

# FAST Fund

## Believe in Students!

FAST Fund is an economic emergency fund for MATC students

The Local 212/MATC Believe in Students FAST Fund is a non-profit, economic emergency fund for MATC students. 72% of MATC students are low-income. The cost of college has soared as state aid was slashed. Between 1996 and 2012, the average annual cost of attending a two-year college rose from \$8,500 to nearly \$13,000, a 52% increase. Today 15% of college students are homeless and 50% experience food insecurity. The FAST fund helps students stay in school, keeping a roof over their heads, food on their tables, their lights turned on and their cars running.



"I want to say the most gracious thank you to the FAST Fund for assisting me to acquire a safe and beautiful home for myself and my children. It is programs like these that ease the anxious mind of a student in times of emergency to know that not only is their education important but the overall well-being matters." – Evelyn M. (Nursing)

"I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart! ... The FAST Fund's only concern was to help me register for the Spring semester. I will be forever grateful that they are a resource for students who lack the financial resources ..Thanks again Fast Fund! " – Anthony K. (Real Estate Management)



"The FAST Fund helped me when I was in a time of need. I was on the verge of losing my house. I am forever grateful for the help that the FAST Fund provided me. I think it is truly amazing there is a program like this for students who are in an emergency situation."

– Stephanie H. (Human Services)

The FAST Fund is an independent non-profit. To contribute make checks out to the **"Local 212/MATC Believe in Students FAST Fund."** Mail them to FAST Fund, 739 West Juneau, Milwaukee WI 53233



Phone 414-765-0910  
739 West Juneau Ave. MI. WI. 53233  
All contributions are tax deductible.

## **FAST Fund Results 2017-18**

The Local 212 FAST Fund provided almost \$37,000 of direct emergency assistance to over 100 students in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Housing insecurity, preventing evictions or securing housing for homeless students, was the single largest area of need accounting for 43 students; non-tuition costs of attendance was second at 18; auto assistance accounted for 17; and tuition assistance for students at the 150% rule for 12.

### **Rosalind's Story**

Here is one student's story: Rosalind, a 3.5 student, was one semester away from completing her nursing degree when she became homeless.

Her relationship had been tumultuous, but when her boyfriend kicked and punched her, she left. With no place to go, her car and a local gas station became her temporary home. After a few days, she moved in with her sister's family sleeping on the floor. But that didn't last. The landlord evicted the entire family for violating their lease limiting the number of people in the apartment.

Rosalind is a full-pay student who had exhausted her federal financial aid eligibility.

After graduating from a northern Wisconsin high school Rosalind attended UW Whitewater, completing three years toward a biomedical degree with the goal of becoming a veterinarian. But after working in a hospital, she realized people were her real passion. She transferred to Gateway where she completed her nursing prerequisites. But Gateway had a multi-year waiting list for its nursing program. So, Rosalind applied to MATC's program and was accepted.

Pell Grants and a Wisconsin Covenant Scholars Grant helped. But they were not enough to cover her tuition, books and living expenses. As a result, Rosalind, one semester short of earning her nursing degree, found herself homeless with a student debt of \$37,728.

Rosalind earned enough on her job as a CNA/Health Unit Coordinator to cover the rent on a modest apartment. But she could not afford the security deposit. She applied for a MATC's Dream Keepers emergency grant. But she was denied because she no longer receives a Pell Grant, a Dream Keepers' requirement. That's when she contacted the American Federation of Teachers Local 212 Believe in Students FAST (Faculty and Students Together) Fund.

The FAST Fund contacted the nursing instructor whom Rosalind had listed as her faculty reference. She received a glowing recommendation from her instructor. The FAST Fund wrote a check to the landlord covering the security deposit. Rosalind now has a roof over her head located near her fall clinical placement and will graduate in December.

Students were from all divisions of the college and from the following programs: Accounting, Automotive, Aviation, Biotech, Business Management, Chem Tech, Culinary Arts, Culinary Management, Dental Tech, Diesel, Dietetic Tech, Early Childhood Education, Electricity, Human Services, HVAC, IT Networking, Liberal Arts, Legal Administration Professional, Marketing Management, Masonry, Nursing Assistant, Nursing, Paralegal, Plumbing, Police Science, Pre-College, Business, Radiography, Real Estate, TV and Video Production and Welding.