

# Honor Roll 2022



CYPRESS COVE'S NAMED AND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

“

Give light and the  
people will find  
their own way.

- Rusty Brown  
and Bill Tanner

This is the most  
meaningful gift I  
ever made.

- Ruth Anderson

Education  
opens doors  
of possibility.

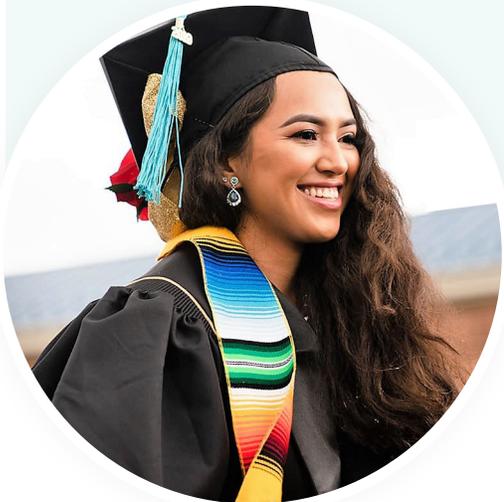
- Audrey Olson

”



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the Cypress Scholarship Program .....	3	The Robert & Peggy Kleckner Endowed Scholarship.....	9
The Perry & Susan Ahrens Endowed Scholarship.....	3	The Thomas & Rosalie Kreulen Endowed Scholarship.....	9
The Ruth Anderson Endowed Scholarship.....	3	The Marilyn Klepacki Endowed Scholarship ...	9
The Paul R. Berney & Joyce W. Bailey Scholarship .....	4	The Glenda LeMay & David LeMay Scholarship .....	10
The Jack G. Brown Scholarship .....	4	The Tom & Bev Lisle Endowed Scholarship ....	10
The Rusty Brown & Bill Tanner Endowed Scholarship.....	5	The Penny & Doug Lind Endowed Scholarship.....	11
The Bill & Carol Cessna Endowed Scholarship.....	5	The Donna Miceli Scholarship.....	11
The William N. Felt Endowed Scholarship .....	5	The Bill & Janet Nichols Endowed Scholarship.....	11
The John & Mary Finan Scholarship .....	6	The Jim & Ardeth Westrope Scholarship.....	12
The Gabe & Muriel Freedman Scholarship.....	6	The Lyle & Audrey Olson Endowed Scholarship.....	12
The Goldberg & Papier Families Endowed Scholarship.....	6	The Chalmers & Beatrice Sechrist Endowed Scholarship.....	12
The Carol Ann Guthrie Endowed Scholarship.....	7	The Sheppard Memorial Endowed Scholarship.....	13
The Don & Jane King Endowed Scholarship....	7	The Harold Wickus, Jr. Endowed Scholarship.....	13
The Betty Haskell Endowed Scholarship .....	8	The Anne Tatler Family Scholarship.....	14
The Barbara High Family Endowed Scholarship.....	8	The Robert & Dianne Willis Endowed Scholarship.....	14
The Bert & Joanie Jenks Endowed Scholarship for Persistence .....	8	The Turk & Mills Family Scholarship .....	14
		The Carol Mason Wright Endowed Scholarship.....	15
		Establishing a Named or Endowed Scholarship .....	15



*The generous donors that make scholarships possible are personally committed to students success in life, in school and career. Thank You!*

## ABOUT THE CYPRESS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



In 2017, the resident-led Community Advancement Committee committed to creating a program to send Cypress Cove employees to college. Working through the Office of Philanthropy, they invited all residents to join them in contributing to what, at that time, was just a great idea. Seventy-one donors contributed gifts from \$5 to \$5,000. In November, Bill Nichols created the first named scholarship fund with a gift of \$30,000.

The committee and staff did extensive research, shaping the application and selection process. The inaugural class of Cypress Cove Scholars was announced for the Spring 2018 semester—12 students, including two husband-and-wife duos. With impact and momentum, the Cypress Scholarship program and donations grew remarkably, now allowing funding for children of employees, and it shows no signs of slowing.

On the following pages, you will meet the donors who have given above-and-beyond, establishing scholarships of significance. Even more important, these are some of the people who make Cypress Cove such a remarkable place, people who have learned the joy of giving.



### ***The Perry & Susan Ahrens Endowed Scholarship***

Perry and Susan Ahrens moved to Cypress Cove in 2015 and immediately became actively involved in the

community. Perry soon served on the Finance Communications Committee, the Community Advancement Committee, the Staff Scholarship Committee and as Resident Council President. Susan served as Secretary of the Library Board and Secretary of the Arts Studio Board.

The Ahrens understand the impact education can have on life. Perry and Susan both worked while obtaining master's degrees. Perry attended Fairleigh Dickinson University at night while working at AT&T. Susan taught high school during the day and worked on her degree at night at the University of Delaware.

They decided to fund a scholarship first to help employees of The Inn, where Susan's father was a resident. Later they further funded and endowed the scholarship to benefit all employees of assisted living at Cypress Cove. Noticing how many aspiring young people with good values work at Cypress Cove, they wanted to help them advance their careers. The Perry and Susan Ahrens Endowed Scholarship opens doors for those who are equally devoted to improving their lives and the lives of others.



### ***The Ruth Anderson Endowed Scholarship***

"This is the most meaningful gift I ever made."

Ruth Anderson was born in Minot, North Dakota, and went to

school in a small two-story building where grades 1-4 were in the same room, grades 5-8 in another, and grades 9-12 were on the upper level. Ruth grew up on a farm, married at age 17 and at 20 had her son Jay, who is now very successful in real estate. After separating from her husband, Ruth was successful starting and selling businesses, and she gives a lot of credit to her adoptive parents, saying "they were the most wonderful parents a child could ever have."

She lived in Colorado and Arizona and has been in Florida for over 20 years. She worked hard and played hard, taking about 100 cruises, including a 103-day cruise around the world, but her favorites were the jazz cruises where she could dance all night long. Ruth moved to Cypress Cove in 2005 where she connected with old friends and made many new ones. She hopes that this scholarship will make an impact in many lives.



### **The Paul R. Berney & Joyce W. Bailey Scholarship**

"We are so proud to participate in

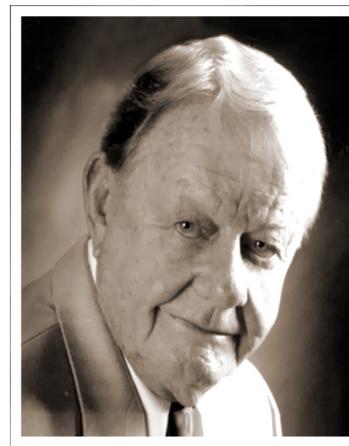
funding a program that will lead to better lives."

Throughout history, education has been confined to a select group in society. Even an understanding of linear or pictographic forms of writing were restricted to a very few in ancient times. Today, a high school education is available to everyone. It is higher education that poses a financial burden, especially when funded through loans. The staff scholarship program is intended to alleviate this burden and offer access to higher education to our staff and their families.

As a distinguished professor of management and entrepreneurship at Yale University, Paul helped many students seeking

financial help. One of the themes of his teaching philosophy was the importance of corporate responsibility in contributing to education and the public welfare.

Joyce is an artist and art historian with degrees from Youngstown College (Butler Institute of American Art), Tulane University, Yale University, and a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University. Her work in U.S. poverty areas and her travel and research in international studies leads her to believe that education is our best hope for a peaceful world order.



### **The Jack G. Brown Scholarship**

"I want to encourage and reward those who are ambitious, those who set goals and pursue them to realization."

These are words

addressed to each carefully selected recipient of the Jack G. Brown Scholarship. An executive with Northwestern Mutual, Mr. Brown became a chartered life underwriter, eventually opening his own agency in Minneapolis. Through the Columns Resource Group, Northwestern Mutual gives the Jack G. Brown Performance Award to a financial adviser who demonstrates a strong commitment to community, leadership, and supportive guidance.

Having lost his wife after 65 years of marriage and both his son and daughter, he cherished his grandchildren and other family members greatly. Jack began supporting the Cypress Cove Staff Scholarship program from its inception, increasing his generosity by later establishing the Jack G. Brown Scholarship for those with exceptional promise who need the financial boost to complete their education.

***"This is the most meaningful gift I ever made."***



## ***The Rusty Brown & Bill Tanner Endowed Scholarship***

“Give light and the people will find their own way.”

This company motto of Scripps-Howard also summarizes the lives and philosophies of Rusty Brown and Bill Tanner. Rusty advises, “Never limit yourself to being one person; recreate yourself as you go along in life. Do not think you have to follow one path.” After graduating from Northwestern University, she worked at The Cleveland Press, where she met Bill, the city editor, a graduate of Case Western Reserve. Bill became the editor of the Albuquerque Tribune and encouraged his journalists to “write stories that will make people think and take action.” Rusty’s career expanded as a nationally syndicated columnist and author of “Women as We See Ourselves” published in 1984.

At Cypress Cove, Bill helped lead Inquiring Minds, a monthly discussion of current issues. Rusty created biographical one-woman plays about historical figures such as Clara Barton, Mina Edison, and Katherine Hepburn, which she performed for crowds in Fort Myers’ theaters, as many as 65 shows per year.

All through their life journeys, Bill and Rusty have shone the light of knowledge and truth so people may find their way. This scholarship is another example of that commitment.



## ***The Bill & Carol Cessna Endowed Scholarship***

Throughout their lives, Bill and Carol Cessna have sought out people with great potential and helped

them grow. Through this scholarship, they affirm proven talent for generations.

Bill Cessna had a knack for seeing potential in others. He created a home building company and when looking for a business partner, he came across a fellow named Dave who had just lost his job. Bill hired him part time. Dave became a large part of the company’s progress. Dave also had a big heart and became a philanthropist. Eventually the company was turned over to the “tapped talent” Bill had discovered and nurtured over the years. The company continued with its original name and more importantly invested in philanthropic projects, including medical research, helping the homeless, and advancing education.

Through Mr. Cessna’s ability to find great talent, the legacy lives on. Education and research—deeply held values for the Cessnas. The recipients of the Bill and Carol Cessna Endowed Scholarship demonstrate exceptional talent and potential.



## ***The William N. Felt Endowed Scholarship***

William Felt grew up in Melrose Park, Illinois. During his first year at Northern Illinois University, he visited the art studio to

observe a ceramics class. Watching the instructor at the potter’s wheel, Bill thought to himself, “That looks like fun; I could do that.” He changed his major from math education to art and earned a master’s degree in art education with an emphasis on ceramics. As a teacher at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois, Bill always pushed his students to “be the best you can be. Set high expectations for yourself along with determination and you will succeed.” Bill would be the first one to cheer on an individual who wanted to pursue their goals and further their education.

Seeing the exceptional care that Bill received at The Lodge during his battle with early onset dementia motivated his wife Jennifer to move into Cypress Cove to be closer to him. Bill passed away at the end of January 2021. This scholarship is a way to honor a great teacher whose legacy lives on in his artwork and the students that he affected.



### **The John & Mary Finan Scholarship**

“To the recipients of this scholarship, congratulations! May this assist you in your lifetime of learning and your

service to humankind.”

The course of formal education varies for everyone, but the practice of feeding the mind and acting on new knowledge sets a course of lifelong fulfillment. The lives of John and Mary Finan attest to this truth.

Mary took the traditional route from high school straight to Fordham University and on to a life in accounting with Ernst & Young. She was the second woman to become a partner with the firm. John went from high school into the military, after which he joined the New York Police Department and earned his bachelor’s degree from John Jay College and then a master’s degree from Rutgers University. Both degrees were in Criminal Justice. He put his skills to work, helping those whose lives were wrecked by drugs and violence. He retired from the NYPD and then worked from a psychiatric hospital in New Jersey where he provided assistance to employees including certified drug and alcohol counseling.

When John passed in 2021, Mary knew this was the right time to establish a scholarship, honoring his passion for helping others.



### **The Gabe & Muriel Freedman Scholarship**

Muriel was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship to Hunter College in New York City. She went on to earn her

master’s degree from the New School of Social Research and worked at New York Hospital. Gabe attended Harvard for his undergraduate degree and Yale for his master’s degree. After school, he served in the U.S. Army. At the time, there was a need for interpreters of Japanese. They handed him a Japanese language textbook, and, in six months, he learned the language. After his time in the service, he returned briefly to his family’s furniture manufacturing business. Most of his career entailed teaching Asian languages.

The education the Freedmans received brought opportunities that they might never have experienced otherwise. They traveled frequently, observing other countries, and learning the cultures. “It was a broadening experience,” says Muriel. They knew that learning was a never-ending endeavor. “Anytime you have an opportunity to learn, take it!”

The Gabe and Muriel Freedman Scholarship encourages recipients to embark on a lifetime of ever-expanding knowledge.



### **The Goldberg & Papier Families Endowed Scholarship**

Giving is a family tradition for the Papiers and the Goldbergs. Joe Goldberg and

Chuck Papier wanted to surprise their wives with a scholarship in their honor. They privately met with the Office of Philanthropy and created the fund, then informed their spouses. The initial gift of \$10,000 was endowed in April 2021. The Scholarship is a dedicated award given annually to selected students who work for the Cypress Cove Dining Services team. Judith and Chuck instructed their children to make donations to this family fund instead of traditional holiday gifts.

Marcia and Joe Goldberg understand the importance of advanced education. She received assistance from her two employers as she and her husband obtained their Juris Doctor degrees. After the loss of a son, Marcia and Joe established an engineering scholarship at the University of Michigan in their son's memory.

Studies repeatedly show that generous people were taught by their parents and grandparents to give. The Goldberg and Papier Families Scholarship Fund invites generations of family and friends to join them in experiencing the joy of giving.



### **The Carol Ann Guthrie Endowed Scholarship**

Carol Guthrie's lifetime passion for education and music led her to impart the joy of learning and creating for

generations. Her husband, Bob Guthrie, created this scholarship in her honor as a way to pass along these deeply held values.

When they met, Carol was a schoolteacher and Bob was the school principal. Before long, they realized they shared a drive to learn. Bob had also been an elementary and high school teacher. He earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's in educational administration from Western Illinois University. He also served as a coordinator of special education.

Their life together spanned 42 happily married years until she passed away in 2017. Despite Bob's heartbreak that Carol's passing prevented her from coming to and enjoying Cypress Cove, he adjusted to the community by joining several groups such as the Veterans Club. Among his favorite activities, though, is singing in the Cypress Cove Chapel Choir and singing at The Inn and The Lodge. Carol's passion for music and education were only surpassed by her love for her husband.



### **The Don & Jane King Endowed Scholarship**

"Make the most of your education. Be involved in the community. Above all, pass it on!"

These are the words of Jane King's grandfather, whose values helped define the lives of Don and Jane King. Don and Jane's parents were friends, so they knew each other growing up. Jane and Don were fortunate to be the first generation of their families to attend college, at Bucknell University. Don participated in ROTC and following college served two years in the Army. They married afterward and settled in Philadelphia. Jane taught at Pierce Business School while Don worked as an accountant for Price Waterhouse.

The family tradition of working hard, saving and spending well led to retirement in Cape Coral with summers in Colorado. Their two grown children settled in the Denver and Chicago areas. The Don and Jane King Scholarship was established in 2019 to support Cypress Cove employees with exceptional potential. "Giving is living," Mrs. King says. "You have received much, now it's what you leave behind, so PASS IT ON!"



## **The Betty Haskell Endowed Scholarship**

When Betty Haskell passed on September 11, 2018, an outpouring of gifts in her memory ensued. Donations arrived from

Cypress Cove residents and around the country. Soon thereafter, the Betty Haskell Endowed Scholarship was established. The scholarship is a natural progression of Betty's life who, with her husband Frank and their family, have been very active in Southwest Florida philanthropy.

In 1995, following their 36-year-old daughter's death from breast cancer, the Haskell's created the Barbara's Friends Golisano Children's Hospital Cancer Fund. Betty and Frank's giving also included many other important causes, including Cypress Cove's memory care facility, The Cottage. Frank continued on after the passing of his beloved wife, helping establish Cypress Cove's Staff Scholarship Committee, sending a total of 55 employees and their children to college by the end of his tenure in 2020.

The Betty Haskell Endowed Scholarship continues her influence on future generations through educational assistance. The first recipient of the Betty Haskell Endowed Scholarship was Travis Whiddon, a cook in Cypress Cove's culinary services, who studied Engineering at Florida Gulf Coast University.



## **The Barbara High Family Endowed Scholarship**

Barbara High established a foundation for the purpose of creating and awarding a

scholarship in memory of son Scott Stegeman and in honor of sons Tom and Brian Stegeman. Scott was born with cerebral palsy and developed epilepsy at the age of eight. He accepted his limitations but never allowed them to define his existence. He graduated from the University of Dayton, Ohio, on a disability scholarship award and enjoyed independent living until his death at the age of 58. Brother Tom often protected his brother from bullying. Tom's ambition was to go to college. To earn the funds necessary, he founded a house painting and lawn cutting business, became a high school instructor and swimming coach, and graduated from Miami University of Ohio. He now owns and operates a successful sign printing company in Fort Myers. Youngest son Brian also graduated from Miami University of Ohio on the ROTC program. He is currently a pilot and captain for United Airlines.

A recipient of the Barbara High Family Scholarship Award is a scholar who has shown courage and determination with life, a commitment to education, and perseverance in ensuring success in the years ahead.



## **The Bert & Joanie Jenks Endowed Scholarship for Persistence**

Students with "perseverance, tenacity and grit" who demonstrate "sustained persistence,

through personal endeavor, sustained employment, overcoming physical, mental or financial challenge" can be rewarded with the Bert and Joanie Jenks Scholarship for Persistence.

Mr. and Mrs. Jenks married in 1950 while Bert was attending Southern Oregon College and Joan was finishing high school. Mr. Jenks became a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. Over the years, Mrs. Jenks devoted over 1,000 hours as a family services volunteer and

earned the 1968 USAF Air Training Command's "Volunteer of the Year" award. When Lt. Colonel Bert Jenks retired, he and Joan moved to Sanibel Island. They became investors in real estate on the islands and eventually in Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Jenks raised a son and a daughter, Rick and Debbie, who helped them in their businesses. Joan's mother, Peg Watson, was a Cypress Cove resident. When Bert and Joan moved in, they became Cypress Cove's first "legacy couple."



### ***The Robert & Peggy Kleckner Endowed Scholarship***

Peg and Bob were born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. A graduate of the University of Dayton,

Bob met Peg, a sophomore at Miami University in Ohio. Having completed Army Reserve training, Bob was a teaching assistant in accounting at The Ohio State University, while earning his MBA. Graduating early from Miami, Peg began teaching fourth grade. They then married, and Bob received his MBA and passed the CPA exam. Three daughters put a temporary halt to Peg's teaching, though she continued to teach and volunteer in schools wherever they have lived. Along with another Ohio State graduate, Bob started the Kleckner and Cole accounting firm in Dayton, which later merged with Grant Thornton, a national firm.

Upon retirement, Bob and Peg moved to Fort Myers, but shortly thereafter Bob was asked to return as managing partner of Grant Thornton International. They have always been involved in volunteer and philanthropic endeavors with United Way, Salvation Army and the SWFL Community Foundation. They hope their scholarship helps others access career education, to realize their goals and dreams.



### ***The Thomas & Rosalie Kreulen Endowed Scholarship***

Tom and Rosalie attended what is now Calvin University, where

they met. They moved to Ann Arbor where Tom received his degree in medicine from the University of Michigan. Rosalie worked for the University. They then moved to Boston where Tom received specialized training in cardiology and research. Tom spent two years as a cardiologist in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. Tom's subsequent career was at Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania. Teaching was an important aspect while he was director of a cardiology training program. Rosalie worked as an accountant and coached girls' high school basketball.

Education was always a high priority for the Kreulens. They feel a well-focused education is the key to a successful and fulfilling life.



### ***The Marilyn Klepacki Endowed Scholarship***

Born to German immigrants in Brooklyn, New York, Marilyn was 21 months old when her family moved back

to Germany, though her father returned to America during World War II. Following the war, the family was reunited in Glen Cove, New York. Now an

eighth grader and speaking only German, Marilyn learned English from two Jewish classmates. By the end of the school year, she was on the honor roll. She wanted to attend college, but her father insisted she go to work instead. Earning \$25 a week at a bank, she lived at home. At age 20, she married and had four children. After they were all in school, Marilyn attended nursing school. She graduated as a Registered Nurse at age 44. Most of her career was part-time in obstetrics in newborn and NICU nurseries. Even after relocating to Sanibel, she continued as a volunteer “cuddler,” rocking babies at Lee Memorial Hospital and the new HealthPark Hospital for 25 years.

Her commitment to community life continues since moving to Cypress Cove. With special appreciation for those who work in Cypress Cove’s Culinary Services, Marilyn established her Endowed Scholarship Fund to provide educational opportunities for generations to come.



### **The Glenda LeMay & David LeMay Scholarship**

“Gigi” LeMay was from St. Louis, Missouri. She moved to Cypress Cove in December 2019 just weeks before

the COVID pandemic forced the campus to go on lockdown. She expressed gratitude for the security and care during the global health crisis but regretted not being able to socialize. As restrictions lifted, she was among the first to reach out and make new friends. She enjoyed gardening and water exercises.

Mrs. LeMay’s late husband provided well for her. This created the opportunity for her to help others. She and son David began discussing the creation of a joint scholarship as soon as Glenda moved to Cypress Cove. They are people with big hearts, caring for those in need.

Mrs. LeMay and David utilized the power of focused collaboration to increase their impact. Multi-generational philanthropy expands the legacy of the parents through their children and beyond. In a similar fashion, the Glenda LeMay and David LeMay Scholarship passes along the importance of education to future generations, changing forever their trajectory of success.



### **The Tom & Bev Lisle Endowed Scholarship**

“You need to learn to discern between what is true and what is untrue, what is important and what is trivial, what matters and

what doesn’t.”

Bev and Tom have spent their lives learning. Both children of federal government employees transferred in the late 1940s from the Midwest to Washington, D.C., Bev and Tom first met in junior high school. It wasn’t until Bev had graduated from Western Maryland College and Tom was finishing up at the University of Maryland that she asked him to check out her ailing Plymouth sedan and he asked her for a first date. They already knew each other well, so it wasn’t long before they were planning a wedding.

Tom added a law degree to his mechanical engineering degree while he was working full time as an engineer and Bev was tending to the babies.

After 17 years working for multinationals, Tom acquired his own boat manufacturing, then plastics manufacturing companies. Bev substitute-taught high school did many odd jobs, then as a quinquagenarian began a real estate career. It’s been a shared adventure, living in nine cities in seven states plus two years in Kobe, Japan, with lots of travel abroad, lots of mountains skied and waterways boated and kayaked, and they are still busy learning.

**Learn what matters and what doesn’t.**



## **The Penny & Doug Lind Endowed Scholarship**

When Doug and Penny Lind married in 1965, they came from two different backgrounds—he from a Midwestern

preacher's family, she from an entertainment family in New York. But they always shared a firm commitment to common values: justice, fairness, faith, equality and education.

Penny attended Wheelock College for Teachers and Columbia University, studied acting and voice and settled into a career in advertising and marketing. Doug graduated with honors from Harvard University. He then earned the Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York. He was awarded three doctorates—one in Psychoanalysis, another in Pastoral Care and Counseling, and a third in Anglican Studies at Oxford University in England. Doug has been a parish minister, a psychoanalyst, a management consultant and an educator.

Together, the Linds have influenced thousands and this scholarship continues their impact for years to come.



## **The Donna Miceli Scholarship**

"I firmly believe that everyone who wants to go to college should be able to go."

Donna was thrilled when the Cypress Cove scholarship

committee was established in 2017. "I couldn't raise my hand fast enough to join," she said. By the time she had started high school, she had decided

she wanted to go to Syracuse University to study journalism and creative writing. But her parents, both blue-collar workers, couldn't afford the tuition. Perhaps foolishly, she only applied to Syracuse University. Fortunately, she was accepted and offered a full-tuition scholarship, along with a New York State Regents scholarship. In addition, she worked for board and spent summers working in a canning factory—for \$1 an hour!

"I often tell people that the only really good thing about working in the canning factory was that it was there I met my husband, Art. He was also attending college with the help of scholarships. We raised four children, who earned advanced degrees with help from scholarships and fellowships. I'm grateful for the opportunity to help deserving Cypress Cove employees or their children. I know Art would support my efforts to 'pay it forward.'"



## **The Bill & Janet Nichols Endowed Scholarship**

My parents, Janet and Bill Nichols, met at the University of Vermont during his senior year. He graduated from the

ROTC program and entered the Army. They married, and Janet dropped out of college to follow him. This took them to Fort Benning, Georgia, and Schofield Barracks on Oahu, Hawaii. With two young children (my twin sister and me), he left the army and pursued a career in sales and management.

As was customary at the time, my mother stayed home while we frequently moved around the country. She never returned to college, but later went to work in doctors' offices. She was always sorry that she never earned her baccalaureate nursing degree. During their retirement to Bonita Springs and Fort Myers, they volunteered their time and shared their resources with many charities and hospitals. Janet

passed away in July 2013 and Bill in May 2020. During his final years, it was Bill's wish to encourage the staff to pursue their own dreams in the medical field.

On behalf of my family, we look forward to the bright future the recipients of this scholarship envision for themselves. — Lynn Nichols White



### **The Jim & Ardeth Westrope Scholarship**

Education takes many forms, and it always opens your eyes. Jim and Ardeth Westrope

devoted their lives to learning and teaching—not just in the classroom, but everywhere they were. Jim graduated with his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan and went on to chair the math department at the New York State University College at Buffalo. Ardeth, meanwhile, earned her degrees from Eastern Michigan University and Buffalo State. She enjoyed elementary education and was involved in what is now Teach for America. She simultaneously dedicated much of her time to raising their three children.

During summers, they traveled the world as teaching volunteers, including service in Jamaica, Crete, Nigeria and Indonesia. While teaching, they were always learning through meeting other people and experiencing different cultures.

The Jim and Ardeth Westrope Scholarship carries on the values of these remarkable educators. May each recipient of the scholarship embrace life-long opportunities to learn and grow and share their knowledge with others.



### **The Lyle & Audrey Olson Endowed Scholarship**

"Education opens doors of possibility," says Audrey Olson. "As a recipient of the Lyle and Audrey Olson Scholarship, we hope

this gift opens opportunities for you."

Lyle and Audrey Olson came from western North Dakota. Their parents did not attend college; in fact, only one of the four parents finished high school! The Olsons married young and had three children by the time they were 26. They felt so strongly about education that they helped their children complete school while Audrey deferred her own secondary education. Two of their three children are now doctors. Mr. Olson utilized correspondence education as well as the University of North Dakota to complete his accounting degree, becoming a distinguished CPA. Ms. Olson began college at age 34 and finished at age 45, graduating with a degree from Metropolitan State College in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She worked several years as a family counselor.

The Lyle and Audrey Olson Scholarship became a reality following numerous conversations with family and friends. "It was meaningful to us because of the opened doors of possibility," says Ms. Olson. "Life is an adventure, and we hope this scholarship and your education led to an adventure as satisfying as ours."



### **The Chalmers & Beatrice Sechrist Endowed Scholarship**

Chalmers and Beatrice Sechrist had a lifelong involvement in higher education.

Chalmers received his master's and PhD in electrical engineering from Pennsylvania State University. Beatrice Myers Sechrist went on to earn a master's in nursing from Indiana University. Chalmers spent most of his academic career at the University of Illinois, rounding out his career at the National Science Foundation in the Division of Undergraduate Education.

After retirement, he joined the advisory board to form the U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering at Florida Gulf Coast University and taught classes in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Early in her career, Beatrice worked as a nurse and then as a nursing administrator. Her favorite position was that of nursing instructor at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois, where she taught for many years in both the LPN and RN programs.

Chalmers and Beatrice were Cypress Cove residents from 2009 to 2020. Their children, Jonathan Sechrist and Jennifer Sechrist Mai, established the Chalmers and Beatrice Sechrist Endowed Scholarship to honor their parents' lifelong commitment to education.



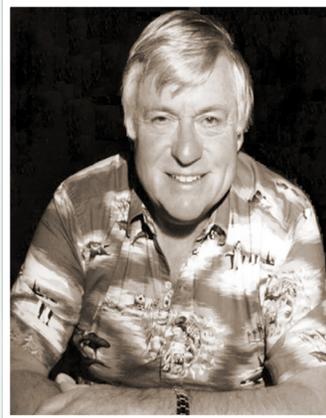
### ***The Sheppard Memorial Endowed Scholarship***

Bob and Dottie Sheppard were both raised in Ohio and graduated from local universities funded by scholarships and jobs.

Bob served with the U.S. Navy during the Korean war; Dottie moved to California. A crazy matchmaking followed by a whirlwind romance led them to a wedding in the chapel at Pearl Harbor. After Bob's military service, the Sheppards returned to Cincinnati with a young son, Bob. Two more sons joined their older brother and Dottie raised the family as a stay-at-home mom. Bob worked for 35 years for the Procter & Gamble Company (P&G), pioneering the new field of information technology. In 1968, the company moved them with their youngest son, Rick, to Brussels, Belgium.

When Rick graduated from the International School of Brussels, the Sheppards returned to the U.S.

After retirement, Bob and Dottie became snowbirds and then full-time Florida residents. In 2015, they called Cypress Cove home. For many years it was a pleasure for the Sheppards to offer financial support to various religious and community organizations. This continued by their establishing The Sheppard Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of their first son, Bob, who died of colon cancer.



### ***The Harold Wickus, Jr. Endowed Scholarship***

Growing up in Baraboo, Wisconsin, Mr. Wickus worked in his father's business,

Baraboo Foods, from the age of 14. After business college and a stint in the Navy, he returned to Baraboo Foods and hit the road as a salesman. He loved the job. Eventually the company was sold, and Mr. Wickus retired in his 50s. He began spending his winters in Islamorada and summers in Wisconsin. He married his high school sweetheart, Lois, who died of cancer after 30 years of marriage. His father developed Alzheimer's and, while caring for him, Mr. Wickus met and married Barbara. Barbara's son is autistic; her father helped found a school in Birmingham, Alabama, for those with autism. Known today as Glenwood, it's 350 staff annually serve 8,000 children and adults with autism and behavioral disabilities.

"Help those in need," Mr. Wickus says. "Do what makes you happy. Be honest. Keep your promises. Continue saying 'please' and 'thank you' even as an adult." For Harold Wickus, Jr., this scholarship is meant to share those values with the scholars who receive it, now and throughout life.



## ***The Anne Tatler Family Scholarship***

Anne Tatler became a resident of Cypress Cove in 2004 and was a resident of The Lodge from 2015 until her death in 2018. She was born in New York

City and became an orphan. Her life changed when she married Bill Tatler. They lived in Japan, Spain, New York and New England. She worked for the TV station at the University of Vermont for many years. She was a big Red Sox fan, and she relished her trips to spring training games for which her daughter, Joan, had season tickets. Anne decided to research the Tatler ancestors, discovering that one signed the Declaration of Independence and another arrived in Massachusetts before the Mayflower.

Anne was a fierce believer in education. She put herself through college by working as a housekeeper and a nanny. Anne encouraged her daughter, Barbara Lewis, to get an MBA at age 50, which changed Barbara's life.

The scholarship was established by Barbara in Anne's memory, to thank all of Anne's caregivers for their devotion, service and commitment. Barbara's hope is that this scholarship fund can help change each recipient's life.



## ***The Robert & Dianne Willis Endowed Scholarship***

"I really care about helping those less fortunate, by supporting educational aspirations as well as by improving their quality of life."

These words from Robert Willis exemplify the purpose of the scholarship that he and Dianne created and endowed. The professional lives of Mr. and Mrs. Willis show that it is possible to do well and do good at the same time.

Dianne put her skills in medical transcription to work and eventually operated a national recruiting company. Robb was an entrepreneur, starting 27 companies. Their passion is seeking to provide opportunities for others. Robb served on several boards that improved the lives of people with multiple sclerosis. Perhaps most meaningful was serving on the Educational Foundation of the National Affordable Housing Management Association, giving college scholarships. Dianne crafted beauty through flower arrangements, winning "Best of Show" and blue ribbons. As chair of the Cypress Cove Staff Scholarship Committee in 2021, Robb led resident volunteers to set records in fundraising.



## ***The Turk & Mills Family Scholarship***

The Turk and Mills families believe that education opens the door to future growth, achievement, independence and even happiness. They created this scholarship toward these ends. Together, the Turks educated their four children at top-notch universities. Lucian Turk worked in a steel mill in Illinois to earn a living and pay his way through La Grange Junior College. He went on to the University of Illinois and earned a degree in engineering.

Education has also been important to the Mills, with Robin starting on a factory floor at the age of 18 and going to university at night. Jan followed a more traditional route. Their children continued the tradition with their youngest also devoting two years

to teaching in Senegal with the Peace Corps.

Lucian and Shirley Turk moved to Cypress Cove in 2000, and Lucian passed away in 2007. Their daughter Jan and husband Robin Mills moved into Cypress Cove in 2020. Their Cypress Cove Scholarship Fund is an excellent vehicle for motivating and enabling talented young people to make plans for the future. The family hopes the scholarship will help the staff experience the thrill of a college education.



### **The Carol Mason Wright Endowed Scholarship**

"I believe in the 'underdog.'"

Carol Mason Wright was an excellent student

*I believe in the underdog.*

who attended both Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio and The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. She was a powerful debater, and her dream was to study law. Her heart was for the underprivileged, and she saw the law as a means to make the world better for everyone. She often spoke of helping the "underdog" because they appreciate the support more than anyone.

One night after leaving work, Carol was in a car accident that ended her life far too soon. She met an untimely death at the age of only 21. Her promising future was cut short, but she lives on now through this scholarship. Her parents anonymously created the endowment to allow her love for humanity to reach those who would benefit greatly from the assistance. The word "philanthropy" is derived from two Greek words: "phileo" which means "love" (whence "Philadelphia—the City of Brotherly Love") and "anthropos" which means "humankind." Philanthropy is the love of humanity, and Carol Mason Wright embodied that love.

## **ESTABLISHING A NAMED OR ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Your tax-deductible gift of \$10,000 or more creates a named scholarship. Funds are invested for future growth and preservation of principal, stretching the awards well into the future. Scholarships are disbursed as long as funds are available.

Once a scholarship reaches \$25,000, it can be endowed—the principal is never to be touched. Scholarships are granted from earnings and future donations, and the scholarships will continue in perpetuity.

Scholarships are funded through gifts of cash, equities, irrevocable pledges, estate gifts and charitable gift annuities. Most donors provide an initial \$10,000 or \$25,000 cash gift to create the fund so we can start awarding scholarships immediately. Additional gifts can be added over time and from many sources like family

and friends, appreciated assets and even your will or estate plan.

A signed agreement establishes the fund and together we ring the Generosity Bell in the Office of Philanthropy. A biographical sheet is created to be given to all future recipients of your scholarship. This document helps you speak directly to them, sharing your story and the values you wish to pass along.

Your scholarship will be distributed according to your preferences stated in the agreement and policies established by the IRS, Cypress Cove and the resident-led Staff Scholarship Committee.

THANK YOU for considering this life-changing action that reaps rewards for generations to come!



CYPRESS  
PHILANTHROPY

10200 Cypress Cove Drive | Fort Myers, FL 33908 | 239.360.1197  
[CypressCoveLiving.org](http://CypressCoveLiving.org)

