Launched in 2010 through a generous donation from a former board member, the University of Utah Emeritus Alumni Board Bryant Scholarship Project helps refugee students at Bryant Middle School in the ESL (English as a Second Language) and tutoring programs by offering them the possibility of a $5,000 scholarship to the University of Utah. The scholarship provides the students, who will all be first-generation college students, with an added incentive to achieve. They are selected for the scholarships when they are in eighth grade and can redeem the awards when they graduate from high school, provided they have met certain benchmarks of academic achievement.

With an April 1, 2012, deadline, the University of Utah Emeritus Alumni Board has set a goal of raising $10,000, which will be met by matching funds. This would allow the granting of four scholarships next spring.

Please send donations for the scholarships to:

UUAA Bryant Project
155 S. Central Campus Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

(You will receive a receipt for tax purposes.)
The University of Utah Emeritus Alumni Board
Bryant Scholarship Project

“She was a good student in Iraq, but she doesn’t speak one word of English. . . . She has always dreamed of going to university. Is it really possible?” — Question from the mother of a seventh-grade student from Baghdad

“In America, anything is possible.” — Response from ESL teacher at Bryant Middle School

Anything is possible if there are people who care. Although access to a college education often remains only a dream for some students, the University of Utah Emeritus Alumni Board is trying to make this dream a reality for refugee students at Bryant Middle School.

You can help in this endeavor. Many of these students and their families have fled hardship and political strife in their home countries, and the students will be the first in their families to attend college. They have come from nations such as Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Somalia, Thailand, and Tonga. With the promise of a $5,000 scholarship to the University of Utah in hand that they can redeem when they graduate from high school, students have an added incentive to achieve.

The students are identified through a board-sponsored tutoring program at the school. The program averages 20 volunteers who spend a class period each week of the academic year helping students learn and perfect English language skills.

After one year of service, many tutors sign up for a repeat performance. They are all University of Utah alumni, and the majority graduated from the University 40 or more years ago. A coordinator at Bryant serves as liaison to the board. (If you are interested in becoming a tutor, please contact Joanne Beardshall at 801-581-3719.)

Selection Process
Students are selected for the scholarships when they are in the eighth grade.
To be selected, a student must:
• Be an eighth-grade student at Bryant Middle School
• Participate in the Emeritus Alumni tutoring program as a seventh- and/or eighth-grader
• Receive a teacher nomination for high academic promise
• Pass a successful interview by the selection committee

Currently, 14 students have been selected for $5,000 scholarships each, contingent on their meeting these requirements:
• GPA of at least 3.0 in ninth grade
• GPA of at least 3.2 in 10th grade
• GPA of at least 3.5 in 11th and 12th grades

This fall, the first group selected for scholarships will enter 10th grade at East and West high schools, and the second cohort will begin ninth grade.

Ongoing support for these students until high-school graduation includes:
• A group return to Bryant two to three times a year for progress reports and to share ideas on being successful in high school—a positive peer-support program.
• An assigned point person in each high school to be a mentor to members of the group and provide ongoing encouragement.
• Two students in the University of Utah’s LEAP program (Learning, Engagement, Achievement, Progress) serve as additional mentors and program evaluators.

Current scholarship recipients have many stories to tell—and dreams for their future.

Scholarship Goal
None of us lacks causes worthy of support—but education provides hope and opportunity. It opens doors. And that’s always a good investment. With an April 1, 2012, deadline, the U of U Emeritus Alumni Board has set a goal for this third year of raising $10,000—which will be met by matching funds. This would allow the granting of four scholarships next spring.

Would you help us cast that net for aiding dreams and aspirations a little wider? Please send your donation in any amount to the UUAA Bryant Project.