

For Immediate Release – May 17, 2023`

### 2023 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarships Awarded

Congratulations to four outstanding high school seniors who have been selected to receive **Chapel Hill-Carrboro (CH-C) Peacemaking Scholarships** in the amount of \$1,000 each. This year's recipients are Camilo Garcia-Brobston of Hawbridge School, Ryan Kilgallen and Sofia Nyiri of Chapel Hill High School (CHHS), and Sofia Rangel of Carrboro High School (CHS).

Over the past fourteen years, 38 Peacemaking Scholarships have been awarded to graduating seniors in Chapel Hill or Carrboro who are intending to pursue a college education. The additional criteria for these scholarships include activism, academic study, and career goals that relate to non-violent conflict resolution, depolarization, global community, social justice, ecology, and/or population. These students received CH-C Peacemaking Scholarships because of their excellent qualifications, outstanding record of study and achievement, strong letters of recommendation, and their desire to pursue careers as peacemakers.



**Camilo Garcia-Brobston** has strong interest in environmental stewardship and activism. He participated in Learning Outside (LO) programs from an early age and later served for three years as a volunteer member of LO's high school Eco-Crew, helping maintain and enhance the learning spaces Learning Outside uses in the 269-acre Irvin Nature Preserve. He assisted with the Haw River beach cleanup efforts near Saxapahaw and worked at an archaeological dig in Wilmington.

His studies have included environmental science, green chemistry, and Spanish to maintain fluency in his first language. He took online courses from the NC School of Science and Math (NCSSM). He hopes to do a semester abroad while a student at UNC Asheville and later apply to the Peace Corps to serve in a Latin American country. He also has a keen interest in music, repairing guitars and amplifiers. Camilo wants to actively engage in community building and community service.



**Ryan Kilgallen** has focused on teamwork and strengthening community at his school. He and two friends established a peer-to-peer academic tutoring program and worked to make AP and Honors classes more welcoming and inviting to first-time AP and Honors students. Ryan competes in athletics: cross-country, track and swimming.

He has also used his mathematical skills in research projects studying air pollution state-wide, tracking pollution within environmental systems, and analyzing racial bias in news reporting.

Ryan looks forward to a career in economic analysis and policy evaluation.



**Sofia Nyiri** has served as President of the Carrboro Youth Council and as the youth representative on the Town of Carrboro Recreation Advisory Board. That board is responsible for planning events like the Carrboro Music Festival, Keep Carrboro Beautiful, and the MLK, Jr. Memorial Event. Sofia is a co-founder of NC Teens for Abortion Access, a non-profit organization that tries to inform our community of the impact of the Supreme Court's ruling overturning Roe v. Wade and seeks adequate abortion healthcare for those in need.

She has been a part-time counselor with Carolina Creek Club which provides experiential environmental educations for children ages 7–12; president and founder of Chapel Hill High Book Club; and student director of Grease, the Musical. She has internship experience with National Geographic, the Orange County Democratic Party, and the Center for the Global Learner at Durham Tech.

She plans to major in communications and would like a career managing communications for political campaigns.



**Sofia Rangel** has been co-president of the Black and Brown Student Coalition (BBSC) at Carrboro High School for two years. The BBSC's focus has been on increasing the number of students of color taking AP and Honors classes (where they have been historically under-represented).

While interning with the James Cates Scholars, she prepared a two-episode podcast summarizing their work during the summer of 2022. Sofia has participated in Latinx youth leaders' workshops and was selected to be part of the LatinxED 20 Under 20 program.

She will attend UNC-CH and would like to have a career in journalism – raising awareness of injustices and promoting change by giving voice to those who have been silenced and deserve to be heard.

Individuals and organizations who wish to support future Peacemaking Scholarships may contribute financially at any time. Checks payable to UCCH with Peacemaking Scholarship Fund on the memo line may be sent to  
United Church of Chapel Hill  
1321 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Donations may also be made online at <http://unitedchurch.org/peacemaking>, and the scholarship application form and bios of previous scholarship recipients can be found there, too.

For more information contact:

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