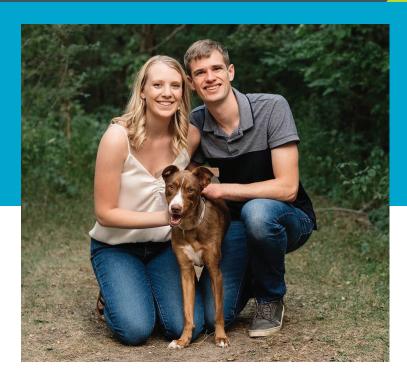


EST. 2022



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"Scholarships helped me significantly to get started in my professional life, and I want others to have the opportunity for the same."

ZACH FISCHELS

Zach Fischels grew up in Independence, lowa, graduating from Independence High School in 2016. He went on to attend the University of Northern Iowa's College of Business and graduated in 2019 with a degree in Finance with an emphasis in Personal Wealth Management. It was also at UNI where Zach met his wife, Janelle.

Janelle Fischels, formerly Saucer, grew up in Marion, Iowa, where she attended Linn-Mar High School and graduated in 2017. She then attended the University of Northern Iowa and earned her nursing degree from Allen College in 2020, whereupon she began working as a nurse at Allen Hospital in Waterloo.

The two married on September 16, 2022.

Zach is a Certified Financial Planner with Northwestern Mutual in Waterloo/Cedar Falls with credentials as a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC), Retirement Income Certified Professional (RICP), and Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU). He heard about the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa through his work with clients and colleagues. He had been thinking about establishing a scholarship fund, as he received a scholarship himself, and the Foundation was a resource to help him put together a long-term charitable giving plan in addition to being the avenue to set up the Zach and Janelle Fischels Scholarship Fund.

"Scholarships helped me significantly to get started in my professional life, and I want others to have the opportunity for the same," said Zach. "I started this fund to have a bigger geographic impact and to also go the endowed route so I can fund my scholarship up front, and it can continue to pay out in perpetuity."

Zach says he wants to expand their impact eventually.

cont.

"This fund is primarily geared towards people following a similar track to myself. I would love to start one that is geared towards people on a similar track to my wife as a nurse," said Zach. "Once those two are fully funded to our satisfaction, we will continue to look for other causes we care about to help those in our community and beyond."

Through his financial planning practice, Zach is involved with supporting childhood cancer efforts including Alex's Lemonade Stand and the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. His role includes fundraising, volunteering, and raising awareness.

Zach also enjoys running and the I-35 Challenge (two marathons in the same weekend - Kansas City on Saturday and Des Moines on Sunday) has been his biggest physical accomplishment thus far.

Zach and Janelle Fischels Scholarship Criteria

This scholarship is available to students meeting the following criteria:

- Must be a graduating senior from high schools located in Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Grundy, and Tama counties.
- Must plan to attend the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa.
- Must plan to pursue a degree in the College of Business with a preference for those focusing on Finance.
- Priority will be given to students with the greatest financial need.