Introducing the 2017-2018
Jackson Casey Fund / ThanksUSA
Scholarship Recipients

Including this year’s $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Ireland Maguire has received consecutive ThanksUSA scholarships totaling $12,000 for undergraduate studies.

A Navy Reserve dependent from Farr West, Utah, Ireland recently completed the Licensed Practical Nurse Program at Bridgeland Applied Technology College and is currently enrolled in Weber State University’s Registered Nursing Program.

“I obtained a nursing job and have loved applying classroom skills to real life situations. Beginning my career as a nurse has been very exciting. Two tough years are ahead of me but I know that achieving a Bachelor’s degree in Nursing will be well worth it. My long-term goal is to obtain certification and licensure as a nurse practitioner.”

Besides her full-time position as an LPN, Ireland enjoys volunteering with Friends of the Elderly. “Furthering my education was the best decision I ever made, yet it would not be possible without your generous contribution in providing this scholarship. Thank you for allowing the opportunity to further my education and accomplish these goals without the great burden of financial stress.”
Isabella Chiraini was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin undergraduate studies at the College of William and Mary.

This Air Force dependent from Gastonia, North Carolina, plans to double major in History and International Relations to prepare for a career in counterintelligence. “This will help me develop a better understanding of the world and cultures around me so that I may serve my country.”

Isabella is a student of the Sharpe Community Scholars program and has joined the Student Environmental Action Coalition. She is an active member of the National Organization for Women and enjoys tutoring young students through the Griffin School Partnership.

“My education is a top priority and this scholarship is incredibly helpful in allowing me to continue at the College of William and Mary. I am so honored to represent the memory of Jackson Casey and the ThanksUSA scholarship foundation.”

Madeline Howe from Gainesville, Florida, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue Microbiology and Cell Science majors at the University of Florida.

The daughter of a Navy Reservist, Madeline minors in Disabilities in Society. Her ultimate goal is to attend dental school and specialize in treating people with disabilities. “My favorite activity is volunteering with the Integrated Fitness and Unified Sports Program. UF students are paired with students with disabilities from a local high school. We develop a relationship with our ‘buddy’ and devise a fitness program to track their progress throughout the semester.”

To help prepare for dental school, Madeline serves as a research assistant with Dr. Edward Chan’s Oral Biology lab in the College of Dentistry at UF.
Navy dependent Natalie Ebreo received her third $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue undergraduate studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

The Virginia Beach native majors in Mechanical Engineering with the goal of pursuing a career as a Civil Engineer Corps officer in the United States Navy.

Natalie is active with several campus organizations including Engineers Without Borders, the Society of Women Engineers, and Hypatia Women in Engineering. She has also completed internships with GE Aviation and Burns & McDonnell.

“Thank you for all that you do in supporting the military community and for your continued support of my education. I am humbled to be chosen for such a high honor. Your support has made a profound impact on my life and future. I am grateful to be part of a military family and will strive to embody the highest ideal of character.”

Tedris Smith II from Shreveport, Louisiana, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Civil Engineering major at Louisiana Tech University.

Concerned about the decaying infrastructure of our nation, this Army Reserve dependent plans to pursue a career as a civil engineer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition to his studies, Tedris is a member of the National Eagle Scout Association and Student Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He also serves as Lay Eucharistic Minister at Holy Trinity Parish in Shreveport.

“I am honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship! I will continuously strive to honor the memory of Jackson Casey and exemplify the goals of ThanksUSA through my studies.”
With the assistance of a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Idaho native and Air National Guard dependent Cheyenne Wilkerson is continuing a Dance Choreography and Performance major at Brigham Young University in Idaho.

Cheyenne is a member of the BYUI Collegiate Dance Team and, although pursuing a fine arts undergraduate degree, Cheyenne is taking pre-requisite classes necessary to apply to a medical-field graduate program. “I am currently interested in physical therapy and speech pathology.” To help her decide on a specific graduate program, Cheyenne is actively seeking volunteer positions in each field.

“I am beyond grateful for your generous donations to this scholarship fund that has allowed students to fulfill their educational goals and dreams. Education is an ongoing endeavor and a pathway to success. I hope to pursue education not only now, but for the rest of my life. Thank you for all that you do and have done. May God bless you for your kindness.”

The Wilkerson Family
Air Force dependent **Brianna Cupp** from Niceville, Florida, was awarded her second $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue undergraduate studies at Stetson University in Florida.

The daughter of a Purple Heart recipient, Brianna majors in Sociology and Psychology with a minor in Education and the Certificate of Community Engagement. “My passion is youth protection and support. I currently volunteer at a group home for teenage girls in the foster care system. I plan to take a year off after graduation and work for a nonprofit focusing on children.”

Brianna is a student of the Honors Program and serves as a Student Ambassador. She enjoys volunteering with the Bonner Program and serves as Philanthropy Vice-President of Alpha Chi Omega.

“The Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship creates a positive chain reaction by lessening the financial burden on military families. I cherish the opportunities that this scholarship has afforded me.”

Air Force dependent **Justin Kidd** from Boydton, Virginia, has received consecutive Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships totaling $9,000 for a Kinesiology major at James Madison University.

A student of the JMU Honors Program, Justin follows a Pre-Med curriculum with a concentration in Exercise Science. He recently completed an Externship Program at Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital and looks forward to applying to graduate school.

Justin serves as a Kinesiology Teacher’s Assistant for Human Biomechanics and is involved with the Pre-Med and Pre-Physical Therapy societies. He also enjoys performing with the JMU Marching Dukes as a Mellophone player.

In addition to his studies, Justin is a Volunteer Mentor/Facilitator with the Virginia Special Olympics.

“Your generous support has helped me continue achieving a college education. My deepest gratitude for making the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship possible.”
Air Force dependent **Emily Wright** from Yorktown, Virginia, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue a Mathematics major at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Emily plans to earn teaching credentials and be an elementary school educator.

“My goal as a teacher would be not only to teach from a classroom element, but to instill lifelong lessons within my students to develop a strong work ethic while also developing a spirited personality who cares for others and ensure a deep sense of community, respect, and confidence.”

Emily is gaining valuable experience as a volunteer math tutor at Margaret Beeks Elementary School. She is also a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and serves as Community Service Officer for the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Service Organization.

Including this year’s Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, **Kera Kearns** has received ThanksUSA scholarships totaling $12,000.

An Army National Guard dependent from Sutton, West Virginia, Kera attends West Virginia Wesleyan College where she majors in Graphic Design with a minor in Business.

A member of the WVWC Student Art League, Kera has participated in campus art shows and worked as a Student Assistant for the Psychology Department. She has designed works for several organizations including the Upshur County Public Library, Red Maple Farm, Braxton County 4-H, and WVWC student organizations. Most recently, Kera completed an internship at On Point Athletics.

After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Kera intends to move to North Carolina or Tennessee to begin a career in graphic design.
Montana Cottle, an Army dependent from Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Criminal Justice and Forensic Science majors at the University of Nebraska.

Upon completion of undergraduate studies, Montana intends to join the Armed Forces. “My goal is to serve the United States and her people. The men and women who have served before me have preserved our freedom and I feel that it is my time to give back.”

Xavian Williams, an Army Reserve dependent from Fayetteville, North Carolina, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin an Electrical Engineering major at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

“Completed a college degree will help refine my problem-solving, critical thinking, and decision-making abilities. My ultimate goal is to start a tech company that specializes in the production and advancement of hardware.”

Erynn Sorenson, a Navy dependent from Norfolk, Virginia, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Neuroscience major at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Erynn plans to continue her education, pursue a doctorate degree, and combine knowledge of the nervous system with an interest in technology. Ideally, she will have the opportunity to explore prosthetics research during college.
Blake Rowe has set a goal that most of us strive for. "As clichéd as it sounds, I would like to make the world a better place. With the right educational opportunities, I believe that I can."

This Marine Corps dependent was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin Political Science and Economics majors at Seton Hall University. Though his collegiate journey has just begun, Blake is considering service in the Marine Corps or continuing his education and applying to law school.

"I am very appreciative of all you have done to help make college possible. I am currently a freshman at Seton Hall University in Orange, NJ, and I am from California, so it's a huge change for me. I am still trying to adjust to living in the dorms with roommates, and I am trying to stay on top of all of my school work. I cannot imagine finding the time to work right now, so thank you for making it possible for me to just focus on being a freshman."

Blake has begun volunteering for Seton Hall University's DOVE (Department of Volunteer Efforts) program and hopes to participate in a study-abroad during his sophomore or junior year.

"Thank you very much for the generous Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. This scholarship helps to offset many expenses and I thank you for helping students like me."
Army National Guard dependent **Hannah Kiely** from Liberty, Missouri, received a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Political Science major at the University of Arkansas.

Hannah is a student of the Emerging Leaders program and serves as a University Programs Culture Committee Member. She has joined the Kappa Delta sorority and enjoys volunteering with an elementary school literacy program.

After completing undergraduate studies, Hannah intends to obtain a law degree and work at the Department of Defense or a similar government entity.

“I am honored and grateful to be a recipient of the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. It has alleviated some of the stress that accompanies paying for school and is helping in my attempt to graduate with minimal debt. Thank you so much for your extreme generosity -- it is sincerely appreciated.”

**Jordan Villegas**, a Marine Corps dependent from Menifee, California, has received consecutive $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships for a Political Science major at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Jordan fostered political interests through an internship with the Republican Party of Riverside County. “My interests began to develop. While I still adored politics, my main focus had shifted into understanding the legal world. I decided that I needed to follow my passion for law.”

Currently in her junior year of undergraduate studies, Jordan is planning to apply to law school. “I yearn for the coming years of education at law school and dream of becoming an attorney. I love learning new things and hope to someday achieve absolute success in the legal field.”

“I cannot begin to express my deepest gratitude for this amazing scholarship. Without individuals like you, the world would be a dimmer place. May God forever bless you and your family.”
Tyra Murray has received consecutive $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships to pursue a Psychology major at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

An Army dependent from Hanover, Maryland, Tyra plans to attend graduate school and specialize in psychiatry. “I have always enjoyed working with people to overcome obstacles. I wish to improve an individual’s mental health so they are ultimately able to live safe, happy, and productive lives.”

Tyra continues to volunteer at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital and interns at a mental health clinic.

In addition to her academic work, Tyra is involved with campus media productions. She is Guest Coordinator for the campus broadcast station, MUTV, and Events Director for MUTV Promotions.

Jacob McCulloh, a Marine Corps dependent from San Marcos, California, has received consecutive Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships totaling $6,000 to study Communications at San Diego State University.

Jacob is a goalie for the SDSU Men’s Ice Hockey Team and plans to apply for a summer internship with the San Diego Gulls American Hockey League Team. “I hope to work in their communication department, setting me up for a job in the field of sports communication after graduation.”

“Thank you for your generous support of my college education. This scholarship helps me and my family afford the costs of San Diego State University’s undergraduate program. My college experience will be more positive knowing that I have the resources to make that happen.”
Siblings Maria and Krista Boretti from Crofton, Maryland, each received a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Currently in her senior year at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania, Maria will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Science degree in International Business with concentrations in Accounting and Spanish.

Though she doesn’t have any long-term plans yet, Maria intends to draw inspiration from overseas experiences. She has studied-abroad in Granada, Spain, and participated in a mission to Rwanda. “I am currently taking a class on Peace and War in a Global World and am very excited about post-graduation opportunities!”

In addition to her studies, Maria is a member of the Elizabethtown Women’s Soccer team. She serves on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, is a Student Athlete Mentor, and coaches soccer at a local preschool center.

Younger sister Krista is embracing college life as a first-year student at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Krista majors in Computer Science and plans to pursue a career in cybersecurity or intelligence. Krista is also a talented athlete who plays Women’s Soccer for the Catholic University Cardinals.

These Army dependents come from a large family and are thrilled to have the financial support of Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships. Maria says, “Your willingness to provide financial assistance to the children of service men and women is a beautiful testament to your support of military families. This scholarship has been a gift and has had a significant impact on my ability to attend a four-year university.” Krista adds, “The Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship is so special and I am extremely grateful for all you have done for our family.”
Juliya Key, a Navy dependent from Honolulu, Hawaii, received her second $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue undergraduate studies at the University of California in Davis. Believing that conflicting financial interests drive disconnect in society, Juliya majors in Economics.

“Placing higher value on social and environmental wellbeing helps dissuade the egocentric, competitive nature that can split individuals from the population. By working in corporate social responsibility, I hope to kindle the three-discipline approach into the business world and form a more cohesive, benevolent societal structure.”

July is a member of the Davis Accounting Society, Davis Color Guard Ensemble, and Agape Dance Team. She also enjoys volunteering with the Radford High School Marching Band as a choreographer.

Alexxa Brown, an Air Force dependent from Magna, Utah, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship for her junior year of studies at Colorado Mesa University where she majors in Nursing with concentrations in Mental Health and Oncology.

Eager to explore all aspects of nursing, Alexxa volunteers in the emergency room and operating theater of a local hospital. She is a member of the Student Nurses Association, promotes fitness and wellness through Real Medicine, and serves as Vice President of Colorado Mesa’s Future Health Professionals.

“My long-term goal is to return to school and pursue a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree specializing in oncology or geriatrics.”

“Thank you so much for the financial assistance of the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. Without your help, my success would be limited. I appreciate your dedication to helping students succeed in their academic endeavors.”
Including this year’s $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Jaleigh Jensen has received ThanksUSA scholarships totaling $9,000 for undergraduate studies at Appalachian State University.

With the end goal of becoming a broadcast news anchor, this Army dependent from Whispering Pines, North Carolina, majors in Electronic Media Broadcasting and Communications. Currently in her senior year, Jaleigh is actively seeking career opportunities with news networks and publishers. She serves as Public Relations Chair of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority and Executive Public Relations Chair of Appalachian State’s National Broadcasting Society.

In addition to her studies, Jaleigh enjoys volunteering with the Hospitality House shelter, mentoring with The Children’s Hope Alliance, and leading an annual campus food drive.

“My education is my highest priority and financial assistance provided by the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship helps in achieving my goals. I am motivated to receive a world-class education and achieve my career goals. The less student loan debt I accumulate, the more options exist for pursuing challenging career opportunities. Thank you very much for providing scholarships to military dependents.”

With the assistance of a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Mackenzie Miller from Peachtree, Georgia, is studying Fashion Merchandising at Georgia Southern University.

The daughter of an Army Reservist, Mackenzie is making long-term plans to open a full-service fashion and lifestyle company. “The business would offer clothing, accessories, photography, and social media outreach. A division of this company would offer the sale of special products to bring awareness to causes that support social values.”

Mackenzie is also interested in running for position as a local elected official. “I would like to bring the perspective of a female business owner to the political scene while serving the community. My platform will consist of issues like bringing greater access to online education, mentorship for women in STEM and business fields, and creating more opportunities for entrepreneurs.”

Mackenzie is already serving the Georgia Southern campus community as an Honors Ambassador and University Programming Board Member.
**Whitney Weaver** was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin Physiology and Biology majors at Brigham Young University in Utah. An Army dependent from Tucson, Arizona, Whitney plans to apply to medical school.

“As a military brat, service was instilled from an early age. The military provided the opportunity to see new places and interact with people from very different backgrounds. I learned to be adaptable, get along with others, and the importance of sacrifice and service. I want a career where I can repay those who have been so instrumental in my development.”

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**Theodore DeLeon** from Stanardsville, Virginia, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a National Security and Foreign Affairs major at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Theodore has joined the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and plans to commission into the United States Air Force upon completion of his undergraduate studies.

“My family is a military family. 'Off we go, into the wild blue yonder,' begins the song my parents sang at Air Force ceremonies. When I see a fighter jet fly overhead, I start singing that song and imagine it’s me flying that jet. ROTC is my ticket into the Air Force and Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is my ticket into a jet.”

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Army dependent **Katherine Naylor** from Blowing Rock, North Carolina, received a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Nursing major at Appalachian State University.

Katherine was inspired to become a nurse after completing an Appalachian Service Project that helped disadvantaged families find appropriate low-cost and no-cost health care. “I hope to continue my advanced education in the medical field and work in the under-served medical areas or western North Carolina.”
After his father suffered a debilitating back and leg injury, Air Force dependent Dominic Dudai discovered a passion for helping others.

“My father’s struggles became my struggles and together we persevered to help ease the pain. I have a passion for helping people; it’s what I love to do. I don’t just want to bring this passion to the medical field I want to bring it anywhere I go in life. I want to take it and lift somebody up when they’re down, change somebody’s life for the better, change the world. I want to take it to the campus, to prove I am a high achieving student and community member, and become the doctor that I have always wanted to be.”

Including three consecutive Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships, this Florida native has received ThanksUSA scholarships totaling $12,000 for a Biomedical Sciences major at Troy University in Alabama. Planning to graduate in December 2018, Dominic hopes to complete a perfusion internship with Cleveland Clinic next summer and apply to Perfusion School.

Dominic participates in various campus organizations and has logged over 400 hours of volunteer service. He is Secretary of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, President and Founder of the Troy University Pre-Pharmacy Program, and serves on a science research team.

“Thank you for the opportunity to go to school and follow this dream. There are no words to truly express how grateful I am. This scholarship has enabled me take the classes I needed and, it affords the opportunity to excel and help people in need. God bless and thank you from the bottom of my heart!”
Grace Finley from Alexandria, Virginia, was awarded consecutive $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships for an Accounting major at Butler University in Indiana.

Grace plans to become a certified public accountant and fraud examiner. Her ultimate goal is to work as a forensic accountant with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She also has plans to serve in the Indiana Army National Guard.

“The Army is the community that I was born into and the one that has raised me to be a successful person. I have always known that I will eventually follow in my family’s footsteps and serve my country as they did for generations. My family’s dedication and selfless patriotism is what motivates me to pursue being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Indiana Army National Guard after I finish my undergraduate degree.”

Grace is a member of the Butler Army ROTC Color Guard and Team Leader of the Indiana National Guard Warrior Challenge Team.

With the assistance of a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Air Force dependent Elizabeth Kasten from Arlington, Virginia, is continuing a Nursing major at nearby Marymount University.

Elizabeth was inspired to pursue a career as a nurse after volunteering at a children’s hospital. She now plans to continue her education, earn a Master of Science in Nursing, and specialize in pediatric nursing. “My goal in life is to know every day I helped a sick child and made his or her life a little better on this Earth.”

In addition to her studies, Elizabeth participates in numerous campus and community service projects and has been elected President of the Marymount University Service Team.

“Thank you so much for sponsoring the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. Receiving this scholarship has led me one step closer to fulfilling the dream of being a pediatric nurse and I am truly grateful!”
**Courtney Bonine** dreams of becoming a large animal veterinarian at a Colorado dude and guest ranch. With the assistance of a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Courtney majors in both Equine Science and Equine Management at Northeastern Junior College. After two years, Courtney intends to transfer to Colorado State University to complete her undergraduate studies and apply to veterinary school.

Courtney has faced many challenges as the daughter of dual-military parents. “My father is a Purple Heart recipient who served in the Army and my mother is a helicopter pilot for the Army National Guard. The most difficult situation was, by far, getting through high school after finding out my father had been hit by an RPG. He was six months into an Afghanistan rotation when his barracks were attacked. He was medically discharged, awarded the Purple Heart, and eventually proclaimed 100% disabled.

Balancing school and family was brought to a whole new level. I found motivation through commitment to my family and this drive to succeed. I believe that everything happens for a reason and I knew we would all be stronger as a family if we kept pushing forward.”

To complement her majors, Courtney has joined the Aggies Club and Farm Bureau Student Group. She is honing her ranch riding, trail, and reining skills as a member of the Ranch Horse Versatility team and has been active with the military charities organization Pikes Peak Rangerettes. “Eventually, I would like to establish a dude and guest ranch that supports fallen soldiers and their families through equine rehabilitation.”

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Marine Corps dependent **Owen Schnitzler** was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin undergraduate studies at Western Carolina University.

A student of the Honors College, this North Carolina native majors in Film and Television Production. “Film can inspire change and show how great the world can be. Earning a college degree will not only help me enter the film industry, it will expose me to the views of other individuals and expand my world view.”

“By awarding this Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, you have eased my financial burden and allowed me to focus on the most important part of college -- learning. Thank you for believing in me!”
Navy dependent and Florida native **Sydney Barba** was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue undergraduate studies at the University of Florida. Driven by the desire to better understand her own metabolic genetic disorder, Phenylketonuria, Sydney majors in Microbiology and Cell Science. She intends to continue her education and pursue a doctorate, with a specialty in pediatric genetics.

“The foundation of all life revolves around DNA and its varying sequences that create the unique and exceptional differences among humans. The minute shift in genetic coding that leads to different eye colors, skin pigmentation, hair colors, or genetic disorders, fascinates me. I aim to help children understand that their own genetic differences are more than a mistake, and more like a gift granted to them.”

A student of the UF Scholars Program, Sydney serves as a Microbiology Lab Assistant and volunteers in the Pediatric Genetic Department of the University of Florida Health Shands Hospital. She works as a fitness associate for UF Recsports and participates in UF Club Swim and Dive.

“Thank you to each and every individual that contributed to the ThanksUSA Scholarship fund. Due to your kind and generous donations, many students have the ability to achieve their dreams and worry less about their financial status. Because of your generosity, I can put the money towards the process of applying to medical schools and paying for the last few semesters of my undergraduate degree. There are not enough words in the world to express my gratitude.”

Sydney with her father, Lieutenant Miguel Barba, USN, at a Florida Gators football game
Sarah Hitchcock from Charlottesville, Virginia, received her second $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue undergraduate studies at the University of Virginia. A Navy dependent, Sarah is a student of UVA’s Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

Majoring in Leadership/Public Policy and History, Sarah’s current focus is water conservation. “After growing up in the environment of a military child, I could not imagine myself pursuing a career that did not involve giving back. At the same time, following the footsteps of my parents was never exactly my dream. Overall, my parents’ service inspired me to choose a career in civil, rather than military, service to give back to others. After taking a Global Sustainability course at UVA, an interest in helping others sparked within me, especially within the field of water conservation.”

Sarah serves on multiple campus councils including Batten Undergraduate Council, University Programs Council, Inter-sorority Council, and UVA Student Council. She volunteers weekly with the Service for Sight Foundation and assists with organizational and clerical tasks at the Legal Aid Justice Center.

Madison Powell, a Navy dependent from Chesapeake, Virginia, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin undergraduate studies at the College of William and Mary.

Although she has not yet declared a major, Madison intends to major in Biology and is considering a minor in Mathematics. “I have volunteered in the Transitional Care Unit of our local children’s hospital, toured the cadaver lab of a nationally acclaimed university, and maintained an oyster float in the Lynnhaven Inlet. Through these relatively unrelated experiences, I have learned that I am excited to pursue a career in the sciences.”

To enhance the college experience, Madison has joined the Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity and the Astronomy Club. She also enjoys volunteering with the Heritage Humane Society.

“I am so incredibly grateful for the generosity of the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship and I am proud to be a part of such an honorable organization.”
Mackenzie Smith from Blacksburg, South Carolina, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship for the final year of an Animal Science major at Clemson University. The daughter of an Army National Guardsman, Mackenzie says, “I have wanted to become a veterinarian since I could utter the word itself.”

Eager to apply to veterinary school, Mackenzie is a member of the Clemson Wildlife Society, was elected Historian of the Pre-Vet Club, and serves as a mentor for Women in Animal Science. She enjoys volunteering at Crossroads Animal Shelter and works as a Veterinary Assistant at Palmetto Equine Veterinary Service.

“My eagerness is driven by my love and compassion for all living things. Animals are my outlet when people do not have the right words to say. After attending Veterinary School and receiving a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, I hope to complete a residency and earn an additional certification in Orthopedic Surgery.”

Olivia Welch was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Secondary Education major at Brigham Young University in Laie, Hawaii.

“I have had the opportunity to tutor fellow students and I love that ah-ha moment when a student understands what I am explaining to them. My goal is to be able to have that moment everyday while teaching at the high school level.”

The daughter of an active-duty Army helicopter pilot stationed in Germany, Olivia believe that her global upbringing will benefit her educational endeavors. “I’ve enjoyed adapting to new culture in the bitter cold of Alaska, the heat of the deep American south, and the beautiful European landscapes of both Italy and Germany. I believe that unique learning experiences will be an advantage.”
Army dependent **Shekiah Shannon** from Snellville, Georgia, received a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin undergraduate studies at the University of Georgia. With aspirations to become a medical doctor, Shekiah will major in Biological Sciences to prepare for medical school.

“I want to specialize in the field of gynecology to be of service to women and also a role model in the community.”

Shekiah serves as a mentor to pre-teen and teenage girls and enjoys participating in community service projects.

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**Samantha Magdaleno** was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Nursing major at James Madison University in Virginia.

A Marine Corps dependent from Kailua, Hawaii, Samantha’s ultimate goal is to become a nurse practitioner. “A nurse practitioner has the brain of a doctor and the heart of a nurse. Patients deserve to feel cared for at all times and, with proper education, I can succeed in fulfilling that need.”

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With the assistance of a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Army National Guard dependent **Brett Clarke** is majoring in Biochemistry at the University of Pittsburgh.

Planning for a career in the medical field, this Delaware native became a Certified Medical Assistant prior to graduating high school. He is eager to participate in work-study programs and is engaging in community service.

After completing a Bachelor’s degree, Brett will apply to the University of Pittsburgh’s Physician Assistant program.
Miranda Bartheld from Haymarket, Virginia, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue undergraduate studies at the University of Oklahoma.

The daughter of a retired Army National Guardsman, Miranda majors in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a Pre-Speech Pathology concentration.

After completing a Bachelor’s degree, Miranda plans to obtain a graduate degree from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. “Once I complete a degree in Speech Pathology, I hope to get certification for Auditory Visual Therapist. I will then work with children and adults who have problems hearing. Later, I plan to establish my own practice with a focus on bilingual Speech Pathology.”

Miranda supports fellow OU students by serving as a Peer Teaching Assistant for a college intro course and Peer Educator of Do You Understand Integrity?

“I was thrilled to learn that I was a recipient of a Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. Coming from a large family requires me to be responsible for part of my college expenses. Receiving scholarship funds relieves the burden on myself as well as my parents. Words cannot express our extreme gratitude. Thank you so much for your generosity and your continued support of students across the country.”
Kelsy Henley was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship for a Biology major at the University of Virginia.

A Navy dependent from Smithfield, Virginia, Kelsy has wanted to become a physician since a young age. At UVA, Kelsy will have the opportunity to explore medical specialties through a diverse pre-med curriculum. “I have a zeal for learning and look forward to learning something new every day from highly skilled and dedicated professors.”

“I am honored to be a recipient of the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. Growing up in a military family has helped me realize the value of a college education. The University of Virginia offers one of the finest programs in the country and I consider myself fortunate to be able to attend. My educational pursuits would not be possible without generous support from scholarship sponsors like you. Thank you for enabling this opportunity!”

Thanks to consecutive Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships totaling $6,000, Michael Ward is continuing an Accounting major at Virginia Wesleyan University.

A Navy dependent from Virginia Beach, Virginia, Michael plans to specialize in Forensic Accounting. “I am fascinated by this field of study and am grateful for the opportunity to receive a college education.”

Michael is a member of the Virginia Wesleyan University Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track teams. He serves as an Assistant Scout Master with Boy Scouts of America and enjoys mentoring youth in activities that build character and leadership.

“I am incredibly honored to be selected for the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. I am the oldest of six children and, though my parents help when they can, I am primarily responsible for these educational expenses. Thank you for your support and for believing in me.”
Army National Guard dependent Alicia Kunzler from Springfield, Virginia, received her second $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships to continue studies in the highly competitive Utah State University Coordinated Program of Dietetics.

“This program requires me to complete a 1,200-hour unpaid internship alongside my coursework as I continue to study principles of nutrition, psychology, chemistry, and community organizational systems. My goal after graduation is to excel on the professional certification test, then work as a Clinical Dietitian serving the needs of hospital patients.”

Currently in her junior year of undergraduate studies, Alicia maintains a perfect GPA while completing a 20-hour internship and 18 hours of classwork.

“I cannot thank you enough for your support. I want you to know that I am committed to working hard. I will not let this support be wasted.”

Sarah Brown from Prince George, Virginia, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin an Early Childhood Education major at the University of Central Florida.

The daughter of an Army Reservist, Sarah plans to become a teacher and serve with the Peace Corps. “I love to travel and hope to teach in third-world countries.”

To complement her studies, Sarah has joined the Student National Education Association and Educators Rising. She enjoys serving fellow student and the surrounding community through VolunteerUCF and is a member of the Navigators and LIVEUCF campus ministries.

“Helping those in need has always been a big part of my life. Becoming a teacher will help make a difference in the lives of children who will hopefully grow up to make a difference for others.”
Percie Lyons, a Marine Corps dependent from Springfield, Virginia, received her second $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship for a Physics major at Radford University.

After completing undergraduate studies at Radford, Percie plans to seek a Master’s degree in Engineering from Virginia Tech and become a biomechanics engineer. "I plan to work with prosthetics to help people who may have been born with defects or military members that lost or injured body parts fighting for our country."

Percie enjoys volunteering with the Special Olympics and Project Linus, an organization that provides comforting blankets to seriously ill children. She is also a long-distance runner for the Radford Women’s Cross-Country, Track & Field Team and serves as its Captain.

“I am grateful for being selected to receive the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. It allows focus on academics rather than finances. It is difficult to balance academics and athletics. If I had to also maintain employment, I know that my academics would suffer. Again, I would like to express my extreme gratitude to the Casey family and ThanksUSA. Thank you so much!”

The Lyons Family
Air Force dependent **Hannah Pinson** from Navarre, Florida, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Computer Science major at Troy University in Alabama.

Hannah plans to focus on digital editing with the intent to pursue a career in film production or video editing. “Throughout high school I hosted a YouTube channel. I would shoot, edit and upload videos giving advice to incoming freshmen and showcase Go-Pro videos of the beautiful Florida beaches. This small experiment led me to realize my love for making and editing videos.”

Hannah recently joined the Kappa Delta sorority and looks forward to participating in the chapter’s annual Shamrock philanthropy events that benefit Prevent Child Abuse America.

“I am so appreciative of the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. Thank you so very much!”

With the assistance of a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, **Mason Cashman** has begun a Journalism major at Emmanuel College in Massachusetts.

An Army National Guard dependent from Somersworth, New Hampshire, Mason intends to focus on international studies and social activism. “My intent is to work for a news media corporation or non-profit as a correspondent for international social justice affairs.”

To complement his studies, Mason has joined the S.T.A.R.T Program, a student-run organization and academic cohort with a focus on social justice and advocacy.

“I would like to wholeheartedly thank you for selecting me to receive the $3000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. I feel incredibly fortunate that your organization has recognized my accomplishments and achievements in academics. This scholarship will help me to continue achieving at a high level and lead to a successful college career.”
Joshua Del Rosario was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin undergraduate studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. A Navy dependent from Virginia Beach, Joshua majors in Accounting and Information Systems.

After completing a four-year degree, Joshua plans to pursue a graduate degree and become certified as a CPA. “With my certification as an accountant, I will apply for a federal job to work for the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In addition, I will be able to use my expertise in accounting to help low-income individuals file tax returns.”

Joshua has joined the Accounting Society and various student organizations. He plans to become more involved with business-related organizations as his education progresses.

“Thank you so much for your generosity. I am deeply appreciative of your support and feel so blessed in accepting the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. I promise to study hard and give back to the community.”

Including this year’s $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Air Force dependent Caroline Watson from West Liberty, Ohio, has received ThanksUSA scholarships totaling $6,000 for undergraduate studies at Cedarville University. She is completing her final year of Accounting studies and looks forward to graduating in May.

Caroline serves as a Resident Assistant and is a member of both the Accounting Society and Enactus. She established a mentoring program for freshmen accounting majors and is actively involved with Biz Ba$ics which teaches middle schoolers about basic business concepts.

Preparing for a career as a tax accountant, Caroline completed a tax internship this summer. "I plan on taking the CPA exam upon graduation. I know that my years here at Cedarville University have prepared me well to take on this challenge. I am extremely grateful for your generosity and thank you so much for this incredible blessing!”
Navy dependent Emily Fultz from Burke, Virginia, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin undergraduate studies at Northern Virginia Community College.

With the long-term goal of becoming a physical therapist, Emily majors in Biology and plans to transfer to a four-year university to complete a Pre-Med concentration. "Witnessing many wounded veterans in need of rehabilitation inspired this interest in physical therapy. I hope to help people overcome physical limitations and live active lives."

Army dependent Jake Ryan Dexter from Arlington, Virginia, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Kinesiology major at the University of Virginia.

Planning to serve in the armed forces after graduation, Jake Ryan is a member of the University of Virginia Army Reserve Officer Training Corps. After completion of military service, Jake Ryan plans to enroll in a graduate program to become a physical therapist.

Army dependent Caroline Palalay from Elizabethtown, Kentucky, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Biology major at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Planning to apply to dental school, Caroline has joined the health-service student organizations MedLife as well as the Pre-Dental Club.

"Thank you for awarding me this very generous scholarship! Receiving the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship is very humbling and I’m honored to have been chosen. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps make this program possible, especially the Casey family."
Louisiana native Bruce Goulart was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin undergraduate studies at Louisiana Tech University. The son of an Army National Guardsman, Bruce majors in Architecture with a Biblical Theology minor.

Ultimately, Bruce hopes to design a low-cost subdivision for homeless or disabled veterans. “This subdivision will be called Not My Last Stop, as each veteran that receives a home will have the opportunity to train for job skills, receive counseling, and have a support system all in one place.”

Bruce is also interested in becoming a Youth Pastor and enjoyed spending the summer months ministering to youth with Clear Camp Missions throughout Texas and New Mexico. He recently joined the Christian Fraternity Beta Upsilon Chi.

“Thank you so much for helping me achieve the dream of becoming an Architect. It is with support of my family, community, and organizations like ThanksUSA and the Jackson Casey Fund that help me be successful in these endeavors.”
Elizabeth Persons was awarded her second $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue undergraduate studies at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee.

An Army dependent from Madison, Alabama, Elizabeth majors in Special Education and Cognitive Sciences. She plans to continue her education, earning a Master’s in Education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. “I want to get a job in a post-secondary special education program providing college-level education, life-skills training, and job training to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

Elizabeth serves as Athlete Coordinator of Special Olympics and is Lead Ambassadore for Next Steps at Vanderbilt. She is President of the Gamma Delta Chapter of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc. and is a representative for Chabad Vanderbilt.

“Thank you so much for the opportunity to apply for and receive this scholarship. With this extra financial support, I am receiving the best possible education at Vanderbilt. Once again, thank you very much for awarding me the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship.”

Army dependent Kimberly Johnson from Kansas City, Kansas, received a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue Pre-Radiology studies at Kansas City Kansas Community College.

After completing an Associate’s of Science degree this May, Kimberly will transfer to Coastal Carolina University to complete a Bachelor’s degree in Radiology. Ultimately, she plans to pursue a graduate degree and become a licensed radiologist.

In addition to her studies, Kimberly cheers as part of the Kansas City Kansas Community College Spirit Squad.

“Thank You for giving me this opportunity to continue my education and help me reach for my goals to become a radiologist!”
With the assistance of a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Army dependent Morgan Simone Beasley is developing her entrepreneurial spirit as a Business Management major at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

A student of UNLV’s Honors Program, Morgan says, “The skill set and experience I will gain from college, various internships, networking, and studying abroad will help me achieve the goal of being an entrepreneur. It is important to me to set an example for the Black youth in the community.”

“Thank you so much for the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship! This money will be helpful as I work towards my academic goals. I will make myself, family, UNLV, and the community -- including you -- proud!”

Army dependent Adam Osterholzer from Colorado Springs, Colorado, has received consecutive Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships totaling $6,000 for a Natural Resources Conservation major at Colorado State University.

To complement his studies, Adam is a member of the Wildlife Conservation Club and says, “Having grown up in a life of outdoor pursuits, I want to dedicate my life to protecting the fragile planet that we have. My educational pursuits will help protect our world so that future generations may flourish.”

“I want you to know that I will pour my heart and soul into turning my passion into something that helps people and this world. Thank you for all that you do in support of military families!”
Army Reserve dependent Sidney Bierman from Aberdeen, South Dakota, received a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship for her final year of undergraduate studies at South Dakota State University. Sidney majors in Animal Science with minors in Chemistry, Animal Health, and Equine Studies. She is currently applying to veterinary schools with the goal of becoming a mixed-animal veterinarian.

Sidney recently traveled to Costa Rica and served as a veterinary missionary. “While there, I learned about different veterinary techniques and helped organize a free spay and neuter clinic. It was an amazing experience and I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge.”

Sidney is a member of the Sigma Alpha sorority, the Alpha Zeta fraternity, and the Pre-Vet Club. She also enjoys playing intramural sports.

A focused and dedicated student, Sidney credits her father and his military career with inspiring her work ethic. “My father’s third deployment made a huge impact on my life. I was a freshman in high school and I remember thinking that if I concentrate on my grades and sports, the time would fly by and I would not think about his absence. That year shaped me as a person and improved my work ethic tremendously. I realized my own academic potential and discovered what I wanted to do with my future.”

“To those who make the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship possible, thank you for all you do. These scholarships mean so much to those who receive them. You help make college affordable and I am so greatly honored to have received a scholarship through this amazing program!”

Including two Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships, Sidney has received ThanksUSA scholarships totaling $9,000.
Hannah Bear received her second $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship for her final year of undergraduate studies at Roanoke College in Virginia. An Air Force dependent from Mechanicsville, Maryland, Hannah majors in Communications with a Sociology minor.

Hannah recently completed a year-long Honors Distinction Project by developing a video game in which players are invited to interact with the perspective and challenges of a life lived by an individual with autism.

After graduating next May, Hannah will seek a Master’s degree in Special Education Teaching. “I want to continue working with the disabled community to ensure an education for every child.”

In addition to her studies, Hannah serves as an Eye to Eye Chapter Leader and tutors Communications and Italian.

“Your continued support has enabled me to be the first in my immediate family to go to a four-year college. My parents can’t wait to see me graduate in May. Thank you so much for being part of my academic journey!”

Washington native Madalyn “Maddy” Jacobs has received consecutive $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships for an Elementary Education major at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington.

The daughter of an Army National Guardsman, Maddy is a Whitworth Honors student and has added minors in Reading Instruction and English. After earning teaching certification, Maddy plans to work with disadvantaged and troubled youth.

In addition to her studies, Maddy is a member of the Filipino-American Student Association and volunteers with Spokane First Kids Crew.

“Thank you for choosing me as the recipient of a Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. I am so grateful for the opportunities provided by the scholarship.”
Hanna Barnes was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Nursing major at Radford University in Virginia.

This Navy dependent from Virginia Beach, Virginia, aspires to join the military as a Registered Nurse and specialize in pediatrics or neonatology.

“Later in my career, I hope to pursue a Master’s degree and become a nurse practitioner, so that I can diagnose and treat the dependent family members of military personnel. By following my dreams, I hope to give back to the community that has given me everything.”

In addition to her studies, Hanna enjoys participating in intramural sports and maintaining an active, healthy lifestyle.

“I am sincerely honored to have been chosen for the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. Your dedication to aiding students is inspiring and truly appreciated. I am so grateful and hope to make you proud of my academic accomplishments.”

Cody Bogatko from Virginia Beach, Virginia, applied his $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to his second year of Biology studies at Old Dominion University. With the ultimate goal of becoming a physician, this Navy dependent says, “I have the capacity, discipline, and desire needed to succeed in the challenging field of medicine.”

Cody will seek research opportunities and internships through ODU and is applying to be accepted into the Joint Program in Medicine between ODU and Eastern Virginia Medical School.

“It is difficult to express in writing how appreciative I am for ThanksUSA, the Jackson Casey Fund, and all scholarship supporters. Being chosen to receive this scholarship is an honor and your recognition propels me to continue to do my best.”
Katherine Dooley was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin undergraduate studies at the College of William and Mary.

An Army dependent from Danville, Virginia, Katherine majors in Psychology and plans to counsel children and teens from military families. “I want to work with Military teenagers and help them deal with the challenges that come from living the military lifestyle.”

"Thank you so much for your donations to ThanksUSA. This scholarship has helped make it possible for me to start on a college education and worry less about the financial burden that comes with it."

Navy dependent Kiera Brown was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue a Science major at Tidewater Community College in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Kiera plans to transfer to a four-year college to complete a Bachelor’s degree and then apply to medical school and study obstetrics. “Ultimately, I hope to become a midwife and help women through the fascinating experience of childbirth.”

With the assistance of a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Navy dependent Julianna Bennett from Leonardtown, Maryland, is majoring in Biomedical Sciences at the University of New Hampshire.

Interested in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, this Maryland native ultimately plans to apply to veterinary school. “I want to make a difference in the natural world by allowing the creatures in it to live their most fulfilled lives. The Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship is of tremendous value to my family as I begin my college career. Thank you for all that you do for military families.”
Courtney Triplett from Fort Walton Beach, Florida, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin a Chemical Engineering major at the University of Florida.

The daughter of a retired Air Force Master Sergeant, Courtney aspires to work as a scientist in a military research facility. “Through lab work, experimentation, and intellectual brainstorming with colleagues, I hope to provide alternative methods of warfare while providing safer and more predictable circumstances for our soldiers. With significant pride and respect for the military, I have an overwhelming desire to support those who fight for our country.”

Full of school spirit, Courtney is gradually becoming more involved in UF’s campus clubs and organizations. She has joined the Delta Delta Delta sorority and will apply for a leadership position during the spring term.

“It is almost impossible to convey the amount of gratitude that I have for this scholarship. College is an amazing experience and the perfect place to pursue my passions but the expenses keep growing. This financial assistance has allowed me to focus on studies and campus involvement instead of stressing about payments. I am truly honored and extremely thankful.”
Keeley Yokley was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin an Elementary Education major at James Madison University.

A Navy dependent from Chesapeake, Virginia, Keeley has joined the James Madison University Kids Club and is a member of the Phi Mu sorority. She enjoys volunteering in local schools and hopes to complete a study-abroad during her junior year. Kelley's ultimate goal is to teach at a Department of Defense school overseas.

"Thank you so much for making ThanksUSA possible. The Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship has allowed me to join several organizations on campus and further my college experience. I can't thank supporters enough for their generous donations to ThanksUSA. May God bless you!"

With the assistance of a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Lauren Marotta has begun a Biology major with a Pre-Med concentration at Rhodes College in Memphis.

A Navy dependent from Collierville, Tennessee, Lauren intends to apply to medical school during her junior year. "This requires taking required pre-med courses, passing the MCAT, and furthering my skills in residency. I know firsthand the difference a well-trained, kind doctor or nurse can make for a patient and hope to someday change lives as a medical doctor."

"Thank you for selecting me to receive the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. I am happy to know that hard work, perseverance, and dedication throughout high school has, quite literally, paid off. I truly cannot express enough thanks!"
Clara Chang, an Army dependent from Chesapeake, Virginia, wants to end ethnocentrism and inspire intercultural sensitivity. With the assistance of a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Clara is continuing undergraduate studies at Saint Mary’s College in Indiana.

Clara majors in Global Studies with a concentration in Anthropology and a double minor in Mathematics/Computer Science and Environmental Studies. She is excited to explore the many facets of environmental science and has begun looking into study-broad opportunities. “Experiencing different cultures is such an immense gift to me as a student of global studies.”

“Thank you so much for the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship. As the youngest of three children attending college I appreciate the financial support as it benefits not only me, but my entire family. Thank you again for your generosity.”

Tristan Boling from Madison, Alabama, has wanted to become a dentist since he was a child. With the assistance of a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, Tristan is continuing undergraduate studies at the University of Alabama - Birmingham in preparation for dental school.

Tristan majors in Molecular Biology and is a member of the Pre-Dental and Pre-Health Societies. He is a Biology Research Assistant at the University’s Lab and volunteers at the Dental School.

The son of a retired Air Force Sergeant, Tristan says, “Being raised in a military family has taught me to seize each opportunity and never squander any gifts. Please know that I will continue to apply myself and achieve goals for all who have given so much. Thank you for supporting my academic dreams.”
Marine Corps dependent Cassidy McIntire from Kearney, Nebraska, was awarded a $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue an Exercise Science major at the University of Nebraska. A sprinter and jumper for the UNK Women’s Track Team, Cassidy plans to continue her education and complete a Master’s degree in Sports Psychology. “My main goal is to help athletes of all ages grow and develop within their sport.”

“Without the Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship, students like me would not be able to chase after their dreams. One day I hope to help students just as much as you have helped me. Thank you!”

Navy dependent Kirsten Chase from Burke, Virginia, applied her $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship to a second year of undergraduate studies at Elon University in North Carolina. A student of Elon’s prestigious Fellows Academic Program, Kirsten is preparing for a career in public relations by majoring in Strategic Communications.

“I’m enrolled in the most challenging and relevant courses offered at Elon and serve as an account executive with Elon’s Live Oak Communications, an on-campus firm working with actual business clients from the Burlington, North Carolina, area.”

Kirsten is a regular contributor to Elon University’s FreshTV and ETalk radio station. She also enjoys singing with the Sweet Signatures A-Cappella group.
Army dependent Brian Fields from Fayetteville, North Carolina, received his third $3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarships to continue a Political Science major at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

After completing undergraduate studies next spring, Brian plans to pursue a Master’s in Public Administration while working on the 2018 federal midterm elections. Until then, he is dedicated to serving fellow students through political advocacy.

Brian successfully managed the campaign of the current UNC Chapel Hill Student Body President. He has worked for the Governor of North Carolina and as a staffer for the North Carolina General Assembly.

This year, Brian explains, "I will be working in my newly inaugurated role of Director of State and External Affairs for the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, working on state policy to better conditions for all 225,000 students across the state of North Carolina."

Brian is also involved with organizations that promote education, diversity and peaceful cohabitation with surrounding communities. He is a member of Carolina United, participates in the Good Neighbor Initiative, and tutors Math, English, and Reading.

Brian looks forward to matriculating into UNC’s School of Government for graduate studies. Afterwards, he intends to pursue a Juris Doctorate and work to implement progressive policy throughout the state of North Carolina.

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to be a ThanksUSA scholar for 2017-2018. ThanksUSA has given me the opportunity to mitigate the financial burden of going to college, something I at times wondered if I should spend the money on. Now, I am on the verge of graduating with highest honors from a top 5 public university in the country. Without ThanksUSA and its donors I wouldn’t be near where I am today, so I really appreciate the help that has been given through this program and the individuals involved."