

Huffmans leave legacy in Burke education

By Nancy Taylor | Posted: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 1:29 pm

Larry Huffman was a teacher and coach in the Burke County School System for thirty years. Louise, his wife, taught third grade in the Burke County School system for 20 years. Larry and Louise were career educators who were loved and admired by their students and community.

When Larry passed away in October of 2003, the Huffman family and their closest friends were determined to find a way to honor Larry. They approached the Community Foundation of Burke County (CFBC) to discuss ways in which they could honor this man whom they admired and loved.

Thus, in December of 2004, the Larry A. Huffman Scholarship Endowment Fund was established at the CFBC. Larry's family, friends, former students and the East Burke Kiwanis Club raised the initial funding to establish the fund. The fund was established as a legacy to Larry's career, a tribute to all teachers and coaches who inspire their students and an acknowledgement of those who have responded to the noble calling of teaching and coaching.

In December of 2006, family members and friends decided that Louise Huffman should also be honored. Consequently, the name of the fund was changed to the Larry and Louise Huffman Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Since 2004, 10 scholarships have been awarded to qualified applicants. The endowment has grown through the continued generous gifts of family, friends and community. Through this endowment, the Huffman legacy and inspiration lives on in the lives of new teachers and their students.

In December of 2012, Louise Huffman passed away. Prior to her death, she wrote a Christmas letter to her grandchildren which included the following poem:



Larry and Louise Huffman

A scholarship has been established in the name of Larry and Louise Huffman.

God bless this home and those who love it;
Fair be the skies which bend above it;
May never anger's thoughtless word
Within these sheltering walls be heard;
May all who rest beside this fire
And then depart, glad thoughts inspire;
And make them feel who close the door,
Friendship has graced their home once more.

The lives of Louise and Larry Huffman were filled with service, faith and commitment to family, friends and community. Their encouragement and dedication to students and teachers have inspired countless people and will continue to do so through this fund.

Since 2003, the Community Foundation of Burke County has distributed scholarships totaling \$209,057.23 from its various funds. To learn more about the Larry and Louise Huffman Scholarship Endowment Fund, other scholarship funds that are available, and/or how to establish an endowment fund, contact Nancy Taylor at the CFBC office at 828-437-7105 or go to www.cfburkecounty.org.