



Magnolia
Project

Magnolia Project: We turn small
town potential into economic
opportunity.

Next Step Scholarships

Next Step Scholarships support alumni of Magnolia Project's school-based programs who want to pursue career-focused education and training outside the traditional four-year college path.

Magnolia Project works with Rotary Clubs, community funders, and public school partners to award flexible scholarships of \$1,500-\$3,000 to alumni of our Career Explorations and Career Catalyst programs. Recipients can use the funds for tuition, fees, tools, equipment, transportation, licensing, and other costs associated with their next step after high school.



Impact: Scholarships reduce financial barriers to the training and certification young people need for their chosen careers. By removing cost as a barrier, Magnolia Project aims to help young people enter skilled, higher-wage work earlier with less debt.

About Magnolia Project

In partnership with public schools, young people and local entrepreneurs, Magnolia Project's programs create a cycle of opportunity and community reinvestment. Students who explore careers become scholars and entrepreneurs. The businesses they join or launch become the next generation of mentors and scholarship sponsors. That's how small-town potential turns into lasting economic opportunity.

Founded in 2022 by Gia Biaggi, a former teacher and graduate of Sonoma County public schools, Magnolia Project has connected more than 1,000 7th-12th public school students with over 100 trained and compensated industry mentors and entrepreneurs through its school-based programs. In the 2026-27 school year, Magnolia Project will serve 700 students in 21 public schools through its school-based Career Explorations and Career Catalyst programs, award four Next Step Scholarships to alumni, and lay the groundwork for the Homegrown Ventures entrepreneurship program.

Our Programs

Magnolia Project advances economic opportunity through three interconnected place-based programs: **Career Explorations & Career Catalyst, the Next Step Scholarship, and Homegrown Ventures.**

School Based Programming

Magnolia Project's semester-long, Common-Core aligned Career Explorations and Career Catalyst programs connect students in 7th-12th grade with mentors from local businesses to work on industry aligned projects, helping them understand how school connects to economic opportunity, and build a personalized plan for life after high school.

The Next Step Scholarship

Magnolia Project offers flexible \$1,500–\$3,000 scholarships to help alumni cover the costs of postsecondary education and training outside of traditional four year college, so they can enter higher-wage careers earlier with little to no debt.

Homegrown Ventures

Magnolia Project partners with an experienced organization to give young entrepreneurs ages 18–35 the training, mentorship, technical assistance, and capital to launch or grow businesses that generate income and create jobs in their communities.

Where We Work

Magnolia Project is proud to serve small towns and communities outside major metropolitan areas. It currently operates in Sonoma, Marin, and Mendocino counties in Northern California, with plans to expand to communities nationwide.

Learn More

Magnolia Project is excited to expand to new communities and work with new partners. Visit magnolia-project.org or reach out to info@magnolia-project.org to connect with our team and start a conversation.