



UPDATE

Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund
FALL 2020

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.

Hunter's Pledge Redesigned for Covid Safety on Campuses

As colleges and universities race to determine what the 2020-2021 school year will look like in the face of COVID-19, organizations like Hunter's Fund that rely on on-campus partnerships are facing a historic challenge of their own: reimagining outreach and fundraising strategies that follow CDC guidelines and provide touch-free, socially distanced experiences.

Outreach at colleges typically revolves around tabling events; organizers set up a table in a widely populated area of campus, staff it with rotating shifts of volunteers, and encourage students to gather and sign paper pledge-cards to receive promotional materials.

But standing in line and sharing pens to sign paper pledge cards is no longer an option in the COVID-19 era, and organizations are having to quickly strategize new ways to keep promotional campaigns alive without traditional resources.



SCAN AND SIGN HUNTER'S PLEDGE AND RECEIVE WRISTBAND OR KEYCHAIN

To use a QR code, a participant opens their smartphone camera and points it towards the code on a promotional poster. Upon scanning the code, a screen to sign Hunter's Pledge will pop up on the participant's phone. After filling out the form and signing the pledge, participants are shown a "Thank You" page and have the option to show their screen to a volunteer to receive a gift, or choose to receive

their gift in the mail.

In anticipation of a decline in foot traffic during the Fall 2020 semester, the virtual "Thank You" page



Posters with QR Codes are replacing pledge signing tables with long lines.



Campaign Kits now contain facemasks for volunteers

includes links to share Hunter's Pledge on Twitter and Facebook, allowing participants to spread the message with content that encourages their social media friends and followers to sign up and "join us in saving lives."

Additionally, volunteers can hang the QR code posters around campus away from tabling events, enabling a larger outreach and at-

tracting students who may not want to approach a table. Posters will also include a short-link URL "yes20.org", for students who prefer not to use QR codes.

While the future of campus life is still unclear, Hunter's Fund is taking the initiative to create a new model for nonprofit engagement that prioritizes safety while keeping up the fight to end distracted driving in the COVID-19 era.



Hunter's Pledge Saving Lives on 34 Campuses

- University of Alabama
- UC Berkeley
- Univ. of California Davis
- Cal State Northridge
- Cal State-San Luis Obispo
- Coe College
- Cornell University
- Drexel University
- Edinboro University
- Elberta High School
- Fairmont State University
- Foley High School
- University of Georgia
- Indiana State University
- University of Kansas
- Lafayette College
- Lycoming College
- University of Maryland
- University of Minnesota Duluth
- University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- University of Rhode Island
- Northern Illinois University
- Penn State University
- Potomac School
- University of Pennsylvania
- Simpson College
- Southern Illinois University
- SUNY Oneonta
- Syracuse University
- University of Texas
- Texas Tech University
- University of Toledo
- West Georgia College
- West Point High School

HUNTER'S FUND UPDATE

FALL 2020

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.

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You Made Six New Grants Possible

**Jademan Baker**

Jademan Baker is a Brooklyn-based fashion designer, SCAD graduate, and founder

of the sustainable fashion brand LOM + MOY (Less Of Me and More Of You.) Her work centers around sustainable, eco-conscious fashion and creating fresh dialogues around the Bible.

"Being black. Being a woman. Being a follower of Jesus and being a friend, I have always been in search of my voice. A voice that is honest, empathetic, and loving... one that is clear, that unites, and that inspires change," Baker said.

The brand will operate through a rental business mod-

el, allowing customers to lease elevated special-occasion pieces made with recycled materials and eco-friendly fabric. Baker hopes that the rental structure will serve as a model for conscious, sustainable clothing lines.

Hunter's Fund will help fund a website and photoshoot for her brand's first collection. "My goal is to merge faith and fashion by designing for the modern-day Eve and hopefully expanding the brand to one day, design for the modern-day Adam as well."

Nicholas Barba

Nicholas Barba is an entrepreneur, Eagle Scout, and founder of Smarta, a cutting-edge "smart home" app that streamlines and protects communications between landlords and tenants. The idea was dreamed up while Barba was a student at Syracuse and uses blockchain technology to provide an uber-secure app that connects tenants to their landlords.

"We are combating the standard that enjoying a connected and smart home requires the sacrifice of your personal privacy," Barba said.

After pitching Smarta in Syracuse's Orange Tank competition and winning a cash student prize, Barba and his team were able to register the company as a C-Corporation and begin researching development. Hunter's Fund will enable the company to continue developing its blockchain technology, create and pay a technical team to finish app development, and launch a market-ready product by 2021.

"With Smarta, we have the potential to help millions of people protect their personal data from hackers and advertis-



ers, all the while enjoying the benefits of modern smart technology."

**Kenichia Charles**

Kenichia Charles is a biomedical technician, teacher,

and entrepreneur dedicated to improving the safety and efficiency of medical equipment in the Caribbean islands.

While working in the medical field in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Charles noticed a severe lack of resources and attention to the upkeep and maintenance of medical equipment.

"Preventative maintenance and performance inspection of medical equipment contribute to prolonged equipment lifespan as well as to reduction in the failure rate of the equipment."

Her grant from Hunter's Fund will provide the means to invest in biomedical repair tools and test equipment to establish the first medical equipment maintenance and repair company in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"What I have recognized over the years is that many health professionals and administrators have failed to place much-needed emphasis on the importance of the maintenance of medical machinery, particularly in St. Vincent and the Grenadines," Charles said.

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You Made Six New Grants Possible

(Continued from page 2)

Willow Collins

Grant winner Willow Collins and partner Laura Beard are working to revolutionize the music production and recording experience for young women and non-binary musicians in the UK through opening a recording studio dedicated to community service and music education.

“We want to create an environment that encourages young people to engage with music

and technology and learn transferable skills that will stay with them for the rest of their lives... Everybody should have access to a recording space that allows their art to express itself,” Collins said.

The concept was born out of a desire to interrupt the male-dominated music industry, and Collins’ commitment to creating a diverse space for young musicians is what sets their studio

apart from others in the industry.

“We want to send the elevator back down, and construct a space less intimidating and abrasive for the future women and non-binary artists of the music industry.”

The money from Hunter’s Fund will enable Collins and Beard to purchase equipment for their recording studio, provide workshops and skills classes, and hire teachers.



Semesha Corea

Semesha Corea is a media entrepreneur and the founder of EDGE Media Centre, a boutique digital marketing firm specializing in creating videography, photography, and graphic design content for small businesses and nonprofits in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The company’s mission is to connect young audiences to the history and culture of the islands by creating educational videos and digital

content that highlight important voices, causes, and traditions in Caribbean culture.

“We want to help our Vincentian children connected to their roots and connect to their culture using the platform of video... to act as the bridge and reawaken the passing down of traditions and culture and create an appreciation for the current times,” Corea said.

Hunter’s Fund will enable Corea to create the pilot season

of a show that will dive deep into the history of the islands and its people. “We will be creating the experience of sitting on the porch, listening to your grandmother telling tales of when she was younger, the fairy tales of old and mysterious creatures that used to hang around, the beginning of a tradition. Let’s make history entertaining and start family conversations about heritage again”.

Census Hinds

Census Hinds is the founder of Cariway, a tourism company in St. Vincent and the Grenadines offering kayaking and diving tours to locals and tourists alike. The company was inspired by the idea of enabling locals to have unique experiences within their own country and showing island inhabitants hidden gems of their homeland.

Hinds founded Cariway after college with his own savings but has dreamed of expanding its offerings to island-hopping tours, recreational fishing and small boat tours.

“I did all tours myself for a full year, learning what my customers actually like and want, grew the kayak fleet, and then hired an employee,” Hinds said.

The money from Hunter’s

Fund will help Hinds buy a larger boat, fishing gear, snorkeling equipment, and hire additional employees to expand Cariway’s scope in the Caribbean tourism industry.

“If I am able to complete this current project with Cariway, my community would benefit directly with a job opportunity for youths who may be interested in tourism and entrepreneurship on the whole.”



**HUNTER’S FUND IS LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASTIC,
PASSIONATE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PROMISING IDEAS.**

The 8th Round of Grant Applications is now open for those ages 16 to 25.

Deadlines are November 15th and June 15th.

Applications are available at <https://www.hunterwatson.org/hunters-grant>

Grants Committee - 8 More Volunteers Helped This Round

With the surge in applications during the Covid shutdown, Hunter's Fund is grateful to these eight young people for volunteering their time to join our Grants Committee to review and score the many applications received. A total of 22 Committee members spent an average of 15 hours each, reading, scoring, and sharing their comments on each application before watching pitch videos from the finalists and choosing the most promising to award grants based upon the available funds.



Alexandra Bass

From Washington, DC

A 2019 graduate from Syracuse University with majors in Broadcast & Digital Journalism and International Relations, Alexandra currently works as an Account Executive at Ruder Finn, supporting the Corporate Healthcare Unit. She is currently residing in New York City.



Dylan Gans

From Hoboken, New Jersey

A 2018 graduate from Syracuse University in Finance, Dylan now works as a Director of Growth & Marketing at Good Uncle. He currently resides in Manhattan.



Matt Grover

From Ceder Point, New York

A current student from Syracuse University majoring in Finance and Accounting, Matt is a Junior Analyst at The Orange Value Fund, LLC..



Isaac Reisman

From Briarcliff Manor, New York

Expected to graduate in 2022 from Syracuse University, Isaac studies Finance and Accounting. During his free time, he volunteers at Enactus engaging in Youth Development.



Emma Rothman

From Cranford, New Jersey

2019-2020 Hunter Brooks Watson Scholar, Kayla is studying Food Studies at Syracuse University and is expected to graduate in May of 2021. Emma is currently the Hunter Brooks Watson Scholar at Syracuse University.



Chris Savold

From Bethesda, Maryland

Expected to graduate in 2022 from Syracuse University, Chris is studying Advertising & Marketing Management. He also works as an intern for Syracuse's Football program in Recruiting Database & Evaluation and partners with Hunter's Fund as Philanthropic Chairman for Syracuse's Safe Driving Week.



Kayla Simon

From Jackson, New Jersey

A 2019 graduate from Syracuse University with a degree in Aerospace Engineering, Kayla is now working as a Propulsion Test Engineer at Virgin Orbit in Mojave, California. She was also the 2018-2019 Hunter Brooks Watson Scholar at Syracuse University.



Lia Tabackman

From McLean, Virginia

A 2018 graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with degrees in Digital Journalism and Political Science, Lia now works as a Digital Producer at CBS 6 News and writes for Hunter's Fund newsletter and blog.

Modest in Size, Mighty in Dedication ...

Edinboro University Fraternity Brothers Celebrate Successful Hunter's Pledge Campaign



Edinboro University in Pennsylvania



Hunter's Fund applauds the recent efforts of the Pennsylvania Xi Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity at Edinboro University for its unflinching perseverance in holding a successful on-campus Safe Driving tabling campaign.

Natalie Kwon, project manager at Hunter's Fund, lauded Conrad Woods, who chairs the chapter's philanthropy committee. "Conrad's chapter has just eight members. Throughout the planning, he was juggling a hectic class schedule and other time-consuming priorities at his chapter. But he didn't give up. Learning to delegate

tasks to other members was an important lesson for him. In the end, the brothers persevered, securing 344 pledges at the table."

Conrad is committed to helping future brothers expand next year's safe driving campaign, hoping to increase their reach through more tables.

"What Penn Xi may lack in numbers we make up for in charisma, personality, and dedication. Being so small makes it a little hard. However, our guys work their hardest to make events like this a success. Hunter's Fund did an amazing job of helping things run easily and smoothly. And I really liked that our chapter had the flexibility to do things our own way and at our own pace, without regimented expectations or a set of regulations we had to follow."

**Thank you,
Penn Xi brothers,
for your dedication
to safe driving!**



Hunter's Pledge Event Launched at Cal Poly



Gavin Dayment and his fraternity brothers encouraging classmates to sign pledges not to drive distracted at California Polytechnic State University.

When brothers at the California Eta Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi were unable to hold their previously planned winter philanthropy event, they searched online for a good alter-

native. That's when philanthropy chairman Gavin Dayment ran across the Safe Driving Campaign offered by Hunter's Fund.

"As one of the larger Greeks on campus here, we are well known by the majority of people on campus and in Greek life," Gavin said. "We have a great relationship with the school and students here at Cal Poly (California Polytechnic State University). So it was a good fit! Jerry and Natalie at Hunter's Fund are very easy to talk to and made my job run very smoothly ... they actually do a lot of the work – helping us step-by-step, having planning calls, getting donation details set up, and sending us all

the supplies we need."

Gavin still needed his brothers' help, and he wasn't disappointed. "We had a good majority pitching in to spread awareness. And many more showed up at the booth than I expected. We had one table location for about four hours and got around 200 signatures from students and other people walking past the booth. It was a great day and fun to be a part of."

Gavin said this event has definitely made him more conscientious about his own driving habits. He will be encouraging his Phi Kappa Psi brothers to make the Hunter's Fund Safe Driving Campaign an annual event.

Safe Driving Pledge Nights Sororities find New Ways to Make a Difference



Simpson College Kappa Alpha sorority hosts Hunter's Pledge signing night

In 2017, Hunter's Fund launched its first Safe Driving Campaign at Syracuse University. Hosted by Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, the pledge-signing-and-fundraising effort soon caught on with Phi Kappa Psi chapters around the country.

By early 2020, more than two dozen fraternity chapters were taking part on campuses nation-

wide. Over 17,000 students and friends signed "Hunter's Pledge to end distracted driving."

Now, Hunter's Fund is rolling out a new version of its campaign specifically for sororities.

"We've been looking for a way to expand our efforts onto campuses without a Phi Kappa Psi chapter," said Jerry Watson, who helped found Hunter's Fund fol-

lowing a distracted driving accident that claimed his son's life in 2016. "There's been a lot of interest and enthusiasm among the young women's groups."

Hunter's Fund provides free materials and easy-to-follow instructions. Unlike the days-long initiative of the original Safe Driving Campaign, sororities can complete the new pledge drive in less than an hour during a chapter meeting or another house-wide event.

Kappa Kappa Gamma at Simpson College, Tri Delta at Coe College, and Alpha Sigma Epsilon at Emporia College rolled out the effort in their chapters in early 2020.

Alpha Sigma Epsilon's Natalee Sharp said, "I was excited about this opportunity to educate members as to how serious an issue distracted driving is."

Natalee ordered the kit online, set up informational posters, and

delivered a short message from the talking points provided. "I encouraged everyone to sign the pledge to help save their own lives and the lives of those around them ... and every girl did."

Natalee was further encouraged that her sisters began wearing the wristbands and using the reminder pens that were included in the kit. "That reinforced to me that the pledge was really something they took to heart. It was an amazing opportunity."

Participating chapter members are further invited to donate a gift to Hunter's Fund to help expand the effort to more sororities, spreading this nationwide campaign to reduce the loss of life from something entirely preventable.

For more information on hosting a sorority signing night, visit: hunterwatson.org/chapter-campaign or contact Natalie Kwon natalie@hunterwatson.org.

Appreciation Party Goes Viral, Supporters Gather Online



Background slide from Zoom-Based Appreciation Party

A deal with one of the country's top record labels, a podcast interviewing famous entrepreneurs and athletes, and a job with the Smithsonian Institution — these are just a few of the opportunities that Hunter's Fund grant recipients have encountered, thanks in part to the generosity of donors across the country.

The Hunter's Fund annual Donor Appreciation Party took to Zoom on May 16 to catch up with three grant recipients who have propelled their careers after receiving their grants.



Jacob O'Connor

and entrepreneurs.

Grant recipient Calum Smeaton's "obsession" with music has defined his life. His passions led him from playing guitar as a child to producing beats and selling music to other artists to use in their songs. In high school, customers began asking Smeaton if he had a recording studio for rent. So he cleared out a closet, purchased recording gear, and created a makeshift studio.

"And that's where I was when I needed the grant," Smeaton explained. "I ended up in a kind of a vicious cycle really where I needed to keep up with gear that gets more and more expen-



Zoom has become a popular tool for communicating with Grantees and other Hunter's Fund Members

The event, moderated by Jacob O'Connor, featured interviews with grant winners Calum Smeaton and Jackson Hirsh.

O'Connor is a high school senior who received a grant from Hunter's Fund to pursue his dream of hosting a podcast. Now, O'Connor's "Venture Mentality" podcast has more than 100 episodes, featuring some of the world's most inspirational authors, athletes,

sive."

While working towards his degree at UVA and brainstorming how to expand his studio, Smeaton caught a glimpse of a newspaper tossed in a trashcan — and saw an ad for Hunter's Fund.

"It was actually kind of miraculous," Smeaton said. "Really. I just picked it up out of the trash can. And I thought this is it. This is what I've been thinking about... I can't overstate how grateful I am."

After receiving the grant, Smeaton scored a gig working as an audio engineer for the Smithsonian Institution. While the gigs required Smeaton to drive back and forth from Charlottesville to Washington D.C. while juggling college courses,

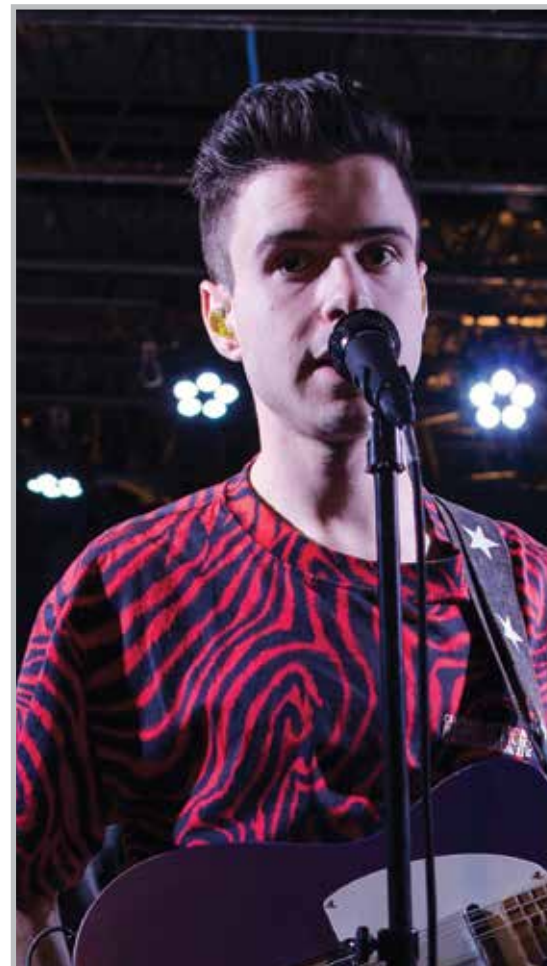


Calum Smeaton

the grant enabled him to continue reinvesting and growing his business despite a packed schedule.

The webinar party also featured a performance from Jackson Hirsh, who performs under the moniker "Rence." Hirsh received a grant from Hunter's Fund while studying at NYU and pursuing his music career and has since signed a record deal with Sony Music's Epic Records — home to music giants including Mariah Carey, Outkast, and Travis Scott.

"I can't stress enough how much this grant changed my life," Hirsh said. "The money that I



Jackson Hirsh A.K.A "Rence"

received was used to buy the pieces of gear, musical instruments, my new computer that quite literally produced the song that got me signed to a record deal, that got me on tour, that got me to the next level. So it's a direct correlation between the two."

Hunter's Fund (The Hunter Watson Memorial Fund) is a tax exempt Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which was formed to award grants and scholarships to promising students and promotes programs to improve of the safety of our young people.

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**
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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, 402(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.

Helping Others Grow into Their Greatness

- By Jo Jo Fauchier, *France*



Jo Jo Fauchier

Hunter Watson was like "the boy next door" at our house on Mustique. At first, I was friends with his older brother Teddy, who was closer to my age. In those early years, Hunter was just the kid brother. A bit goofy. He loved video games and music and wrote songs about video games.

Then one day I looked up and said, "Wow, Hunter's not a kid anymore." And we discovered that we had a lot in common. He could be silly, but he was also extremely kind and very smart.

One summer in particular, we spent nearly all of our time on the island with each other — when I left to return to the U.K., I knew I was really going to miss him.

When I heard Hunter had died, I was really sad because I know he and I would have been friends for life. I still think of him often. I wasn't one of his closest friends, but Hunter had a huge impact on me.

He still shows up in my dreams sometimes. He'll say, "I'm here, and I'm always around." And when I wake up, I'm reminded how much he is still present in the people who knew him, and on the island, and the entire community that Hunter's Fund is helping to create.

It's so fitting that Hunter is still helping people even though he's gone. He always gave people the opportunity to be themselves fully. That was his gift to everyone who knew him. But, ironically, because his own life was cut short, he never had the chance to fully blossom himself. I'm so grateful, that through Hunter's Fund, he's still helping others grow into their greatness today.

One New Year's Eve after Hunter died, I was dancing with Teddy. I said, "I really wish Hunter was here." He said, "Me too." We were completely still. I told him about the dream. He cried a bit and I cried a bit. And we hugged. It was really lovely.

Then we did a dance and it felt like Hunter was there dancing with us.

Jo Jo Fauchier is a performance designer in theater and film. Her latest work is with the Fonact Theatre Company in France. A graduate of Central Saint Martins in London, she currently works in both London and Paris. When she's not working, she can usually be found painting.

The Hunter Watson Memorial Fund awards grants and scholarships to promising students and provides programs to improve the safety of our young people. The Hunter Watson Memorial Fund is a Non Profit organization (EIN 83-0574041). Virginia residents may obtain a Financial Statement from the Virginia State Office of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218, 1-804-786-1343. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, or 1-800-825-4510. New York residents may also obtain a copy of HBW Fund's first Annual Report when filled in 2019 by writing to the Office of Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau:Registration Section, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. REGISTRATION WITH ANY STATE DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.

FREE SPIRIT SPARKS LASTING CHANGE

- by *Sharyn Stein,*
Hunter's teacher

Sharyn Stein has been committed to student success at the Potomac School in McLean, VA for 29 years as a much admired teacher, coach and administrator. She instructed Hunter and his brother Teddy in Math as well as teaching or coaching most of their friends. She has supported Hunter's Fund from day one and helped keep the connection to his school days alive.



Sharyn Stein

If I had to describe Hunter Watson in just a couple words, I would say he was a free spirit. He didn't follow others but created his own path – he was funny and very creative. I had the pleasure of being his teacher, coach and camp director.

Even now that he's been gone a few years, I can still picture him at age 14 when he was one of my apprentice counselors at the Potomac School camp. I planned a project for the counselors to volunteer at a local preschool and the toddlers just loved Hunter. One day, he was riding a tricycle so small for him that his knees were hitting his chin. And all the kids were giggling.

It's been the joy of my life to teach young people like Hunter. . . to coach them in sports . . . and play a small role in shaping their futures. Nothing is more heartbreaking than losing one of them at such a young age. I will always have a special spot in my heart for Hunter.

Now I'm a proud donor to Hunter's Fund. Many people don't know that this organization exists in part because of an incredible group of young people, Hunter's friends, who stepped up to plan and build it. I taught some of these kids in 7th and 8th grade and to see how they have matured and grown through this nonprofit work is really inspiring.

These young men and women have demonstrated genuine leadership to keep Hunter's spirit alive and it's truly an honor to be a part of it. I love the whole mission of the organization, but I am especially passionate about ending distracted driving.

I tell kids all the time, when you are in the car, just drive. Don't fuss with the radio or your phone. In the blink of an eye, your whole life could change. It's just not worth it. As long as Hunter's Fund continues carrying that message and growing future leaders, I will keep opening my checkbook to support them.

So much good has come from the tragedy of Hunter's death. Every time I donate, a little smile comes across my face remembering Hunter on that tricycle.

Many Interests – One of a Kind



At the Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund we're supporting young men and women of diverse interests and talents, so they can let their passions shine.

Our 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 the Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund so that young men and women with talent, energy and passion can get to follow their dreams ... *just as Hunter did every day.*