

## Andover Norton Children's Fund Commission 2015-2016 Annual Report

In 1891 Chester Norton, an Andover farmer, died leaving in his will \$3,000.00 to be used to help Andover children in need. The story goes that when Chester was a child his poor family could not afford the eyeglasses he needed and a kindly gentlemen provided the family with funds for Chester's eyeglasses. Chester never forgot this act of kindness and passed it on to the future children of Andover through his will.

The Norton Children's Fund Commission was established in 1937 as a Town Meeting and has continued to this day distributing the interest income for Chester Norton's will to help children of Andover. The fund also awards one or two scholarships to Andover seniors furthering their education.

The Norton Commission consists of 5 members and we meet twice a year; early June and mid November. At our early June meeting we choose the scholarship recipient .

Since 1960 (most years) a small scholarship is offered each spring to an Andover High School or home-schooled senior who will be continuing their education. The F. Kendall Brown and Frank H. Brown scholarship has been handed over to the Norton Commission. Their family set up this scholarship in 2002 in memory of their father and brother.

In November of 2015 we distributed \$420 to 7 families with 11 children for the holidays.

In June of 2016 we awarded a \$750 scholarship to a RHAM High School senior who will be attending college in the fall of 2016.

We have distributed Norton Commission Flyers that explain how to apply for financial assistance from our commission. These flyers are located in the Town Office Building, The Andover Library and the Andover Elementary School, and on the Andover website. This enables parents to ask for our assistance instead of the commission seeking out families that could use assistance.

In order to bring awareness of what our commission does for the children of Andover we conducted "Guest the Pom-Poms" contest at the Andover Library and Andover Elementary School. The history of the commission was added to the "ballot". We awarded \$25 gift cards to Barnes & Noble Bookstore to each of the 4 winners of both the school and library.

We receive no funds from Andover tax-payers. We rely on contributions from Andover's generous citizens and the interest that we receive from the principal on the Norton Fund plus the Irene Mooney Fund. The interest rate has been extremely low on the Brown Scholarship that we have not be able to award this scholarship since 2011.

The Norton Children's Fund Commission

Elisabeth Houle-chairperson, Dianne Grenier-secretary, Heidi Donnelly, Heidi Xenophontos, Sue Schmidt