

Norton Children's Fund Commission 2013-2014 Annual Report

In 1891 Chester Norton, an Andover farmer, died leaving in his will \$3,000 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 gentleman 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 at a Town Meeting and has continued to this day distributing the interest income from Chester's will plus donations from generous citizens throughout the state to help the 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 and distribute funds to help families with Back-to-School supplies. At our mid November meeting we distribute funds to help families with holiday gifts. We also have helped families that have a need throughout the year.

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 2013 we did not distribute gift cards as we lacked the funds. In June of 2014 we awarded a \$500 scholarship to an Andover senior. We also distributed \$380 (gift cards) to 5 families with 10 children as the total for Back-to-School supplies.

We have distributed Norton Commission Flyers that explain how to apply for financial assistance from our commission. These have been placed in the Andover Elementary School, RHAM High & Middle Schools Social Service Director, The Andover Congregational Church, the Andover Town Library, the Andover Town Office, AHM, and will be on the town's website.

We receive no funds from Andover tax-payers. We rely on donations from Andover and outside of Andover's generous citizens and the interest that we receive from the principal on the Norton Fund plus another fund; the Irene Mooney Fund. In this poor economy we have had limited funds.

Respectfully submitted,

The Norton Children's Fund Commission
Elisabeth Houle –chairperson
Dianne Grenier-secretary

Heidi Donnelly
Heidi Xenophontos
Sue Schmidt