

## Scholarship History for the Blanchard Means Foundation

Name of the scholarship: Blanchard Means Foundation Scholarship

Presented by: Blanchard Means Foundation Representative

First presented: 2009

History of scholarship: The Blanchard Means Foundation scholarship was established in 2009. The foundation, which operates Elm Hill Farm in Brookfield, Massachusetts, recently became affiliated with Rehabilitative Resources, Inc. of Sturbridge. Presently, Elm Hill Farm provides equestrian therapy and day programs for the developmentally disabled. The founding of the Blanchard Means Foundation scholarship is to provide a graduating Brookfield resident financial assistance towards their collegiate endeavors. The scholarship will be awarded to a successful student, in pursuit of further academic study in the field of special education, history, human services or environmental science.

Additional Information: The Blanchard Means Foundation was organized in the 1990's by Mrs. Louise Chandler Means. Her vision for Elm Hill Farm was to preserve its rich history, beautiful buildings, and impressive acreage. Further, Mrs. Means hoped that people with developmental disabilities like her daughter as well as the general public could utilize and benefit from the multi-faceted offerings of the farm.

The preservation of Elm Hill Farm has resulted in the generous donation of over 1,000 acres to the Massachusetts Audubon Society by Mrs. Means. The property serves as a wildlife sanctuary and historic farm. The historical integrity of the property has been protected through its listing with the National Register of Historic Places since 1991.

The Elm Hill Farm has been in the Means family since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The property has a deep-rooted history and is a significant community resource for Brookfield residents. The Blanchard Means Foundation, now affiliated with Rehabilitative Resources of Sturbridge exists to continue the dream of Mrs. Louise Means. The foundations mission is to provide the public and people with developmental disabilities a place to explore its impressive acreage, participate in a variety of special programs including the equestrian therapy program, and maintain its historical presence and value for years to come.