into the hands of people in rural areas to safely transport much-needed medications from clinics to their homes.

Both students were invited to the CT State Senate to receive commendations from Senator Stephen Harding in recognition of their hard work and dedication to involvement in their communities.

## HOUSY SHACK: GIVES STUDENTS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Thanks to the **21st Century Fund**, the Housy Shack has become more than just a school store—it's a student-run business where learning meets real-world experience. Students in Julie Browning's Transitions Class and Heather Strid's Work Study Program are taking on roles that teach them how to be responsible and professional, which in turn gives them more confidence. This program embodies the mission of the **21st Century Fund** as it more than a store—it's a stepping stone to independence. As the students told us:

"We love working at the school store because it gives us job skills, we get to work with customers and sell them cookies and other things. We get real world experience working in the store and the students get experience of shopping in the store. We do the ordering, budget, stocking, baking, cleaning, and bookkeeping for the store. All these skills are practiced because of your grant for the Housy Shack Thank you!" Zach, Dustin, Sasha, Austin, Emery and David



**Interested in donating or learning about Planned Giving?**

Visit [www.21stcenturyfund.net](http://www.21stcenturyfund.net), The Fund is a nonprofit & receives no government funding.



## BOARD WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Kristen Neary** is an alumna of both Salisbury Central School (SCS) and HVRHS. She returned to the area to teach at SCS after getting a degree in Early Childhood Education at Wheelock College in Boston. While working, Kristen received a MA degree in Reading from St. Joseph's College. She has worked at SCS for 30 years.



Kristen married fellow Housatonic alumnus Keith Marks and has two daughters who followed their mother's footsteps by attending SCS and HVRHS. Josie graduated in 2022 and Tess will graduate this June. Both girls received grants from the **21st Century Fund** —Josie was a member of the team that won the Philosophy of Education 2021 competition. Tess has been in several school musicals and earned an internship at Sharon Playhouse that was sponsored by the **21st Century Fund**. Kristen knows first hand how grants can impact a student, build their esteem and confidence, and widen their perspective and vision.



**Jessie Bate** grew up in Cornwall and lives there today. She attended Cornwall Consolidated and Housatonic. She has a BA in Health and

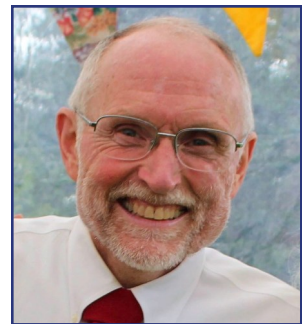
Physical Education and an MS in Library and Information Science.

Jessie is excited to be a part of the **21st Century Fund**; she sees it as an opportunity to encourage students to go beyond the borders of the Northwest Corner. Jessie said, "I am a proud alumna, and grateful to have an organization like the **21st Century Fund** to help connect students, faculty and staff with opportunities they may not have had access to without funding. Our school community is fortunate to have this **Fund** to help bridge some of those financial gaps and to assist students to engage in activities that broaden their horizons."

Jessie believes the **21st Century Fund** is a gift for the students, our school and community.

**DONOR SPOTLIGHT:** For ten years, Tim Hawley, Class of 1971, had been thinking about how to thank and acknowledge the people who helped him believe in himself and build the foundation he needed to succeed in life. He settled on making a generous contribution to the **21st Century Fund**; he did so in honor of the "outstanding faculty, staff and students, past and present at HVRHS and the culture of support they provide to students." A culture that still exists today.

In 2024, Tim was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame for his prowess in cross country and track. At the ceremony, Hawley recalled being an unathletic youth, wearing orthopedic shoes everywhere except gym class. Thanks to encouragement from HVRHS coaches and classmates, he was able to become a championship athlete in high school and college. Tim said, "Housatonic has meant, for me, opportunity, support, scholarship and history."



**Join Tim and GIVE BACK in honor of those who supported and encouraged you.**

### **21st Century Fund for HVRHS Board of Directors**

David Bayersdorfer (Chair), Vance Cannon (Vice Chair), Scott Fellows (Treasurer), Carol Schulz (Secretary), Jessie Bate, Mike DeMazza, John Hedbavny, Mike Mahoney, Kristen Neary, Mary Wilbur, Marlene Woodman, and Administrative Director, Nancy Hegy Martin.

Founders: Jack Mahoney and Diane Hewat

Emeritus Members: Ann Beizer, Lynn Clayton, John Perotti, and Roberta Willis

## GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024-2025

Art Garage - Supplies

Belize Marine Summer Camp to Study Conservation of Coral Reefs

Designing and Building a Model House - Supplies\*

Georgetown International Relations Academy Summer Program

Housatonic Musical Theatre Society - Orchestra\*

Housy Shack (School Store) Set Up, Stocked and Managed by Students

International Travel Club - Airport Transportation

Lakeville Journal Pilot Internship Program - Collaboration w/Berkshire Taconic and Private Donor

National Forensic Science Week Community Open House - Transportation

NEXT Symposium in New York City

Robotics Team Underwrite Participation in Competitions

Seasonal Flower Arrangements for Meals on Wheels Recipients - Supplies

Sharon Playhouse Internships - Collaboration with Sharon Playhouse

Student Cooked Ecuadorian Lunch for Faculty - Supplies\*

Surprise Squad - Support and Reward HVRHS Mountaineer Students

Thailand Service Trip (Gift from Donor)

UPenn Try Engineering Summer Institute

Young Civil War Historian's Summer Camp at Gettysburg College

Youth in Democracy - Collaboration with Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

*\* Photos Below*



The quality of a public school is a mirror of the community it serves.  
It affects the community's future and values, as well as the people drawn to live there.



**THE MORE MONEY WE RAISE, THE MORE EXPERIENCES THEY GET**  
**DONATE TODAY**

**ONLINE @21stcenturyfund.net OR mail a check to PO Box 132, Falls Village, 06031**