



# Memorial Funds

**A unique way to honor your loved one**

**M**any families ask that donations be made to a specific charitable organization when a loved one passes away. By establishing a Memorial Fund through the Elk County Community Foundation you don't have to decide where those donations should go today. You can take the time you need to think about your loved one's passions and interests, and decide where the money goes later.

## **Why choose a Memorial Fund?**

A Memorial Fund allows you to spend time thinking of the most appropriate way to honor your loved one. By establishing a Memorial Fund you can make sure donations made in memory of your loved one benefit the local community. In many cases, donations made to national organizations don't benefit local causes directly. With a Memorial Fund you know exactly how donations will be used.

## **Will I know who made gifts in memory of my loved one?**

Yes, you will receive a statement that tells you who made gifts to the fund. The Community Foundation will acknowledge every gift that is made by sending a thank you letter to the person who made it. All gifts to the fund are fully tax-deductible.

## **What is a Memorial Fund?**

A Memorial Fund is a charitable account you set up through the Community Foundation to accept gifts in memory of your loved one. You use the money that accumulates in the fund to make grants to causes or organizations that your loved one cared about. You decide which causes the gifts should benefit later, instead of making a decision today.

## **What can I do with donations made to a Memorial Fund?**

Donations made to a Memorial Fund may be used to make grants to organizations that are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax-exempt, such as your loved one's place of worship, public libraries, nonprofit organizations and most educational institutions. Six months after you establish your fund we will meet with you — you can then make the choice to use the donations as seed money to establish a permanent fund, or to make a one-time donation to a local charity(s).

## **How do I establish a Memorial Fund?**

- ◆ Create a name for your fund, such as "The John Smith Memorial Fund", or "The John Smith Family Fund".
- ◆ Select a family representative who will decide how donations to the fund are distributed.
- ◆ Complete and sign a simple agreement form.
- ◆ Place the name of the fund in the obituary using wording such as, "Memorial contributions may be made to The John Smith Memorial Fund of the Elk County Community Foundation, PO Box 934, St. Marys, PA 15857".

**Elk County Community Foundation • 32 South St. Marys Street • PO Box 934 • St. Marys, PA, 15857**

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*When faced with a personal loss, family and friends often want a thoughtful way of honoring the memory of someone for whom they care deeply. Establishing a memorial fund offers a way for you to turn memorial gifts into a lasting legacy in your loved one's name. These families chose to honor their loved ones in a very special and meaningful way.*

## *Shared Stories: Honoring Their Loved One's Memory*



### **Tom and Mary Rita Valentine Fund**

The Tom and Mary Rita Valentine Fund supports Catholic education at Elk County Catholic School System (ECCSS) through scholarships and funding for general operational needs. The Valentines put the creation of their fund in their estate plans, which will provide much needed dollars to ECCSS forever. The couple believed that by supporting Catholic education they could share their faith with the next generation. The Foundation honors their belief in Catholic education by administering this fund exactly how they wished.

### **Jacqueline Renaud National Honor Society Scholarship**

Jacqueline was a Junior in high school when she lost her life in a car accident. Her parents and family chose to honor her memory by establishing a scholarship in her name for a Ridgway High School Senior who is a member of the National Honor Society with the highest grade point average and attending a four year post education program. Jacqueline was a dedicated and caring young woman as indicated by her accomplishments including High Honor Roll, Captain and MVP of her Junior Varsity Volleyball team, and a volunteer for the local hospital and her church.



### **Ruth E. Reed Nursing Scholarship**

Ruth Reed was a dedicated nurse, wife and mother of four. Because of her strong belief in education and in nursing, her family wanted to honor her by establishing the Ruth E. Reed Memorial Nursing Scholarship. She attended nursing school in WWII through the Cadet Training Corps and received her RN degree from Temple in 1947. Ruth was a plant nurse at Elliot Company, did private duty nursing, and served in various capacities for 38 years at Elk County General Hospital. Throughout her nursing career, Ruth continued to expand her skills through continuing education opportunities and encouraged others to do the same.

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