



# BUDDY MCKEEL SCHOLARSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF FIRST RESPONDERS

BMS Newsletter

July 2024

## Scholarship Update

We have recently completed another successful scholarship season and are proud to announce that this year we awarded scholarships to nine very deserving Carteret County graduates totaling \$47,000, bringing our three year total to over \$110,000. Without you this would not have been possible.

Congratulations to our 2024 recipients and best of luck to you in your future endeavors!



*I support BMS because it's a wonderful cause. I commend the McKeel Family for turning tragedy into hope. I believe it's important to invest in our next generation and the BMS Foundation does so in a fantastic way by providing scholarships to children of our first responders. How could I not be a part of this! -*

T

Trish Slape  
Century 21 Coastal Advantage  
and BMS Board Member

## In This Issue

- 2024 Scholarship Recipients
- 3rd Annual Fins and Feathers-October 12th, 2024
- 3rd Annual My Buddy's Farm Dove Hunt-September 7th, 2024
- Word from Board Chair

# 2024 BMS Scholarship Recipients

Emily Guthrie - West Carteret High School

Kayla Cole - West Carteret High School

Jadyn Melby - Croatan High School

Haley Odham - Croatan High School

Erin Phillips - Croatan High School

Lawren Carleigh Willis - East Carteret High School

Ella Clifton - East Carteret High School

Lilith Lupold - New Bern Christian Academy

Emma Silva - Southside High School



# BMS Fall Fundraising and Fellowship Opportunities

## Fins and Feathers Update

October 12, 2024

We are excited to announce that plans have begun for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fins and Feathers fund-raiser. Once again we will be partnering with Matt and Mindy Fitzpatrick and The Friendly Market for the event.

This year's event will take on a totally new format. It will be held outdoors at The Friendly Market on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 3:00 pm till 6:00 pm. A Fall Festival, family-friendly theme is being planned with delicious food, entertainment, fun activities, an exciting auction and more. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for what promises to be another awesome event.



## My Buddy's Farm Dove Hunt

On Saturday, September 7th, we will host our 3rd Annual My Buddy's Farm Dove Hunt with 100% of the proceeds benefiting BMS. Limited tickets will be available for this event.

You may contact Gary McKeel at [gwmckeel@yahoo.com](mailto:gwmckeel@yahoo.com) for further information.

## Shotgun Raffle

Once again one of our generous supporters has donated a shotgun for this year's Shotgun Raffle. Details will be available soon.

We will continue to keep you abreast of details pertaining to these exciting events as September/October approach. Information will be posted on our **FACEBOOK** page as well as our website. Be sure to **LIKE** the Buddy McKeel Scholarship for Children of First Responders **FACEBOOK** page so that you don't miss any of the details. Also don't forget to **SHARE** the page with your friends.

Thank you for your support and we hope you will join us this Fall for these exciting events.

## A Word From Our Board Chair



I would like to start by thanking everyone who has supported “BMS” and has helped to make its first three years such a huge success. Without all of you this would not have been possible.

When Buddy and I walked out of the West Carteret High School Auditorium in May of 2017 after attending the scholarship awards ceremony I had no idea what was to come. The birth of an idea to give back to the community by helping the students who may not be in the top of their class but wanted to go on to some form of higher education was conceived.

I tossed the idea out to Buddy and he simply said “I think you should do it Dad”. The idea stayed with me until the week after his death in May of 2021. I knew then, that we had to do this to honor Buddy and to honor how much he enjoyed helping others. That week as family and friends came to pay their respects and show support for our loss, I pitched the idea to them. It was overwhelming just how much support was given to the idea.

Through their support and the support of many donors and participants in our fundraising efforts we have been able to award \$110,000.00 in scholarships to 24 deserving graduating seniors. Buddy would be proud of our efforts!

Thanks again and I look forward to seeing everyone during our upcoming fundraising season.

Gary McKeel  
Chairman  
The Buddy McKeel Scholarship for Children of First Responders