

**ARETE SCHOLARS FUND, INC.**

Financial Statements  
With Independent Auditors' Report

June 30, 2014 and 2013

# ARETE SCHOLARS FUND, INC.

## Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditors' Report	1
Financial Statements	
Statements of Financial Position	3
Statements of Activities	4
Statements of Cash Flows	5
Notes to Financial Statements	6

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

Board of Directors  
Arete Scholars Fund, Inc.  
Dacula, Georgia

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Arete Scholars Fund, Inc., which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditors' Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

(continued)

Board of Directors  
Arete Scholars Fund, Inc.  
Dacula, Georgia

***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Arete Scholars Fund, Inc. as of June 30, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in its net assets and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Capin Crouse LLP*

Atlanta, Georgia  
October 6, 2014

# ARETE SCHOLARS FUND, INC.

## Statements of Financial Position

	June 30,	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Operating	\$ 688,018	\$ 947,524
Temporarily restricted for scholarships and research	<u>1,206,033</u>	<u>1,589,193</u>
	1,894,051	2,536,717
Other assets	<u>3,788</u>	<u>6,100</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,897,839</u>	<u>\$ 2,542,817</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 7,667	\$ 944
Total liabilities	<u>7,667</u>	<u>944</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Available at Board discretion	<u>684,139</u>	<u>952,680</u>
Temporarily restricted for:		
Scholarships	1,201,539	1,569,199
Research	<u>4,494</u>	<u>19,994</u>
	<u>1,206,033</u>	<u>1,589,193</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,890,172</u>	<u>2,541,873</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 1,897,839</u>	<u>\$ 2,542,817</u>

See notes to financial statements

## ARETE SCHOLARS FUND, INC.

### Statements of Activities

For the Year Ended June 30,

	2014			2013		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</b>						
Contributions:						
Private foundation grants	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 6,635	\$ -	\$ 6,635
Tax credit contributions	-	3,315,945	3,315,945	-	6,264,892	6,264,892
Interest and other income	493	1,947	2,440	1,175	1,854	3,029
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>2,493</b>	<b>3,317,892</b>	<b>3,320,385</b>	<b>7,810</b>	<b>6,266,746</b>	<b>6,274,556</b>
<b>RECLASSIFICATIONS:</b>						
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	3,423,936	(3,423,936)	-	4,175,350	(4,175,350)	-
Administrative assessments - see Note 1	277,116	(277,116)	-	523,353	(523,353)	-
<b>Total Reclassifications</b>	<b>3,701,052</b>	<b>(3,701,052)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,698,703</b>	<b>(4,698,703)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
Program services:						
Scholarship awards	3,408,436	-	3,408,436	4,174,194	-	4,174,194
Other scholarship related costs	179,247	-	179,247	151,275	-	151,275
	<b>3,587,683</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,587,683</b>	<b>4,325,469</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,325,469</b>
Supporting activities:						
General and administrative	233,487	-	233,487	200,153	-	200,153
Fund raising	150,916	-	150,916	142,590	-	142,590
	<b>384,403</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>384,403</b>	<b>342,743</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>342,743</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,972,086</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,972,086</b>	<b>4,668,212</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,668,212</b>
Change in Net Assets	(268,541)	(383,160)	(651,701)	38,301	1,568,043	1,606,344
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	952,680	1,589,193	2,541,873	914,379	21,150	935,529
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 684,139</b>	<b>\$ 1,206,033</b>	<b>\$ 1,890,172</b>	<b>\$ 952,680</b>	<b>\$ 1,589,193</b>	<b>\$ 2,541,873</b>

See notes to financial statements

# ARETE SCHOLARS FUND, INC.

## Statements of Cash Flows

	For the Year Ended June 30,	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	\$ (651,701)	\$ 1,606,344
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:		
Change in other assets	2,312	(4,900)
Change in accounts payable and accrued expenses	<u>6,723</u>	<u>(3,251)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>(642,666)</u>	<u>1,598,193</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(642,666)	1,598,193
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	<u>2,536,717</u>	<u>938,524</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	<u>\$ 1,894,051</u>	<u>\$ 2,536,717</u>

See notes to financial statements

# ARETE SCHOLARS FUND, INC.

## Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2014 and 2013

1. NATURE OF ORGANIZATION:

Arete Scholars Fund, Inc. (Arete) was incorporated in June 2010, for the purpose of helping economically disadvantaged children discover and use their unique gifts and talents through educational opportunity. Arete accomplishes this by providing K-12 scholarships to low-income families, enabling their children to reach their highest potential. Arete is a non-profit organization as defined in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) and not a private foundation as defined in section 509 of the Code. The primary source of funding is contributions received from the general public, including individuals and corporations.

Arete operates as a Georgia Student Scholarship Organization (SSO). The state of Georgia has approved the existence of SSOs for the purpose of providing student scholarships to parents that will help cover the cost of a private school education for their children in the state of Georgia. Georgia taxpayers (individuals and corporations) are able to make contributions to SSOs and receive a dollar for dollar tax credit, within limits prescribed by the law, against their Georgia state income tax liability. Prior to January 1, 2013, an approved SSO could take an administrative assessment of up to 10% on all tax credit contributions received. Subsequent to January 1, 2013, an approved SSO can take administrative assessments against tax credit contributions received as follows: (a) up to 10% on the first \$1,500,000, (b) up to 7% on the next \$8,500,000, (c) up to 6% on the next \$10,000,000, and (d) up to 5% on all remaining amounts. Prior to January 1, 2013, an approved SSO must have distributed at least 75% of eligible funds received each year for scholarships. Subsequent to January 1, 2013, an approved SSO must designate available amounts to particular students prior to December 31 of the calendar year in which the available amounts were received. As of June 30, 2014 and 2013, Arete was in compliance with these requirements. The following shows this transactional flow:

	For the Year Ended June 30,	
	2014	2013
Support and revenue received for scholarships:		
Tax credit contributions	\$ 3,315,945	\$ 6,264,892
Administrative assessment against tax credit contributions:		
From corporations	(277,116)	(523,353)
From individuals	-	-
Interest earned on these contributions prior to distribution	1,947	1,854
Amount eligible for scholarships, subject to the assessment and distribution requirements listed above	3,040,776	5,743,393
Balance temporarily restricted for scholarships, beginning of year	1,569,199	-
Amount available for scholarships in the current year	4,609,975	5,743,393
Scholarship expense	(3,408,436)	(4,174,194)
Balance temporarily restricted for scholarships, end of year	\$ 1,201,539	\$ 1,569,199



# ARETE SCHOLARS FUND, INC.

## Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2014 and 2013

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. The significant accounting policies followed are described below to enhance the usefulness of the statements to the reader.

#### ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash held in checking, savings, and money market accounts. While Arete maintains cash and cash equivalents in bank deposit accounts which, at times, exceed federally insured limits, it has not experienced any losses in such accounts. Management believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash and cash equivalents.

#### NET ASSETS

The financial statements report amounts separately by class of net assets:

*Unrestricted* amounts are currently available at the discretion of or designated for specific purposes by the Board of Directors.

*Temporarily restricted* amounts are contributed with donor stipulations for specific operating purposes or programs, with time restrictions, or not currently available for use until commitments regarding their use have been fulfilled.

#### REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND RECLASSIFICATIONS

Revenue is recognized when earned and support when contributions are made, which may be when cash is received, unconditional promises are made, or ownership of donated assets is transferred to Arete.

Arete reports gifts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated amounts. Interest earned on support received for scholarships prior to distribution is also reported as restricted. When a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is satisfied, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

During the year ended June 30, 2014, 74% of total contributions were provided by five donors. During the year ended June 30, 2013, 84% of total contributions were provided by three donors. Arete understands the implications of these concentrations.

# ARETE SCHOLARS FUND, INC.

## Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2014 and 2013

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued:

REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND RECLASSIFICATIONS, continued

Expenses are recorded when incurred in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting. The costs of providing various program services and supporting activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statements of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the program services and supporting activities benefited.

UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS

The financial statement effects of a tax position taken or expected to be taken are recognized in the financial statements when it is more likely than not, based on the technical merits, that the position will be sustained upon examination. Interest and penalties, if any, are included in expenses in the statements of activities. As of June 30, 2014, Arete had no uncertain tax positions that qualify for recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

Arete files information tax returns in the U.S. and the state of Georgia. Arete is generally no longer subject to U.S. federal and state income tax examinations by tax authorities for the years before 2009.

RECLASSIFICATIONS

Certain amounts in the prior year financial statements have been reclassified in order to conform to the current year presentation.

3. OPERATING LEASE:

Arete leases office space under an operating lease agreement which expires January 31, 2015. Monthly rental payments are \$1,200. Rental expense under this lease agreement for the years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013, was \$14,400. Future minimum payments under this agreement are as follows:

Year ending June 30,

2015

\$ 8,400

# ARETE SCHOLARS FUND, INC.

## Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2014 and 2013

4. FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES:

Functional expenses have been allocated as follows:

	For the Year Ended June 30, 2014			
	Program	General and Administrative	Fund raising	Total
Scholarship awards	\$ 3,408,436	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,408,436
Research and testing	15,500	-	-	15,500
Bank fees	-	6,492	-	6,492
Accounting fees	-	50,443	-	50,443
Outside contract services	4,993	-	3,329	8,322
Rent, parking, and utilities	-	19,084	-	19,084
Books and subscriptions	144	144	585	873
Postage and mailing	190	70	-	260
Printing and copying	116	116	58	290
Office supplies	-	3,226	-	3,226
Telephone	2,220	2,220	1,110	5,550
Advertising	13,291	-	-	13,291
Marketing	7,463	7,463	4,975	19,901
Insurance	-	4,208	-	4,208
Lobbying	-	12,000	12,000	24,000
Donor events	-	-	788	788
Other	-	1,407	-	1,407
School development	2,200	-	-	2,200
Employee compensation	102,120	102,120	87,531	291,771
Payroll expenses	8,418	8,418	7,215	24,051
Employee benefits	16,076	16,076	13,780	45,932
Travel	6,516	-	19,545	26,061
	\$ 3,587,683	\$ 233,487	\$ 150,916	\$ 3,972,086

# ARETE SCHOLARS FUND, INC.

## Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2014 and 2013

4. FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES, continued:

	For the Year Ended June 30, 2013			
	Program	General and administrative	Fund raising	Total
Scholarship awards	\$ 4,174,194	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,174,194
Bank fees	-	8,588	-	8,588
Accounting fees	-	11,240	-	11,240
Outside contract services	9,925	-	6,617	16,542
Rent, parking, and utilities	-	17,906	-	17,906
Books and subscriptions	199	199	845	1,243
Postage and mailing	339	126	-	465
Printing and copying	1,109	1,109	554	2,772
Office supplies	494	3,187	808	4,489
Telephone	3,254	3,254	1,627	8,135
Advertising	230	-	-	230
Marketing	4,546	4,546	3,033	12,125
Insurance	-	3,954	-	3,954
Lobbying	-	12,000	12,000	24,000
Donor events	-	-	867	867
Other	-	1,592	-	1,592
Interest Expense	-	2,320	-	2,320
Employee compensation	110,011	110,011	94,295	314,317
Payroll expenses	9,960	9,960	8,537	28,457
Employee benefits	10,161	10,161	8,709	29,031
Travel	1,047	-	4,698	5,745
	\$ 4,325,469	\$ 200,153	\$ 142,590	\$ 4,668,212

5. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS:

Subsequent events have been evaluated through the report date, which represents the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Subsequent events after that date have not been evaluated.