



# UPDATE

Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund  
FALL 2022

## Hunter's Fund

P.O. Box 326, McLean, VA 22101

(703) 448-0436

*This publication paid for with a gift from the Watson family*

### OUR VISION

#### YOU MAKE THE POWER OF YOUNG IDEAS POSSIBLE



Hunter Watson

Where will the next great ideas come from? Who will provide the insight, inspiration and hard work to create a better tomorrow? Hunter's Fund believes young people hold the answers to these questions. Young people are using their talents and passions to find ways to improve the world. Their dreams are of things yet to be seen. While we don't know what tomorrow will bring, we do know that today's youth and their ideas will be propelling the changes to come.

Hunter's Fund invests in young people who have shown talent, experience and passion. The grants you make possible reward innovation and reflect the talents and passions that Hunter Watson brought to his life. They honor his legacy, and provide support for young people who also approach life with powerful ideas. We hope these grants will carry on what Hunter inspired.

#### OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We are deeply honored that you have placed your trust in Hunter's Fund's work. We work hard to make the most of every dollar you donate by using volunteers and keeping overhead costs low. When you give to the Fund, you can give with confidence, knowing that most of your gift will propel young people's dreams and help end distracted driving.

## You Made Four New Grants Possible



Pierre Paul

#### Project: *We Hear You*™

At just 23 years old, Pierre Paul has a crystal clear entrepreneurial vision rooted in helping make the world more accessible. He is the founder and CEO of "We Hear You," a startup company that develops creative technology to aid individuals with disabilities.

Founded in 2019, the company is currently developing two inventions. The first is a two-way sign language translation software that can

translate American Sign Language (ASL) into English through hand recognition technology. The second is a wearable device, Push™, that turns accessible doors into automatic doors with the push of a personal button.

"With the creation of Push™, we will be giving the power back to individuals who have lost some of their autonomy. Our product has the ability to not only increase comfortability on college campuses for those with exceptionalities but will also aid universities in being more ADA compliant," Pierre says.

Born in Brazil, Pierre's family moved to Guyana during his childhood before settling in the United States.

"I faced extreme xenophobia, racism, and, poverty at a young age. Through it all, I decided to perfect my English and public speaking ability in order to someday be a voice for those who need help," Pierre says. "Helping others prosper is ingrained in my DNA and I try to bring that to everything I do."

When Pierre is not working on his company, he serves as the Community Engagement and Family Programs Coordinator at the Peoria Riverfront Museum in Peoria, Illinois. He also volunteers as a mentor for students, gives public speaking lessons to people in his community, and creates educational history videos for a local PBS station.

#### Project: *Led by Faith Cookie Company*

Missouri-based kindergarten teacher Emily Yancey launched her confections company Led By Faith Cookie Company with help from a Hunter's Fund grant. After starting the cookie business as a passion project during COVID-19, she realized she needed to scale up in order to provide her intricate, decorated sugar cookies to customers across the country. Now she's looking to scale up further, by creating her own 3D-printed cookie cutters and making her business truly self-sustaining.

Without a 3D printer, Emily has to either source custom cookie cutters, or turn away orders that she's not equipped to fulfill. "The flexibility to design cookie cutters in-house means being able to provide the exact cookie a client dreams up and not having to turn away orders from a lack of cookie cutter options to meet



Emily Yancey

their needs," Emily says.

In the years since accepting her initial grant from Hunter's Fund, Emily has grown her cookie clientele

*Continued on page 2*

You can support these Young Entrepreneurs and Safe Driving Campaigns at: [www.hunterwatson.org/donate](http://www.hunterwatson.org/donate)

## HUNTER'S FUND UPDATE

FALL 2022

### OUR VISION

To live in a world where our youth may follow their hearts.

### OUR MISSION

Hunter's Fund has dual missions in support of young adults. The first is to provide resources to help advance the dreams of passionate, curious young people.

The second is to reduce deaths and injuries from distracted driving by increasing awareness among young drivers and gaining their commitment to change.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Sam Brown  
Madeleine Bunbury  
Liam Catto  
Jack Johnson  
Nirmal Kagolanu  
Matt Kimm  
Matthieu Menand  
Jordan Parent  
Jason Reif  
Emma Rothman  
Will Snape  
Connor Sweeney

### PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Natalie Kwon

### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Hunter Piland

### DONOR RELATIONS

Judith Fister

### ACCOUNTING ADVISOR

Sandy Johnson

### DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEER

Kathy Ward, CFRE

## Hunter's Grants, Continued

*Continued from page 1*

and successfully marketed her sweets on social media. Now, she's on track to double her revenue from last year.

"The logical next step to continue growing is to learn how to incorporate the 3D printing technology to diversify the products I am able to offer through creating custom cookie cutters,"

Emily says. "Hunter's Grant would allow me to continue expanding my business by accepting complex and unique orders while further extending my reach within the community and beyond. My dream is to one day own a brick-and-mortar storefront and continuing to establish long-standing clientele is just one of many steps on my way to making my dream a reality."



Calum Smeaton

### *Project: Custom Acoustical for Studio Pop-Up's*

Five years ago, Calum Smeaton launched a successful audio engineering career with help from a grant from Hunter's Fund. After applying for an initial grant to upgrade the DIY music recording studio he founded while attending the University of Virginia, Calum landed a gig producing audio tours for the Smithsonian Institute.

In 2021, he completed an internship in Architectural Acoustics at Walters-Storyk Design

Group, an international construction company specializing in acoustics and media system engineering.

That internship tied directly into his latest business endeavor: acoustic room treatments for "e-studios."

After spending the last two years studying acoustics, diving into advanced mathematics, refining his designs, prototyping, and filing patents, Calum is now preparing to launch his latest venture.

"As large commercial studios shut their doors in unprecedented numbers, small, efficient, economical "e-studios" pop up in droves to replace them," Calum says. "These spaces are demanding attention, pushing for professional standards, and seeking alternatives to outdated, industrial solutions. I believe that my designs represent just this alternative."

E-studios are not limited to music production purposes—they include spaces for video post-production, dialogue recording, gaming, newscasting, vlogging, and film scoring, to name a few

"I believe the owners of such spaces will greatly benefit from the availability of affordable, bespoke acoustic treatments that inject some expression into their spaces while enhancing the acoustic character," Calum says.

Calum's grant from Hunter's Fund will be used to purchase industrial machinery to scale up his production process and bring his products to market.

### *Project: Sustainable Sea Moss Farming Project*

Tavio Simmons' journey into entrepreneurship begins with a peculiar product: sea moss. Also called Irish moss, the algae is commonly harvested to produce carrageenan—an ingredient used to thicken products like ice cream and plant-based milk. It's a valuable export to the coastal towns of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, including the 7-square-mile island of Bequia, where Tavio lives.

A graduate of the University of Trinidad & Tobago, Tavio is the youth director of Constructive

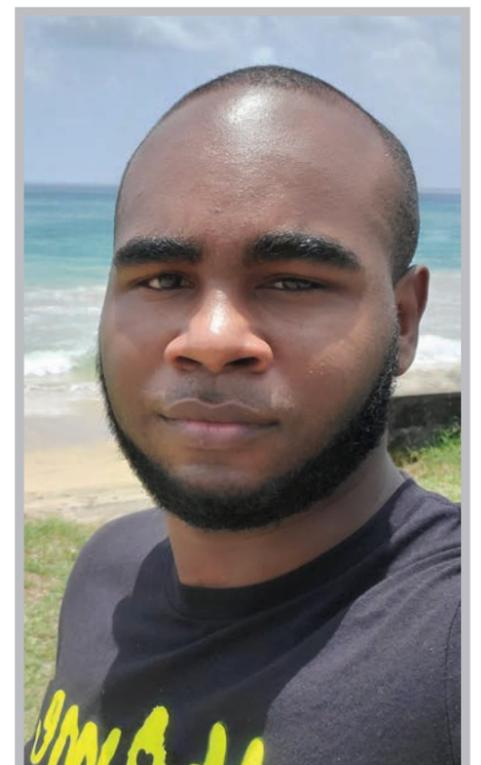
Solutions Inc.—an organization working to develop the "Responsible Sea Moss farming and production project." The project's goal is to sustainably increase sea moss farming in Bequia and financially empower locals in the community by training them to work in the sea moss trade.

Tavio is particularly interested in data science and collection and is determined to use data analysis to study the program's sustainability and influence sea farming policy.

"Though we have the knowledge and techniques needed to continue planting the sea moss,

it won't be sustainable if steps aren't implemented to ensure the proper monitoring and evaluation of the program," Tavio says. "I grew up seeing the village men on my island going to the sea to reap this marine plant from corals. Now with the knowledge I have, I would like to turn this into an enterprise where the same villagers can benefit."

Tavio's grant from Hunter's Fund will go towards investments in data collecting technology, including equipment that will increase the organization's capacity for data gathering.



Tavio Simmons

You can support these Young Entrepreneurs and Safe Driving Campaigns at: [www.hunterwatson.org/donate](http://www.hunterwatson.org/donate)

## Linda Hartsock: the woman behind the LaunchPad



Linda Hartsock encourages students to “follow their dreams” while they are still young.

In late April, volunteer judges from Hunter’s Fund sit in rooms scattered around the Syracuse University Libraries and watch teams competing in Shark Tank-like presentations. Each student team hopes their ideas will be selected as Blackstone LaunchPad winners and receive funding to continue projects to which they may have dedicated their unique lives.

For more than a decade, Linda Hartsock, executive director of the Blackstone LaunchPad at Syracuse, has been working with innovative students, helping bring their ideas to life.

During that time, almost 6,000 students have been part of the LaunchPad. They come from every academic discipline across campus and 128 countries around the world. They have gone on to raise millions in equity capital to launch their business ideas. In many cases, Hunter’s Fund was the first funding to help these students shape their venture ideas, providing not only the rocket fuel needed to launch but inspiration from being recognized by their peers.

Linda says she has the best job on campus and that impact entrepreneurship and innovation have always been close to her heart. She has built a life and career around those principles. As a founder herself, she knows what it takes to be successful, and how hard that journey can be without support and mentorship.

Many LaunchPad entrepreneurs are technology startups working in sectors such as medical devices, cleantech, artificial intelligence, and data science. The LaunchPad has produced tech startups that have been featured in leading business publications. Linda is equally proud of the LaunchPad creatives who have published books, launched art, acting, music and fashion careers, produced award-winning films, and founded nonprofit organizations for community change. LaunchPad graduates go on to mentor new student startups, inspired by a strong “pay it forward” culture.

In 2018 Mathieu Menand and Jason Reif, members of the Hunter’s Fund Board and then Syracuse students saw an opportunity for Hunter’s Fund to support the top innovators competing in the LaunchPad. They teamed with Linda to create the Hunter Brooks Watson Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards which quickly became the highest honor that a student innovator can receive at Syracuse University.

“Hunter Brooks Watson Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards annually honor four carefully selected student LaunchPad teams who embody qualities exemplified by Hunter: creativity, joy, and passion,” says Linda. “It is truly my privilege to be part of this.”

Hunter’s Fund is indebted to Linda for making it possible for us to reach more young people who offer hope for tomorrow.

*We hope you will join in supporting the recognition of such promising talent and ideas by supporting Hunter’s Fund.*

## Founding Committee

Each member of the Founders Committee was a close friend of Hunter Watson. Their encouragement led the Watson family to establish the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund (Hunter’s Fund). Four years later, the organization has received hundreds of applications and funded more than 60 promising young people who could not have explored their passions without financial assistance. The fund has also established Hunter’s Pledge to End Distracted Driving on nearly 60 campuses.



**Luigi Ambrosi**  
Milan, Italy



**Abigail Breslin**  
Hollywood, CA



**Madeleine Bunbury**  
Gillingham Dorset, UK



**Liam Catto**  
Boulder, CO



**Forrest Crane**  
Manhattan Beach, CA



**Chris Dale**  
Washington, DC



**Matt Kimm**  
Manhattan Beach, CA



**Yannick Della Shavia**  
Santa Monica, CA



**Ilana Dunn**  
New York, NY



**Zack Green**  
New York, NY



**Hanna Horvath**  
New York, NY



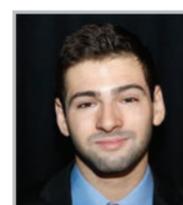
**Hannah Kliot**  
New York, NY



**Mathieu Menand**  
Dublin, CA



**Jordan Parent**  
Arlington, VA



**Jason Reif**  
New York, NY



**Mark Ramsey**  
Great Falls, VA



**Matt Salutillo**  
Fairfax, VA



**Will Snape**  
New York, NY



**Connor Sweeney**  
Denver, CO



**Ted Watson**  
New York, NY

### Can you Volunteer to Help?

*You can help Hunter's Fund get our mission accomplished.*

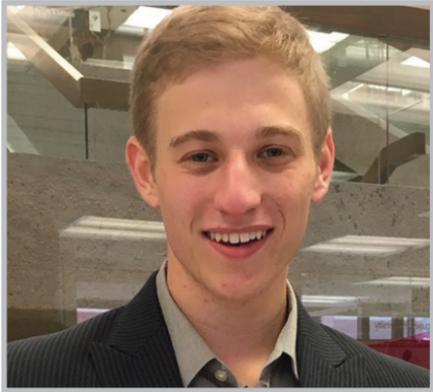
**Grant Reviewers** – This is a great opportunity to review applications twice a year for our grant awards. Everything is done online. Your help would be tremendous in making sure the best candidates are chosen.

**Safe Driving Partners** – As a volunteer partner, you would look for opportunities to encourage members of your community to sign Hunter’s Pledge Not to Drive Distracted. Your club or church group are great places to start. Some of our supporters ask local restaurants to set up our tabletop displays so their customers can scan and sign a pledge online while waiting for their meal to be served.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact Natalie Kwon at [natalie@hunterwatson.org](mailto:natalie@hunterwatson.org)

## What are grant winners up to now?

*Your donations help fund grants that permanently change lives and kickstart impactful careers. This spring, we caught up with a few Hunter's Fund grant and award recipients to learn about what they've been up to since receiving their grants.*



### **Chase Guttman**

In the spring of 2018, then Syracuse University senior and photojournalism student Chase Guttman received a Spirit of Entrepreneurship award for his growing aerial photography venture, Chase Higher (Now - Heightened Visions.) Since then, Chase has become a leader in the field of drone photography.

In recent years, he has received an Emmy for his work as Director of Aerial Cinematography on a PBS documentary and taught courses on drone photography at the School of the New York Times, among others. He's traveled on assignment to 49 states and 21 countries, working for clients including Intel, Adobe, and Nutanix.

### **Tara McLaughlin**

When she was just a senior in high school, Tara McLaughlin was compelled by international relations and peacekeeping. In 2018, she received a grant from Hunter's Fund to attend a San Diego conference hosted by Hands of Peace, a nonprofit working to promote peaceful dialogue between young people in Israel, Palestine, and the United States.

Now, Tara is preparing to enter her senior year at the College of William and Mary, with plans to graduate with a degree in international conflict resolution. She will be spending the summer of 2022 in Israel where she will continue her studies.



### **Harry Collis**

In the fall of 2019, musician Harry Collis received a grant from Hunter's Fund to help him build and enhance a portable recording studio that could travel to community events—allowing him and other musicians to record high-quality audio while on the road.

Since then, his portable studio has gained recognition—and led him around the globe. Most recently, he was invited to participate in a charity festival in Mallorca. Harry and his business partner Louis also perform in a community band, the Jam Collective.

### **Kenichia Charles**

Kenichia Charles was first awarded a grant to attend the University of Vermont as a biomedical intern. Working with technical engineers, she learned how to both predict the life cycle of medical equipment and to maintain it, and she gained critical procurement knowledge.

In 2020, Kenichia was awarded her second Hunter's Fund grant to purchase materials needed to calibrate biomedical equipment.

Today, as the Biomedical Engineer for the British West Indies, she is working on expanding her role to include advising hospitals and clinics on biomedical equipment purchases. She also wants to create a Regional Association of Biomedical Technicians.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR AWARD WINNER - JADEMAN BAKER

*Honestly, I can't say thank you enough to @huntersfund! Without their support #lomandmoy would not be here at this moment.*

*Hunter's Fund supports young men and women of diverse interests and talents, so they can let their passions shine.*

*Their mission and inspiration come from Hunter, an amazing young man of extremely diverse talents and interests. Wherever he went, whatever he did, he brought a spark and a smile, and contagious energy that inspired those around him.*

*Our brand received a Hunter's Fund grant when we were just an idea on paper! And now, we have grown into an online store. It is a blessing to have a community of people who believe in your vision. Thank you so much for believing in this brand and me, and I can't wait to see you continue to change the world with your mission*

## BOARD MEMBER, JACK JOHNSON, REFLECTS ON SIX YEARS OF WORKING WITH HUNTER'S FUND.



**Jack Johnson, Board Member**

It was fraternity rush week 2014 at Syracuse University when Jack Johnson and Hunter Watson first met. As freshmen at Syracuse University, they were brought together in hopes of joining the ranks of Phi Kappa Psi, the same fraternity that Hunter's father, Jerry Watson, helped to establish at the University of Alabama.

"Pledging is not exactly easy... but nothing got Hunter down.

That's really why I gravitated toward him," Jack said. "We'd be doing chores all night, not sleeping well, and he would always have a smile on, just bouncing around the room."

Jack and Hunter would spend two years as fraternity brothers and close friends before Hunter's life was cut short following a car crash the summer between his sophomore and junior year. He was on his way home from a music festival and a passenger in a car that was struck by a distracted driver.

Shortly after Hunter's death, the Syracuse chapter of Phi Kappa Phi chapter— with Johnson as president—hosted the first campus-wide Safe Driving Week during the Fall 2016 semester.

The goal of the event was two-fold: to educate students on the dangers of distracted driving by sharing Hunter's story and to fundraise for the National Safety Council, an organization that educates the public on distracted driving.

"I was pretty involved with the first couple iterations of the safe driving week on campus and doing that in Hunter's name," Jack said. "It was just way more successful than our other philanthropies because of how personal it was to us."

When Jerry pitched the idea of starting a scholarship at Syracuse in Hunter's memory, Jack took a role on the selection committee, helping to review applications and select who would receive a scholarship each semester.

Jack officially joined Hunter's Fund as a board member in August 2021.

"I felt like I had to get more involved," Jack said. "Our chapter lost another brother [to a distracted driving collision] the same year that Hunter died, so it had a big impact on all of us. It was the reason I wanted to become president of the fraternity... to inspire and help others."

In the near future, Jack hopes to spearhead new fundraising efforts for Hunter's Fund in the Chicago area, where he currently lives.

"Even if it's just happy hours and things of that nature, I want to keep Hunter on people's minds and to keep the fund on people's minds," Jack says.

## WHAT PLEDGE SIGNERS ARE SAYING

*We asked students why they want to put an end to distracted driving and what being a safe driver means to them.*

*"Not respecting the privilege of driving by taking the time to focus on the safety of yourself and others."*

**-Kenton F.**

*"Protecting myself, my loved ones, and those I share the road with."*

**-Quinn W.**

*"To me, distracted driving means that you fail to value the lives of others as well as your own."*

**- Mikyle A.**

*"I almost lost my sister to a distracted driver. I pray that others will not drive distracted."*

**- Nick M.**

*"It's dangerous, and people need to learn that it is just as dangerous as driving under the influence."*

**- Liv K.**

*"Someone not paying attention fully in the road. It doesn't have to be a phone but anything that is taking their attention away from driving."*

**- Joe D.**

*"It means putting peoples lives at risk for a text or call that can wait till later."*

**- Lauren V.**

*"Distracted driving means a chance to ruin another life and/or your own life."*

**- Ben S.**

## CAMPUS CAMPAIGN MAILBOX

*Messages Received by Campus Volunteers*

*"Great work for a great cause!"*

**- K.E., Overland Park, KS**

*"So proud of you Jaxon and all that you are doing in your college experience!"*

**- D.H., Clayton, NC**

*"Drive Alive! Focus without all of the distractions."*

**- D.H., Saratoga Springs, NY**

*"Thank you Max, for raising awareness & money for this important cause."*

**- S.M., Norwalk, CT**

*"Happy to help Jack! Thankful for all the driving you have done for our family!!"*

**- J.B., Saunderstown, RI**

*"Great initiative on important issue. Thank you Phi Kappa Psi."*

**- R.G., Newton, MA**

## Hunter's Grants

*Rewarding Imagination!*

*Apply at  
[www.hunterwatson.org](http://www.hunterwatson.org)*

*Your support will help at  
[www.hunterwatson.org/donate](http://www.hunterwatson.org/donate)*

# Hunter's Pledge Campaigns Remembers 2 Young Lives Lost to Distracted Driving

We were deeply saddened by the recent news of two young lives lost to driving accidents.

In December of 2020, 20-year-old Connor Thompson, a student at the University of Colorado was tragically lost in a car accident. In April of 2022, 20-year-old Levi Ward, a student at the University of Kansas, lost his life in a devastating hit-and-run accident.

Both Thompson and Ward were Phi Kappa Psi fraternity brothers of Hunter Watson and were passionate when it came to community involvement.

Thompson was very active on

the fraternity's philanthropy board and took part in many efforts to serve the Boulder community.

Ward was the Men's KU Water Ski Team captain and was also known for his riveting work as a storm chaser for KAKE news.

We have continued to fight for safe driving across college campuses since the devastating loss of Hunter Watson in 2016.

Phi Kappa Psi fraternity chapters have worked to bring Watson's safe driving campaign to nearly 60 campuses over the last few years, including Ward's former campus at the University of

Kansas. Ward himself was a volunteer for the Hunter's Pledge End Distracted Driving campaign on his campus, and his mother has contributed consistently to the three-year-old campaign.

Thompson's former fraternity chapter at the University of Colorado is working to bring the campaign to campus in Fall 2022.

Both campuses will honor the legacies of their lost students by partaking in the safe driving campaign and will encourage current students to sign a pledge to refrain from distracted driving.

## Fueling Dreams and Saving Lives



Gordon Carter with his husband Wes and their rescue dogs Barney and Zach.

I first heard about Hunter Watson in my Phi Kappa Psi fraternity newsletter – and how he died as a passenger in a tragic distracted driving accident. Even though I never met Hunter, he was my fraternity brother, and I was saddened to learn of his passing at such a young age.

Then I had the chance to meet Hunter's dad Jerry. He's a University of Alabama graduate like me and a Phi Kappa Psi brother. Jerry and his wife Judy, along with many of Hunter's friends, have done something truly remarkable to honor Hunter's memory. Through the Hunter's Fund charity, they have turned their

heartbreak into action by powering young people's dreams and saving lives through distracted driving education.

Since learning about Hunter's Fund, I've become a supporter because their work is truly unique in the philanthropic space. Hunter's Fund seeks out young people who dream of something they are deeply curious and passionate about, then provides them with financial resources to explore that passion.

One of my personal passions is adaptive athletics. Here at the University of Alabama, we are a world-class facility designed for the Adapted Athletics program; the first of its

kind on a college campus in the US. Students with disabilities compete in sports from basketball to tennis to track and more. Our teams have won 18 national championships and the program attracts athletes from all over the world.

Through Hunter's Fund, Jeremy Boyd, who had been a star wheelchair tennis player at Alabama, received a grant to realize his dream of starting a ceramics business. It feels great to help nurture the ideas and passions of a student who has worked so hard to overcome tough circumstances.

I also love the Hunter's Pledge campaign which organizes students on college campuses to pledge not to drive distracted. Distracted driving can have lifelong consequences as it did for two brothers who play on Alabama's adaptive basketball team. They lost both their parents in a distracted driving accident that also left them both unable to walk as young children. Now, these young men are not only thriving as wheelchair athletes, but they're also telling their story through Hunter's Fund to inspire others to drive safely.

I support Hunter's Fund because of young people like Jeremy, Aron and Peter Berry. I can't think of a better use of my charitable dollars than fueling young people's dreams and saving young lives – and there's no other organization like it in the country.



Hunter's Pledge  
Saving Lives on  
55 Campuses

- University of Alabama
- Allegheny College
- Beloit College
- UC Berkeley
- Brandeis University
- Univ. of California Davis
- Cal State Northridge
- Cal State-San Luis Obispo
- Capital University
- University of Colorado
- Cornell University
- University of Dayton
- DePaul University
- Drexel University
- Edinboro University
- University of Georgia
- Indiana State University
- Iowa State University
- University of Kansas
- Lafayette College
- University of Louisiana-Lafayette
- Lycoming College
- University of Maryland
- University of Minnesota Duluth
- University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- University of Nebraska
- Northern Illinois University
- Penn State University
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Rhode Island
- University of the Sciences
- Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
- Stanford University
- Stephen F. Austin State University
- SUNY Oneonta
- Syracuse University
- University of Texas
- Texas Tech University
- University of Toledo
- Towson University
- University of Utah
- University of Virginia
- Washington & Jefferson College
- University of Valparaiso

## You Can Make A Lasting Difference

You can help provide for the future of the Hunter's Fund Grants Program by leaving a gift in your will to the Fund. We recommend that you consult with your attorney when drafting a new will, changing an existing will or when creating a living revocable trust, if you wish to include a gift for the Hunter's Fund Grants Program and Safe Driving Program.

Hunter's Fund official name: **The Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund**

Hunter's Fund mailing address: **P.O. Box 326, McLean, VA 22101**

Hunter's Fund telephone number: **(703) 448-0436**

Hunter's Fund identification: **A not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code**

Hunter's Fund tax-exempt number: **EIN 83-0574041**

### Sample Language

*"I give, devise and bequeath to the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund for its general purposes [state fraction or percentage of the rest, residue and remainder] or [the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_] in my estate, both, real or personal"*

### For additional information, please contact:

Kathy Ward, Volunteer Development Director,  
Hunter's Fund, P.O. Box 326, McLean, VA 22101,  
Phone: 1-703-448-0436



Your gift can be mailed to: **HUNTER'S FUND**

**P.O. BOX 326 • MCLEAN, VA 22101**

Please make check payable to Hunter's Fund.  
Contributions are tax deductible.



**YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING ON-LINE AT OUR  
SECURE DONATION WEB SITE:**

**<https://www.hunterwatson.org/donate>**

## Other Ways You Can Give

**1. Retirement Fund Gifts** - Beneficiary designations - Name the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund or any charity you choose to support as an ultimate beneficiary of your IRA, 401(K) or other qualified plan.

**2. IRA** - Did you know if you are 70 1/2 or older there is a provision that allows you to make cash gifts from your IRA to the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund or any charity you wish without having to pay any taxes that would otherwise be due.

**3. Securities** - Donating appreciated stock or Mutual Funds is quick and simple and may provide you with significant tax benefits.

**4. Donor-Advised Funds** - Manage your charitable giving through this convenient, flexible, and most effective alternative to establishing a private foundation.

### For additional information, please contact:

Kathy Ward, Volunteer Development Director, Hunter's Fund  
at 1-703-448-0436.

## HUNTER'S PLEDGE AND DOMINO'S TEAM WASHINGTON: A GREAT PARTNERSHIP



**Lauren Kilber, Director of Marketing and Development for Team Washington**

When I first read about Hunter Watson's death, I had tears streaming down my face. I have two daughters myself and I cannot imagine how a parent survives such a loss. But the Watson family didn't just survive, they built something truly good from their tragedy. Through Hunter's Pledge, they are reducing distracted driving and saving lives. Team Washington is honored to support their mission.

I have been in marketing for many years and have partnered with a lot of worthy nonprofits. Sometimes it can be hard to explain to your people why you are supporting a certain cause. But when I learned about Hunter's Fund, I knew their safe driving campaign was a perfect fit for our company.

We own 77 Dominoes stores in the Washington, D.C. region. Our delivery drivers log tens of thousands of miles on the road each year and keeping them safe is our top priority. Distracted driving is a huge concern for our company, and we're thrilled to support the growth of Hunter's Pledge to end distracted driving.

For us, though, it's so much more than a charitable contribution. Hunter's Pledge is now fully integrated into our company culture. Every member of our management team and all our drivers have signed the pledge. We've made it part of new driver orientation. Starting this fall, we'll be using our pizza boxes to distribute the pledge to our customers throughout the Washington area through our 77 stores.

The issue also hit close to home when one of our marketing team members lost her very best friend in a car accident caused by distracted driving. She's become a champion for Hunter's Fund at Team Washington.

We have really enjoyed our partnership with Jerry, Judith, and the team at Hunter's Fund. We hope more companies that employ delivery drivers will get involved in this important cause.

*Lauren Kilber is the Director of Marketing and Development for Team Washington. She lives in Herndon, VA with her husband Jeremy and their two daughters. She is passionate about keeping all our sons and daughters safe.*

## Hunter's Fund Receives Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency

GuideStar, the world's largest source of nonprofit information, has awarded Hunter's Fund their Platinum Nonprofit Seal of Transparency, their highest level of recognition.

Founded in 2017, Hunter's Fund has provided more than 60 grants to promising young people and, with the support of more than 1,000 volunteers, funded safe driving campaigns on 38 campuses resulting in nearly 50,000 students signing Hunter's Pledge to End Distracted Driving.



# Many Interests – One of a Kind I miss Hunter Watson

- By Phillip Bermingham



Phillip Bermingham

Where do I begin to describe this character, Hunter Watson?

It was in 1996 when I first met him. He was a mere nine months old, and I was making a photographic portrait of the Watson family at their home.

I had photographed Hunter's older brother Teddy before this session, but this was the first and last time I was running the show with Hunter. I felt that every other session we had, and there were many in his life, was scripted, choreographed, and directed by, roll credits, Hunter Watson.

We produced a beautiful album of photographs and it was indeed

the first of many. Hunter always had an angle. The best plans of mice and men would evaporate as soon as Hunter injected his creative juices.

I recall many a playful scene with Teddy and Hunter wrestling with each other. I do believe that scene was de rigueur for every session. On one occasion, when I tried to get them to stand together linking arms, Teddy adamantly refused, saying that "you don't hold hands with the devil." He then wrestled Hunter to the ground and pulled back his hair to show me where Hunters imaginary Devils horns had been removed.

I think I approached every session with enthusiasm and anticipation, and with equal amounts of fear and dread as to the outcome. I would frequently stop by the Watsons' house on the way home from my studio in McLean, VA, and would raid the fridge on my arrival.

For my sixtieth birthday, Jerry and Judy produced a short video about these visits with Hunter playing the role of "yours truly." It was uncanny how in a suit too large for him, he could mimic my mannerisms so that there was no doubt as to who he was portraying.

Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage and the men and women merely players." Indeed, the world was his stage, and he played on it beautifully, creatively, and enthusiastically. He was always surrounded by a coterie of characters who looked to him for direction and guidance.

Tragically my dear, lovable, rascal Hunter made his exit far too prematurely. I miss you, my friend.

At Hunter's Fund you are supporting young men and women of diverse interests and talents, so they can let their passions shine.

The inspiration and our mission come from Hunter himself. He was a young man of extremely diverse talents and interests. Wherever he went, whatever he did, he brought a spark and a smile and a contagious energy that inspired those around him.

And while his life was too short, and the hurt that those who loved him feel will never fully heal, there is a peace that comes from knowing that Hunter succeeded in *getting the most out of every day he lived*:

**As a boy and a young man ...** Hunter lit up the lives of his mother, Judy, his father, Jerry, his older brother, Teddy, and all his extended family.

**As a friend ...** Hunter cultivated deep and lasting relationships and will never be forgotten by those who knew him best.

**As an athlete ...** Hunter loved baseball, soccer, football and wrestling, excelling as an individual while always striving to lift up his teammates.

**As a musician ...** Hunter formed his first band at age 10 and never stopped loving, playing and performing music. (You can watch a video of Hunter's Black Out Band playing their song "Video Games" on YouTube.)

**As a student ...** Hunter graduated from Potomac School, enrolled at Syracuse University and joined Phi Kappa Psi, learning and growing and making new friends each year — while never forgetting his old ones.

**As an entrepreneur ...** Hunter worked with area nightclubs to encourage teens-only, no-alcohol nights which he then managed and promoted. He was also beginning work on his own technology-based business.

**As a person ... there will never be another Hunter.** While he had many interests, he was one-of-a-kind. Thank you for supporting Hunter's Fund, so that young men and women with talent, energy and passion can have a chance to follow their dreams ... *just as Hunter did every day.*

Philip Bermingham recently published a collection of his most famous photographs worldwide. Now available from Amazon.

