

### **Viroqua Area Foundation Funds:**

***All scholarship checks will be written to the student and mailed to the school district office in December. The student will turn in their documents to the district office to show completion of the scholarship requirements before receiving the scholarship award. The VAF Board will review community giving requests quarterly.***

### **Restricted/Designated by Donor Funds**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Viroqua Football Fund**

The Park and Recreation Director will submit a letter requesting funds and what the funds will be used for to the President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the VAF when dollars are needed for the youth tackle football program. These dollars are for youth tackle football in Viroqua, WI. If the youth tackle football program in Viroqua discontinues then the total dollars in this account are to be placed in a long-term investment account with the VAF for the Viroqua High School Football Program. If there would discontinue to be a football program at the VHS then the principle will stay in-tact and will be used for VHS Athletics.

#### **Alice's Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Alice Faye Larson-Thorson graduated with Thor in 1955 from Viroqua High School. Alice was the salutatorian of her high school graduating class. Thor and Alice grew up together starting in kindergarten September of 1942. She attended a 3-year nursing program at Madison General School of Nursing in Madison. Alice taught at the nursing program at Luther School of Nursing in Eau Claire. She worked at long term care facilities in Florida and Georgia. While working full-time, she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Professional Arts from Saint Joseph's College in Standish, Maine and a Master of Arts in Business and Health Services from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. In 2001 Alice was named Executive Director at Lanier Village, a new long-term care facility in Gainesville, Georgia. Her husband, John Eckhardt died in 2009 and she continued working until retiring in 2012. Thor and Alice married in 2015 at her daughter's home in Denver and then moved to Viroqua. Alice died from Pancreatic Cancer at the age of 84 on March 23, 2022.

Alice Hofslie-Thorson, Thor's mother was raised on a farm located on Pumpkin Ridge in rural Chaseburg. She graduated from Westby High School in 1923. Alice continued her education at Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing in La Crosse graduating in 1926. She was a stay-at-home mom and raised three children: Elizabeth, Thor, and Juanita. Alice worked occasionally as a private duty nurse and volunteered in the community with the American Legion Post 138 Auxiliary, Nurses Club, Vernon Memorial Auxiliary, Good Shepherd Lutheran

Church, Cub Scouts and Girls Scouts Leader, and President of the Viroqua High School Band Mother's. Alice died from Kidney Cancer at the age of 86 on March 19, 1991.

he family and friends of Thor J. Thorson, Alice Larson,-Thorson and Alice Hofslie-Thorson intend this scholarship to encourage students to follow their passions through post-secondary education. This scholarship supports students entering a college or university in the areas of nursing and/or healthcare. Students choosing the area of Nursing will be chosen as recipients as a priority.

Eligibility criteria for receiving the scholarship includes acceptance in a full-time post-secondary accredited institution in one of the areas of study listed in Section 3, a 2.5 GPA or higher, completion of the first semester/quarter, and enrollment in the second semester/quarter. All applicants will complete the Viroqua High School application process. Thor J. Thorson and the Viroqua Area School District Scholarship Committee will choose the recipient(s) annually. If Thor J. Thorson is not available, the Viroqua Area School District Scholarship Committee will select the recipient(s).

#### **Armillary Sundial Pass-Through Fund**

The Reads Creek Armillary Sundial Preservation Project has been created to raise funds to set the historical landmark sundial back to true north. The sundial was created by scientist Royce Jones and friends between 1988 and 1990, this armillary sundial is said to be the largest in the world. A massive rainstorm in 2016 caused severe damage to the sundial and the property that supported the sundial. With the help of experts, equipment, and the public we plan to build gardens and repair the sundial so that it will become a destination for area residents and tourists. Telling the story of working hard, persevering, being humble, helping others, asking questions, learning every day, and finding your own true north will resonate with those who want to get back to basics.

#### **Ben Oliver Memorial Scholarship Fund (De Soto)**

Ben was born on Feb. 5, 1985, in La Crosse. He graduated from De Soto High School in 2003 where he was a four-year member of the National Honor Society and was active in football, baseball, and wrestling. As a senior he was recognized as the student-athlete of the year. He had the opportunity to go to state two years with De Soto baseball team of which he was very proud. He attended the UW-La Crosse for two years and was enrolled at Western Technical College at the time of his passing. He was a true "River Rat" as he enjoyed hunting and fishing. Ben had exceptional love for his family and friends.

The scholarship selection committee will be comprised of Garry and Jo Ellen Oliver or a designated individual from the Oliver Family, De Soto High School coaches and De Soto scholarship committee members. The criteria that must be met for selection of this scholarship award will be a student with a 3.0 GPA or higher, participation in at least two sports, and demonstrates leadership, team dedication, school spirit, and fair play. The student must value the team over the individual, participation in a competitive yet fun loving way as well as demonstrates good sportsmanship at all times. The intent of the Oliver Family is to award two \$1,000.00 scholarships each year.

The scholarship will be distributed to one male and one female student made payable to the student after the following criteria have been met. The high school guidance counselor from De Soto will contact the Viroqua Area Foundation Treasurer or Secretary with the names of the recipients of the scholarship by the end of the school year the students are graduating. The student/recipient will contact the De Soto School District with enrollment verification for the second semester and the grades received from the first semesters of the school year the scholarship is awarded. All students/recipients must verify completion of the first semester and enrollment in the second semester of schooling as a full-time student with a 3.0 GPA from the technical school or an accredited college or university in order to receive the scholarship award.

### **Bobst-Sallander Scholarship Fund (De Soto)**

The scholarship selection committee will be comprised of the De Soto High School Scholarship Committee.

The scholarship will be distributed to the student, made payable to the student after the following criteria have been met. The high school guidance counselor from the high school the student attended will contact the Foundation Treasurer or Secretary with the name of the recipient of the scholarship. The student/recipient will contact the De Soto School District with enrollment verification for the second semester/quarter and the grades received from the first semester/quarter of the school year the scholarship is awarded. All students/recipients must verify completion of one semester or one quarter of schooling as a full-time student with satisfactory work from the technical school, college or university in order to receive the scholarship award.

### **Charles and Carol Pedretti Scholarship Fund (De Soto & Argyle)**

Charles and Carol Pedretti Scholarship Fund has been established by Charles Pedretti (1965 DHS graduate) and Carol Pedretti (1964 AHS graduate) to provide

post-secondary scholarships to DHS and AHS graduating seniors in recognition of the education received many years ago. If the DHS or AHS merges with another school district the scholarship will then be given to a De Soto or Argyle, depending on the merger, student that attended the DHS or AHS District prior to the merger. Chuck graduated from DHS in 1965, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Platteville in 1969 with majors in Accounting and Mathematics with a German minor. He attended graduate school at the University of Minnesota with concentrations in Accounting and Quantitative analysis. He was drafted from graduate school and was in the army for 19 months. Upon returning from the army, he taught accounting at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon for two years. He then was employed by Arthur Andersen, a CPA firm. He was promoted to partner at Arthur Andersen and retired in August of 2000 after 26 years with the firm. Carol graduated from AHS in 1964 and graduated from University of Wisconsin, Platteville in 1968 with a major in Elementary Education. After graduation, Carol taught elementary school after graduation in the Dodgeville School District and then in the Minneapolis area. The Pedretti's have four children who graduated from various colleges and universities.

It is contemplated that for a period of five years, two four-year scholarships of \$5,000 per year may be awarded to 10 students, one graduate of DHS and one graduate of AHS each year, for the purpose of attending a 4-year college or technical college. The requirements to receive the funds for years two, three and four will be that the student, after each academic year, will have maintained a cumulative 2.5 GPA average on a 4.0 GPA system with cumulative minimum credit hours completed as outlined in the next paragraph. The decision to award \$5,000 will be made in January annually by the scholarship selection committee. The scholarship selection committee will be comprised of the scholarship committee at the recipient's high school.

### **Dave Ebbert Memorial Scholarship Fund (Vernon County)**

Dave Ebbert was known for his many talents: the ability to build community wherever he went, commitments to environmental sustainability and social justice, craftsmanship with wood, endless curiosity about the world around him, and passion for music and performance. In high school, he both started the first recycling program in his hometown and starred in a production of *The Music Man*. In college, while majoring in Environmental Studies, Dave and friends built and floated a full-size replica of a flatboat down the Sangamon River that Abraham Lincoln loved.

When Dave moved to Wisconsin, he fell in love with the Kickapoo Valley. He was fascinated by the geology of the Driftless Region and could often be found on

the local rivers in canoes that he designed and crafted himself. He built a thriving carpentry business that restored local homes, performed with the Ridgetones and the Firefly Brass Band, and worked tirelessly for local and national progressive political causes—he was known to bleach his hair to impersonate Senator Bernie Sanders in local parades. Just days before his passing, Dave spoke to the Leopold Land Ethics Class at Laurel High School, Viroqua, about the 10 Principles of Conservation, Ecology, and Ethics. He was known for his welcoming smile for all he met and for building bridges with people of all beliefs. His son and grandson were the delight of his life.

The family and friends of Dave Ebbert intend this scholarship to encourage students to follow some of Dave's passions to make the world a better place for all life through post-secondary education. This scholarship supports students entering a technical college or university for carpentry, sustainable technology, solar or wind powered installation, sustainable agriculture practices, apprenticeships for building human or wind powered boats, biology, chemistry, geology, geography, environmental studies, environmental engineering, political science, sustainable agriculture, forestry, environmental design, musical performance, or comparable areas of study.

Eligibility criteria for receiving the scholarship includes: acceptance in a full-time post-secondary accredited institution in one of the areas of study listed in Section 3, a 2.5 GPA or higher, demonstration of leadership and community involvement through performance, community building, and/or advocacy for environmental or social justice, and provide three letters of recommendation.

### **Dr. De Verne & Betty Vig Music Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Dr. De Verne Vig, a well-known Viroqua physician. De Verne and his twin brother, David, were born in La Crosse on August 20, 1922. Always together, the twins attended Viroqua Elementary School, Viroqua High School, and the University of Wisconsin for both undergraduate studies and medical school. They served together in the United States Army Air Corps for four years during World War II. After graduating from medical school, the twins practiced medicine in Viroqua for nearly forty years with their older brother, Edward Vig, MD, and their brother-in-law, Lars Gulbrandsen, MD. De Verne and David loved all kinds of sports, especially golf, basketball, baseball, hunting and fishing.

Betty graduated as valedictorian from Weyauwega High School in 1948. She graduated Magna cum Laude from Carroll College with majors in English and Choral Music. She was elected to Sigma Tau Delta (English), Lambda Psi (Journalism) and Delta Sigma Nu (Scholastic) sororities. She was also the college editor of Century and Hinakaga literary magazine and annual. She came to

Viroqua in the fall of 1952 where she taught choral music and English at Viroqua High School for two years. On December 19, 1953 she married Dr. DeVerne W. Vig. Betty was an active community member for many years. She taught Sunday School, served as a piano accompanist, was a Brownie and Girl Scout Leader, served as Chairman of the Viroqua Bloodmobile, was a member of the Vernon Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, and served on the board of directors at the Viroqua Country Club. She also worked in administration at the Vig-Gundersen Clinic in Viroqua for forty years.

In 1980, Betty was awarded the two-star Field Marshal General by the Pail and Shovel Party for the Wisconsin Student Association. Besides Betty's many accomplishments she was a loyal Bucky Badger fan, had a passion for music and adored raising Boxers.

The recipient will participate in the VHS music programs such as band, chorus and orchestra. Preference will be given to students that participated for several years in the above-mentioned programs. GPA of 3.0 or higher. The recipient will attend a 4-year accredited university or college for a music degree in voice, orchestra, band, or music education. If there is not a student entering the music field of Education. The VHS scholarship committee will choose the recipient. To receive the scholarship the student must have a "C" average in college. Students must verify completion of one semester/quarter as a full-time student and show enrollment as a full-time student the second semester/quarter.

### **Dr. Robert & Janet Starr Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Bob loved growing up in this small, Richland County city and he graduated from Richland Center High School in 1944. He met the love of his life, Janet McCollum, in high school and they were married in Richland Center in 1947.

Bob and Janet both attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison and graduated from the UW in 1948. Bob went on to attend the UW Medical School, graduating in 1950. After graduating from medical school, the Starr's moved to Kansas City, Kansas where Dr. Starr interned at the University of Kansas Medical Center until 1951. He was in the United States Naval Reserve and served on active duty as a physician aboard the USS Marine Phoenix during the Korean War.

In 1951, Bob and Janet settled in Viroqua, Wisconsin and Bob joined Drs. Raymond Hirsch and Harold Oppert, forming the Hirsch Clinic. After returning from Korea, Robert practiced family medicine in Viroqua from 1954 until his retirement in 1996. He was especially proud of helping to deliver 3,253 babies during those years. He was honored to be named the Wisconsin Family Physician of the Year in 1990. Dr. Starr was a member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Practice, the Wisconsin Medical

Alumni Association and he served as Vernon County Coroner for fourteen years. He was a teacher and mentor to medical and physician assistant students, helping to train the next generation of health care providers.

Bob and Janet were members of the Viroqua United Methodist Church, where Bob enjoyed singing in the church choir for many years. Bob was very active in the Viroqua community and was involved in the building of the Community Arena, the restoration of the Temple Theatre, building the new Vernon County Humane Society shelter, and restoring the Viroqua Area Schools track and football field. In 2010, the Starr Humane Achievement Award was created by the Vernon County Humane Society to honor those who give dedicated, humane services to homeless companion animals. He was also a founding member of the Viroqua Area Foundation. Bob and Janet loved Viroqua as their hometown and Bob strived to leave things a little better for having been there.

“Doc” loved life and he lived it with great enthusiasm. He loved the practice of medicine, blending art and science in the treatment of his fellow human beings. He loved to play golf at Viroqua Hills and he begat several generations of players. He loved to play in scrambles and had a knack for making ridiculously long putts. He loved to go fishing at DeSoto Bay on the Mississippi and on Spooner Lake. He loved to hike on his farmland on Pleasant Ridge and he loved to raise a garden, “scratching Mother Earth’s back” as he raked the soil. He loved cheering for the Viroqua Blackhawks, the Wisconsin Badgers, and the Green Bay Packers. He loved to help things grow, whether it was roses in his garden, trees at the golf course, or his children and grandchildren. He swam at the Bigley pool, ice skated at the Community Arena, rode his horses in parades, and danced at the Driftless Music Festival. He had a song for every occasion. He loved the pursuit of knowledge and truth and he searched for the answers to life’s questions his entire life. And, most of all, he loved his family and was a wonderful provider for five generations of Starr’s.

Janet grew up in Richland Center and graduated from Richland Center High School in 1944. She met her husband, Robert Starr, in high school and they were married in 1947. They celebrated 70 years of marriage in 2017. Janet received her degree in Related Art and then embarked on her life-long career as spouse, mother, grandmother, and small-town doctor’s wife. Being a doctor’s wife in rural America in the mid-twentieth century meant being a part-time receptionist, scheduler, counselor, bookkeeper, and secretary along with the full-time job of wife, mother, and homemaker. Janet’s meticulous nature and attention to detail made her perfect for the job of getting everyone in the family to everywhere they needed to be, when they needed to be there. They were truly a team in caring for their neighbors in Viroqua. Janet made her house a home. Her children and her grandchildren (and their friends) were welcomed and cared for and comfortable. There was always a brownie or a cookie and a glass of milk for

those after-school visits to the Starr's house. She washed tons of athletic gear, ironed thousands of shirts, and made a million peanut butter sandwiches for hundreds of sack lunches. And, every evening, she took a few minutes to lay down with each child at bedtime to listen to their cares and their concerns, and to go over the events of the day. She was a member of the Viroqua United Methodist Church and active in its women's groups. She served as the Corresponding Secretary for the Vernon County Historical Society, chaired Viroqua fundraisers for the American Cancer Society, UNICEF, and served on the Board of Directors of Schmitt Woodland Hills in Richland Center. Her favorite cause of all was the gift shop at Vernon Memorial Healthcare where she spent years working and organizing the volunteers. She was the family "prayer warrior" and was often called upon to "face the East" (as she would say) before a big exam or airline flight. It was the little things she did with love that made her special; the perfect card for every occasion, the note to a college student with a few dollars enclosed, or the little gifts she bought for her friends. She recorded the lives of the whole Starr family in beautiful photo albums and scrapbooks.

Scholarship fund for a student that is interested in entering a medical field. The fields include Medicine, Nursing, Physician Assistant, Medical Technology, Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy.

### **Eckhart Park 2025 Pass-Through Fund**

Collaborative effort between the Viroqua Parks and Recreation Department and the Viroqua Community to raise money and build a new playground in the fall of 2025. There are community members of all ages working together to construct a new playground to meet the needs of children and adults.

### **Edwin G. Sievers Scholarship (Viroqua)**

Edwin G. Sievers served as Principal of Viroqua Senior High School from 1961-1979. He was passionate about this role and believed that every student had value and purpose. Early in each school year, he rode all of the bus routes with the students so he could learn more about them and their families. He took pride in his staff, proudly displaying their college pennants in his office. Friendly and calm in disposition, he wore a smile easily, and he could whistle any tune he heard. He loved high school sports and served on an advisory committee for the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association for many years. He also followed small college/ university sports and was a frequent summer baseball umpire in his younger days. In addition, he was an active community member, and he was easy to spot selling chicken at the county fair every year with the Kiwanis Club. Each year, he made house calls dressed as Santa on Christmas Eve to the homes of several students with special needs. He was a 1947 graduate of Whitewater



State Teachers College (now UW Whitewater). His education was interrupted while he served in the U.S. Army from 1942-1945.

### **Fred & Elizabeth Nelson Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Fred was born in Viroqua and left the city with his family when he was 2. His childhood was spent in Colorado and Scottsbluff, Neb., where he graduated from high school. His father ran a feed business.

Nelson served as a navigator in the U.S. Navy during World War II on an LSM and was in the Pacific, planning for the invasion of Japan, when the war ended. He was a 1943 graduate of Scott Bluff High School in Nebraska and entered Northwestern University, where he graduated from a four-year program in 2½ years via the Naval Reserve Officer Training program.

He studied business and accounting at Northwestern. After the war, he returned to Chicago to work as an accountant. He traveled through small towns in Illinois and southern Wisconsin doing seed company audits. He began to enjoy small town life and could see that these businesses made money. He returned to Michigan State University, where he enrolled in a course in elevator and farm supply management. He practiced his new trade in Michigan for a year and a half before returning to Viroqua, where his parents had retired.

He wanted to run a feed business, so with the help of his parents he toured many states and looked at mills that were for sale, but ultimately returned to Viroqua. The Farmers Exchange, on the railroad just a block off Main Street in Viroqua, became available for sale soon after. Fred bought it with his father's help in 1954.

The business expanded in 1969 and 1976, when farm parts and hardware were added, and later housewares and a gift center. He sold the business in 1989.

He served on the Viroqua Area Foundation Board as treasurer, served as treasurer for ARTT, among being a board member for several community service organizations. His title in the community was, "Mr. Viroqua."

Liz grew up in La Farge, where her father owned a farm and her mother was the organist at United Methodist Church of La Farge. After graduating from La Farge High School, she attended the University of Wisconsin-Stout to study home economics. Later, she transferred to the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse where she completed a degree in education.

In her career as a teacher, she was employed as a high school English and history teacher in Houston, MN, and New London, Marion, Berlin and Neenah, WI. She and Fred married on Feb. 7, 1959.

Liz served as director of the Bible school at United Methodist Church and volunteered her time to many church functions. She also served on the board of directors and as president of the board of McIntosh Memorial Library in Viroqua. She was an avid bridge player and enjoyed bird watching, tending her flowers, reading and raising her children.

Minimum of 2.7 GPA at Viroqua High School. Graduates that are employed by Nelson Mill & Agri-Center or who are the son, daughter, or grandchild of an employee shall have first preference. If there are no applicants qualifying, then the best qualified graduate as judged as such by the selection committee shall be eligible. A committee from the VAF Board of Directors, or a committee designated by the Board, shall select the recipients of the scholarship. If the Board declines the responsibility, the scholarship committee of VHS shall make the determination.

Fred and Liz Nelson were leaders in Viroqua. They owned the Nelson Agri-Center. Their business assisted the farming community to thrive and then the community to develop and grow. Fred was a founding member of the Viroqua Area Foundation. Fred was instrumental in the following projects being developed in Viroqua: Western Technical College Regional Learning Center, Temple Theatre, Viroqua School & Community Sports Facility, Viroqua Main Street Development, Viroqua Chamber, McIntosh Memorial Library, Vernon County Museum, Viroqua Hockey Arena, and countless other organizations and community projects.

### **George & Mildred Nettum Agriculture & Water and Conservation and/or Medical Care Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

George grew up in Edgerton, Wis., as a farm boy. He was a gifted athlete. He was inducted in the inaugural Edgerton High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He went on to earn his freshman numerals in baseball at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His studies at the university were interrupted by his service as a pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He was married during the war to Mildred Gessert. They were married for 61 years. He graduated from the university in 1946 with a BS in agriculture. He went on to teach high school vocational agriculture and then became a veteran farm trainer in Dane and Rock counties.

In 1953, he moved his family to Viroqua, where he served as the Tobacco Extension Specialist for the UW Extension Service. In 1957, he became the general manager of the Northern Wisconsin Co-operative Tobacco Pool for over 50 years. He was active in the community, serving as a board member of the Viroqua Schools, Good Shepard Lutheran Church, Chamber of Commerce, the State Bank of Viroqua, Kickapoo Reserve Management Board, and the board of directors of the Wisconsin Federation of Co-operatives. He was on the Vernon County Board of Supervisors for 35 years, where he had a special interest in soil and water conservation.

He went on to serve in numerous local, regional and national conservation organizations. He was instrumental in the establishment of Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development Council. He was the recipient of numerous acknowledgments of his contributions to the community, and he was honored to have received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the university's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He was a quiet, humble and virtuous man with a wry sense of humor who led by example.

Mildred graduated from Edgerton High School in the class of 1939 and was also a graduate of the Groves Barnhardt Business College in Madison, Wisconsin. She married George during World War II at the Santa Anna Air Force Base in Santa Anna, California. The couple resided in Viroqua for over 52 years. Mildred was a homemaker who was proud of raising her sons, and she was an active member of the Mary Circle at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She enjoyed playing bridge, sewing and especially enjoyed knitting and quilting.

Their scholarship will provide post-secondary scholarships to students from the Viroqua School District that are furthering their education in the area of agriculture and/or soil and water conservation.

The scholarship selection committee will be comprised of the high school guidance counselor, agriculture teacher, technical education teacher, local agriculture business owner, & the Nettum Family have the option of having a family member on the selection committee if they choose to do so.

The student/recipient will contact the Viroqua School District with enrollment verification for the second semester/quarter and the grades received from the first semester/quarter of the school year the scholarship is awarded. All students/recipients must verify completion of one semester or one quarter of schooling as a full-time student or a part-time student that is working full time with a "C" average from the institution of higher learning in order to receive the scholarship award.

The Nettum Family was instrumental in the growth of the county through their leadership in agriculture. They were advocates for sustainability and conservation.

#### **Genevieve Stevenson Memorial Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Genevieve Stevenson was born and raised in Viroqua. She graduated from Viroqua High School in 1930. Ms. Stevenson served on the Viroqua School Board from 1953 to 1957. This scholarship was created to pay tribute to Ms. Stevenson's service to the Viroqua School District along with recognizing the contributions ALL school board members have made in making the Viroqua School District the excellent school district it is today. The scholarship will be awarded to a Viroqua High School Student considering the following: Financial Need, GPA (With consideration given for the number and types of classes taken), Good Citizenship, Community Involvement (Including activities outside of school), and Extracurricular Activity Involvement.

#### **Helen (Marsh) & Roland Felix Scholarship Fund (Graduate from Vernon County Accredited Public High School)**

Helen was born Oct. 8, 1916, on a prairie homestead near the Black Hills of South Dakota to Isadore and Rose Marsh. Her family later moved to St. Paul, where she met Roland (Rollie) Felix, who would become her beloved husband of 54 years. They resided in Viroqua, for their entire married life.

The Felix department store was a fixture in downtown Viroqua for over one hundred years. Helen and Rollie were involved in many civic activities, including being founding members of Vernon Community Hospital and Congregation Sons of Abraham in La Crosse. Helen started the first blood drive in Vernon County, instrumental in saving many lives in the area. Her interests ranged from the community library to the Humane Society to their beautiful backyard garden.

Female, graduate from an accredited public high school located in Vernon County. Completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Presently enrolled in a medical field of study that requires certification beyond a bachelor's degree.

#### **Howard B. And Lorene O. Johnson Fund (Unrestricted Fund, Viroqua)**

Howard served in the United States Air Force as a B-17 Bomber Pilot and was a POW in Germany for nine months. He worked for Boeing Aircraft in Seattle and eventually returned to our area where he worked as a sales representative for Armour Products. In 1962 he established Johnson's Soil Service which made

fertilizers for local farmers. His company was eventually converted to lawn and garden fertilizer and was re-named Howard Johnson's Enterprises, Inc. with a nationwide distribution. Howard was active in the community and was proud to have re-established the Snowflake Ski Club after his return from WWII as Howard was a ski jumper in his youth. Howard was an avid golfer and fly-fisherman. Howard and Lorene were very philanthropic. They quietly helped many individuals, families, and organizations within our area.

### **Jack Vig Memorial Business & Medical Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Jack was born on Oct. 25, 1954, in Viroqua, Wis. Jack graduated from Viroqua High School in 1972 and UW-Eau Claire in 1976. It was there that he met the love of his life, Pamela Hupe. They were married on June 21, 1980.

Jack started his accounting career in Milwaukee at Clark Oil and Refining in 1977. He transitioned to Allis Chalmers in 1978. He and Pam moved to Viroqua in 1980 where he became a partner of Thompson-Vig CPA firm in 1980. In 1984, Jack joined forces with Kiesling Associates, Madison, Wis., as a partner until 2001. Jack then began his own practice, Vig & Associates, LLC and worked side by side with his business partner and friend of 31 years, Vicki Anderson. Jack had a passion for public accounting and loved the challenge of meeting deadlines and working with new and old clients. His employees and clients held a special place in his heart.

While Jack loved his career as an accountant, he is best defined as a family man and friend. Jack loved planning and going on vacations, spending time up north, golfing, attending sporting events to see his favorite teams (Packers, Badgers and Brewers) and cherished any opportunity he had to spend time with his loved ones. Jack's presence always lit up a room. His contagious smile, laughter and jokes have always attracted people to him.

The scholarship selection committee will be comprised of the Viroqua Area Foundation Scholarship Committee as well as Pam Vig or a designated individual from the Vig Family. The scholarship will be distributed to the student majoring in business or a medical field of study. The student/recipient will contact the Viroqua School District with enrollment verification for the third semester/4<sup>th</sup> quarter and the grades received from the first and second semesters/first through third quarters of the school year the scholarship is awarded. All students/recipients must verify completion of three semesters or four quarters of schooling as a full-time student with a 3.4 GPA from the technical school or an accredited college or university in order to receive the scholarship award.

## **James P. Bigley Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Phil was born on July 28, 1912 in Viroqua. Phil graduated from Central High School in 1930. He attended the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse and then began working at the State Bank of La Crosse. During World War II he served with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division as a private and was later commissioned as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. He and Captain Roy Glisson, who became a lifetime friend, processed the surrender of the Japanese General Yamashita who was the infamous "Tiger of Malaya". He returned to the State Bank of La Crosse and in 1947. He came to the State Bank of Viroqua and served as chairman of the board until the bank was sold in 1984. On August 28, 1948 he married Dorothy McIntosh who died in 1977. In 1954 he became manager of the Viroqua Telephone Company. He served as president of the WI Telephone Asso. and in 1977-78 was president of the U.S. Independent Telephone Asso. He also was active in WI state politics and from 1955-57 was executive secretary of the Republican Party. He was a charter member of Viroqua Eagles Aerie No. 2707, serving as the first president. Later he was state president and in 1959-60 was International President of the Eagles. He also was a life member of Running-Johnson-Ray VFW Post No. 3032 and Jacobson-Olson American Legion Post No. 138. He served as a director on many boards including Capital Transamerica in Madison. He also had been a member of the American Bankers Asso. Past president of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division Asso. Past member of the La Crosse Country Club, Viroqua Country Club, La Crosse Club and the Madison Club.

Phil was very generous with his philanthropy and was an avid supporter of the Vernon Memorial Hospital, Viroqua Community Arena and has provided nearly one million dollars towards the Bigley Swimming Pool located at the VAS District. He served 15 years as chairman of the Viroqua Housing Authority and led the building of a 100-unit senior citizen housing facility know as Bigley Plaza and 30 low-income houses.

The designated purpose of the Fund is to establish a perpetual scholarship fund with the net income from said fund to be used to provide scholarships for post high school education. James Bigley was a philanthropic person. He had a passion that every graduate of Viroqua Area Schools would be able to swim. He donated the James P. Bigley Pool to the Viroqua Area School District in order to make his dream come true. He established the James P. Bigley Foundation to serve the Viroqua area's needs for future growth.

The Board of Education or its designee shall be responsible for setting the guidelines for distributions from the Fund and shall advise the VAF, in writing, as to the amount and timing of such distributions. The Board of Education shall retain control over the manner in which any distribution is made, in part, to

ensure that the distributions are consistent with the intent of the Fund. The VAF shall not issue distributions from the Fund without the explicit written request from the Board of Education or its designee. The VAF shall review the proposed distributions to ensure they are not inconsistent with the VAF's Bylaws as amended and are in compliance with the designated purpose of the Fund.

### **John & Grace Dyson Charitable Remainder Fund (Viroqua)**

John was born on June 4, 1929, in Viroqua, Wisconsin. He grew up in Viroqua and graduated from the Lake Forest Academy in Lake Forest, Illinois before attending Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, earning a degree in Economics in 1951. After college, he served in the U.S. Air Force in Germany before beginning his career with Kimberly Clark in Niagara Falls, New York. With Kimberly Clark, he later moved to New York City, where he married Grace Danelo in 1962. Upon the death of his father, John moved his young family back to Viroqua so he could serve as President of the State Bank of Viroqua. During this time, John was a member of the Viroqua Country Club, VFW and the American Legion, and was a board member of the La Crosse Trust Company and the Viroqua Cemetery Association. John enjoyed golf, travel, cigars, crossword puzzles, music, sailing, and watching movies and sports of all types, especially football and his beloved Packers. He was a quiet, intelligent man, with a keen sense of humor.

John's father was Fred Dyson, who was one of the founders of the State Bank of Viroqua. His great grandfather was Frederick Eckhart, who was one of the first to bring tobacco to Vernon County. Frederick built one of the now historic tobacco buildings in the 1800s. Fred donated the land for the city park, Eckhart Park, and for the armory. Fred built the Dyson/Eckhart B&B for his son-in-law W.D. Dyson and his daughter Minnie Eckhart. The Dyson family was one of the original owners of the Historic Temple Theatre.

Grace was born on May 6, 1930, in Rochester, New York. She grew up in Brighton, MN, and graduated from Brighton High School before attending Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where she earned a degree in Home Economics in 1952. She worked several years in New York City before marrying her college love, John Dyson. They were married on July 21, 1962 and were married 56 years. After starting their family in Manhattan, Grace and John decided Viroqua was a more suitable place to raise their children and made the move in 1965. They spent nearly 30 years in Viroqua. Grace enjoyed all aspects of being a wife and mother. When she wasn't busy caring for her family, she enjoyed traveling; attending the theater, symphony and movies; and golfing in her later years. Those who knew Grace will remember her devotion to John and her children, her intelligence and her quiet grace.

The Dyson Family established the Dyson Scholarship Fund to encourage more Viroqua students to pursue their dreams and continue their education. John and Grace passionately believed that education was the key to a successful future. Their three children attended Viroqua High in the 1980s, followed by post-graduate degrees from Wisconsin and Minnesota. John was adamant in his desire to continue the Dyson/Eckhart family legacy of generously giving back to Viroqua families to build a better community.

The Dyson Family established the Viroqua Cemetery Donor-Advised Fund to assist in the preservation, maintenance, and beautification of the Viroqua Cemetery. The Dyson Family established the Viroqua Parks Donor-Advised Fund to assist in the maintenance and/or construction of a new playground/splashpad in downtown Viroqua.

### **John Patrick Cina Scholarship Fund (De Soto)**

John was born on May 13, 1986 in La Crosse. He graduated from DeSoto High School in 2004 where he was President of the National Honor Society and was also named Most Valuable Player in both football and baseball. He briefly attended Howard College in San Angelo, TX. on a baseball scholarship, he returned to WI and graduated from WTC after a baseball injury. John devoted his adult life to helping the youth of the greater La Crosse area. For five years he worked at Family and Children Center Residential Treatment Facility in La Crosse. John coached many teams and sports including the DeSoto basketball and football teams as well as the State Champion Onalaska American Legion baseball team. John was known most as a standout athlete and coach. But those that knew John best, remember him most for his magnetic personality and ability to make the person he was talking to feel like he had been waiting all day to see them. John was always ready with a story, unusual fact, or movie quote. He was the guy people wanted to be around, he made you laugh and feel like he wanted you there too. As an athlete, any team was better when he was part of it, even if he just sat on the bench and told stories. He was happier with a team win than personal achievements. As a coach, John served as a role model and tried to impart his vast knowledge and respect for the game. Most importantly, as a friend and family member, John was unbelievably devoted and proud. He was constantly sharing stories of good times with other friends or something funny a niece or nephew did.

The goal of the scholarship is to distribute one \$500 scholarship each year to a De Soto graduating senior. The scholarship selection committee will be comprised of one Viroqua Area Foundation Board Member and the scholarship committee at De Soto High School.



The student/recipient will contact the De Soto School District with enrollment verification for the second semester/quarter and the grades received from the first semester/quarter of the school year the scholarship is awarded. All students/recipients must verify completion of one semester or one quarter of schooling as a full-time student with a “C” average from the college or university in order to receive the scholarship award.

#### **Judy A. Olson Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Judy was born April 27, 1959, in Viroqua. She graduated from Westby High School in 1977 and from University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in 1981. She also earned her master’s degree from UW-La Crosse. On July 23, 1983, she was united in marriage to Al Olson at Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church, where she was a life member. Judy did her practice teaching at Viroqua Schools and continued on career in teaching at VAS’s as a physical education and health teacher. Judy also coached a variety of sports and was very active in her son Boomer’s life and racing interests. As a teacher and a person, Judy encouraged all the students to “Follow your dreams!”

#### **Keeping the Arts Alive Endow. Fund (Sue Hulsether & Steve Hanson Bequeathed-Inactive at this Time)**

The designated purpose of the Fund is to provide additional programming in the Arts to enrich existing course offerings in the areas of music, dance, and art for K-12 schools in Vernon and Crawford Counties. The school can be either public or private serving any and all age groups K-12. Disbursements will be for supplemental activities and not for support of regular staffing or course offerings. These funds are to serve a wide student population, not individuals. The intent of the Fund is not to award scholarships. Examples of distributions include but are not limited to: artists-in-residence, assembly programs and concerts, guest artists, and field trips.

#### **Laurel A. Skrede Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Laurel was born on May 24, 1955 in Viroqua. She graduated from Viroqua High School in 1973. She joined the U.S. Navy and served four years completing her duty at Pearl Harbor. She served on the UW Platteville campus through the department of protective services for 26 years. This scholarship was established to honor her memory and longtime service at the UW-Platteville campus.

The scholarship will be awarded to a student that will be attending college at The University of Platteville following graduation for VHS. A member of the VAF board and the VAS’s committee will select the recipient.

### **Leona Jackson-Sillan Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Leona was born Aug. 29, 1905 in Vernon County. She was a graduate of Viroqua High School, La Crosse Teachers College, and did graduate work at the University of Chicago. She taught at Fisk University in Nashville, TN. She worked in the advertising department of Kelvinator and after moving to Florida in 1942, did clerical work for several small companies. She moved back to Viroqua in 1982.

The designated purpose of the Fund is to establish a perpetual scholarship fund with the net income from said fund to be used to provide scholarships for post high school education.

The Board of Education or its designee shall be responsible for setting the guidelines for distributions from the Fund and shall advise the VAF, in writing, as to the amount and timing of such distributions. The VAF shall not issue distributions from the Fund without the explicit written request from the Board of Education or its designee. The VAF shall review the proposed distributions to ensure they are not inconsistent with the VAF's Bylaws as amended and are in compliance with the designated purpose of the Fund.

### **Living Faith Church Food Pantry Pass-Through Fund**

Pass-through fund to meet the needs for the distribution of food for community members with food insecurities. A growing population of community members are living at or below the poverty line. This fund was established to meet those needs by expanding the distribution center of the LFC/Viroqua Food Pantry. The contributions will go towards walk-in refrigeration, handicap accessibility, storage, restrooms, parking lot, kitchen to teach food preparation, and an area for sharing meals. Any additional dollars contributed will go towards the purchase of food to meet the growing needs of our community.

### **Lowell & Carol Hubbard Memorial Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

The family of Lowell and Carol Hubbard are proud to offer this scholarship to a senior in the Viroqua Area Schools planning to major in Education at an accredited four-year college or university. Carol and Lowell were strong supporters of teachers and education. They met in 1953 when Lowell, a Vernon County Deputy Sheriff, was handing out calendars to Vernon County teachers at the District Teacher's Conference. Carol was teaching at the Sunnyside Country School. They married in 1955 and lived in Viroqua their entire married life. Lowell was born on March 27, 1926, on a farm near Mt. Tabor, Forrest Township,

Vernon County. Carol was born on the other side of Vernon County on a farm near West Prairie in Sterling Township on May 12, 1931.

Lowell graduated from Hillsboro High School, Hillsboro, Wisconsin, in 1944. He served in the Army Air Corps as a B-17 Turret Gunner in World War II. Lowell worked as a Deputy Sheriff for Vernon County from 1953 until 1964 when he became a Vernon County Juvenile Probation Officer and later an Intake Worker until his retirement in 1991. Throughout his career he worked with youth advising them to follow the law and get as much education as they could to get ahead in life. Lowell served as an alderperson on the Viroqua City Council, and later was the chairperson of the Police and Fire Commission.

Carol graduated from Viroqua High School in 1948, the Vernon County Normal School in 1950, and UW-La Crosse in 1959. She taught K–8 at country schools in Vernon County for 7½ years and second grade in the Viroqua Area Schools for 29 years where she retired in 1991. Carol was named the Viroqua District Elementary Teacher of the Year in 1988- 89. On April 21, 2012, she was inducted into the Viroqua Excellence in Education Wall of Recognition.

Carol and Lowell were members of the Liberty Pole UMC and the Prairie Partners Square Dance Club. Lowell and Carol believed the best gift we can give our children is a good education. A motivated educator creates a positive learning environment that instills, inspires, and brings out the best in his/her students. The Hubbard family is proud to offer this scholarship to a student who intends to enter the teaching profession.

The family and friends of Lowell and Carol intend this scholarship to encourage students to follow some of Lowell and Carol's passions through post-secondary education. This scholarship supports students entering a college or university in the area of teaching.

Eligibility criteria for receiving the scholarship includes: acceptance in a full-time post-secondary accredited institution in one of the areas of study listed in Section 3, a 2.5 GPA or higher, completion of the first semester/quarter, and enrollment in the second semester/quarter.

All applicants will complete the Viroqua High School application process. The Hubbard Family, Foundation Scholarship Committee, and Viroqua Area School District Scholarship Committee will choose the recipient(s) annually. If Cyndy, Candace, or David are not available the Foundation Scholarship Committee along with the Viroqua Area School District Scholarship Committee will select the recipient(s).

**Maylon O. Christianson Charitable Fund (Viroqua and Westby)**

Maylon was born on January 28, 1925, in Jefferson Township, Vernon County. He attended Mills School on Irish Ridge and then graduated from Viroqua High School in 1943. He worked his way through high school having jobs such as working at the Temple and Vernon Theatres and cooking at the Oriole Café. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop No. 75 and also had been a Cub Scout leader. He served in the U.S. Marines during World War II. After the war he worked as bookkeeper for Mobil in Viroqua and was manager of La Crosse Tribune carriers in Viroqua. He received his diploma in accounting from the LaSalle Extension University in Chicago in 1951. He then worked for Babson Bros. Company in Belvidere, Illinois, as a store manager and then branch office manager in Seattle, Washington. He then worked for Real Live Cow Show at many state fairs headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. He returned to the home farm on Irish Ridge, rural Viroqua and farmed and took care of his mother, Tillie. He also had a small general store on the farm during the 1960s. He had sponsored children at the Cedars Home for Children in Lincoln, Nebraska and currently was sponsoring a needy child through Children International in Kansas City, Missouri. He was a member of the Bethel Lutheran Church and American Legion Post No. 138.

Established a fund with the Foundation to provide a minimum of a \$300 gift to five families in the Viroqua and five families in the Westby School Districts one week prior to Thanksgiving each year. The families receiving these funds are selected by personnel from each school district.

#### **Maylon O. Christianson Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Read about Maylon in the paragraphs above. Graduating senior from VAS's with high scholastic standing based upon financial need.

#### **Michael R. Long Scholarship Fund (De Soto)**

Established by Bob and Shirley Long to provide post-secondary scholarships to De Soto High School graduating seniors in memory of their son. Mike was not only his father's son but his best friend. Mike was always a happy, positive, and dedicated person that brought joy to all of those around him. He graduated from De Soto School District in 1975. Upon graduation, he joined the United States Navy and served as a Machinist Mate for twenty years retiring in 1995. He worked for the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration for the remainder of his life and he felt it was the best job a person could have. Mike was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident at the age of 61. He is missed by everyone that knew and loved him. Priority of this scholarship will be given to graduating seniors that are planning on attending an accredited technical college or 4-year college or university.

### **Myrna Gald Memorial Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Myrna was born on April 24, 1934, at Purdy, rural Viroqua. She graduated from Viroqua High School in 1952. On October 2, 1954 she married David Hulsether. They lived in Madison where she worked at Madison General Hospital for thirty-three years. They moved to Viroqua in 1986 and Mr. Hulsether died on August 1, 1995. She was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Vernon County Historical Society, Viroqua Eagles Aerie No. 2707 Auxiliary and the Eastern Star. She was recognized in 1997 as a volunteer for the restoration of the Temple Theatre, Eckhart Enchantment, Vernon County Historical Society, Wild West Days, Vernon Memorial Hospital and the Sherry-Butt House where she served as a tour guide. She also enjoyed playing cribbage, 500 and golf at the Viroqua Hills Country Club. On July 24, 1999, she married her high school classmate, Duane "Lefty" Gald. They spent their summers in Viroqua and their winters in Apache Junction, Arizona.

This scholarship is awarded to a Viroqua High School student who has been active in drama and/or music during their time at VHS.

### **RedLou Pass-Through Fund**

RedLou includes raising capital to provide a trusted, reliable, and connected mobile library service to individuals in the Viroqua, Wisconsin Area by delivering library materials and providing literary experiences to youth and underserved individuals. Mobile library delivery is a project to promote literacy and library services.

### **Regina Lindemann Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

The designated purpose of the Fund is to establish a perpetual provide scholarships for post high school education.

The Board of Education or its designee shall be responsible for setting the guidelines for distributions from the Fund and shall advise the VAF, in writing, as to the amount and timing of such distributions. The VAF shall not issue distributions from the Fund without the explicit written request from the Board of Education or its designee. The VAF shall review the proposed distributions to ensure they are not inconsistent with the VAF's Bylaws as amended and are in compliance with the designated purpose of the Fund.

### **Roland J. Hill Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Roland J. Hill, and his wife, Louise, moved to Viroqua in 1956 starting his career with the Viroqua Area Schools as a High School Civics teacher and coach. He became the Elementary Principal in 1962. After earning his MA degree in Education Administration, he became the Superintendent of Viroqua Area Schools until his retirement in 1990. He was a founding member of the Viroqua Area Foundation, alongside Dr. Robert Starr, Ellis West, and Fred Nelson. Throughout his life, he was involved with several organizations in Viroqua including: The Lions Club and Rotary Club, VFW as a Korean War Veteran, Viroqua Area Veterans Committee, Library Board, WWTC Board, City Council Board Member, Viroqua Golf Club, and the Vernon Memorial Hospital Foundation.

He passed away at the age of 94 in Sept of 2023. Throughout his entire life education played a vital role, therefore our family would like to present this scholarship in his memory.

### **Sharon J. Stoleson Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Sharon J. Stoleson was born in Viroqua in 1938 and passed away in Viroqua. Sharon was the daughter of Tennis and Alice (Erlandson) Stoleson.

After graduating from Blackburn College in 1960, Sharon was employed by Thornridge High School in suburban Chicago teaching English, working as a counselor, coaching tennis, and sponsoring the school yearbook. She was also employed by Thornton Community College where she taught GED preparation classes and rosemaling in the night school.

In her career, Sharon helped many students reach their goals of attending post-secondary education. Her files held numerous letters of thanks from former students that said that they could not have made it to college without her help, guidance, and great sense of humor. She was a favorite among her many students.

Sharon moved back home to Viroqua in 1992 to care for her parents. She volunteered for many years with ARTT and helped to restore the Temple Theatre. In addition, Sharon was active with the Vernon County Historical Society and the Coulee Region Rosemalers.

It is the hope that this scholarship fund will help students further their education and then one day give back by becoming an active volunteer in their local community.

The Sharon J. Stoleson Trust intends that this scholarship be used to encourage students to follow their passions through post-secondary education. This

scholarship supports students entering a technical college, college/university, or certificate program.

### **Sherry and Rod Getter Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Sherry was born on March 27th, 1950 in Waukegan, IL. She graduated from Viroqua High School in 1968 where she was active in forensics, drama, band, choir and cheerleading. She was also in 4-H, a Badger State girl, won the Presidential Physical Fitness award and was the Vernon County Dairy Princess. She married the love of her life, Rod, on June 28th, 1969 at St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chaseburg. She attended the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education in 1972. While in school at UWL, she did her student teaching at Westby High School where she also coached girls' track. In 1973, she began her teaching career at Viroqua High School where she taught English, semantics and speech. She spent the rest of her career at Viroqua High School until she retired in 2008. She absolutely loved teaching, coaching and mentoring her students and was very active and passionate about getting kids involved in extracurricular activities and the arts. During her time at VHS, she was the cheerleading advisor, forensics coach, one act director and drama department director. She was also recognized for her talents by becoming the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year in 1996, earning the Kohl Fellowship award in 1999, she was inducted onto the Wall of Excellence at Viroqua Area Schools, and she was inducted into the WHSFA Hall of Fame in 2013 along with many other accolades and recognitions. Sherry was also a very active and dedicated member of English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Viroqua where she was the superintendent of the Sunday School program, a leader in the youth group and was a member of the church choir. Sherry and her family were recognized by the Viroqua Rotary as the "Family of the Year" in 1997. She was also a board member of ARTT and helped with the restoration of the Temple Theater in downtown Viroqua. Following retirement, Sherry loved spending time with her family and friends.

Rod was born April 17, 1949. He graduated from VHS where he participated in football and wrestling. He worked at the Brush Hollow Factory and Son Construction during his adult life. He volunteered at Eckhardt Park and Viroqua Community Arena while also assisting Sherry with her plays and set construction.

Established by former students and their families to provide post-secondary scholarships to Viroqua High School graduating seniors. Priority will be given to graduating seniors that have demonstrated actions and activities of giving back to the community, and who are planning on going into a four-year field of study in education or the arts. Sherry and Rod were leaders in the Viroqua area, and enriched the lives of hundreds of students and their families, primarily through

the presentation of dramatic plays and musicals, but also through their church and other activities.

### **Steiner Family Viroqua Community & St. Joseph's Hospital Fund**

Garith and Julie Steiner have been residents of Viroqua since 1979, moving here to begin their careers and start a family. They enjoy the healthy, safe, family-friendly quality of life that this area provides. Along with volunteering their time and offering their talent to various local and county-wide organizations over the past 40 years, they appreciate the additional opportunity to give back financially through The Steiner Family Viroqua Community & Gundersen St. Joseph's Hospital Endowment Fund. This fund will assist Viroqua community capital projects and services and capital projects at Gundersen St. Joseph's Hospital in Hillsboro.

This Fund is being established to assist Gundersen St. Joseph's capital projects and Viroqua capital projects and services. The distribution of charitable giving will be requested by Garith and Julie Steiner for Gundersen St. Joseph's and/or Viroqua capital projects/services and will require approval by the Foundation Board. The distribution of charitable giving will vary from year to year as to the needs in Viroqua and Gundersen St. Joseph's Hospital change.

### **Vernon County Museum Endowment Fund**

The Vernon County Museum provides educational opportunities through programming, scholarships, tours, historical buildings, and historical materials. The Vernon County Museum intends for the Fund to encourage the appreciation of history and to be a resource for future generations.

Eligibility criteria for receiving the award may be different from year to year depending on the selection committee and the priorities of the Vernon County Museum. The award may be for programming, scholarships, tours, historical buildings, and/or historical materials.

### **Vernon Memorial Healthcare Community Fund**

To be determined.

### **Viroqua Area Rotary Club-Gary J. Krause Memorial Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Gary J. Krause would be honored to know that a scholarship was named on his behalf. He was a humble man and valued education even though his own formal education was lacking. He was a student of the "school of hard knocks" yet appreciated any and all learning. When a learning opportunity presented itself, he would participate. Gary was a successful businessman and entrepreneur, well known for expanding Krause Monument into four additional locations as well as



starting Gary's Rock shop and Elegant Stone Products, Inc. He was a generous and kind philanthropist best exemplified in Service Above Self as a Rotarian. Gary loved Rotary and the ideas behind it as the tenants of Rotary validated his own rules of life. He was instrumental in forming the Rotary Club in the Viroqua Area (1987) and served as the founding president and subsequent first president. He remained an active member until his death in 2022.

#### **Viroqua Cemetery Tree Project Pass-Through Fund**

The Viroqua Cemetery Tree Project is a community project to raise money for the removal of spruce trees with a fungal needle-cast problem and planting new trees on the Viroqua Cemetery Property in order to preserve and maintain the Viroqua Cemetery.

#### **Viroqua Chamber Metal Fest Pass-Through Fund**

The Metal Festival Event promotes the arts, music, and tourism. The event will provide a venue for artists to create, share, and sell usable metal creations in a public setting. This event brings artists and people working in different trade industries together to showcase their work.

#### **Viroqua Fire Department Training Tower Pass-Through Fund**

Pass-through fund to establish a training tower for the volunteer fire department in Viroqua and the surrounding area. The training tower will also be used for educational purposes for students as well as training for the police and sheriff's departments in the area. Any additional donations received will be given to the Viroqua Fire Department for operational expenses.

#### **Viroqua McIntosh Memorial Library Pass-Through Fund**

Pass-through fund to establish the McIntosh Memorial Library. The donations were made to the VAF to build the McIntosh Memorial Library on Rock Avenue. Any additional contributions will be used for operations of the McIntosh Memorial Library.

#### **Viroqua Mural Pass-Through Fund**

Pass-through fund to design, construct, paint, and maintain murals in Vernon County. The murals will promote tourism and beautification in and around Viroqua. Any additional contributions will be used for maintenance of murals in Viroqua.

#### **Viroqua School & Community Sports Facility Pass-Through Fund**

Pass-through fund that will allow new contributions and remaining contributions to update the outdoor athletic facilities in Viroqua. Any additional contributions will be used to offset expenses to maintain the VS&CSF. This Fund was established to raise money to update the football field, track, tennis courts, parking lot, and facilities at the Viroqua Area School District.

#### **Viroqua WPA Bathhouse Pass-Through Fund**

Collaborative effort between the City of Viroqua and the community to raise capital to restore the Viroqua Bathhouse. This project will add bathroom facilities and a meeting space to the historical stone built bathhouse.

#### **Wall of Excellence Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

A scholarship endowment fund established by Viroqua Teachers to establish an account with the Foundation to provide young people of Viroqua entering the field of education an opportunity for a scholarship. The Viroqua Area School District Scholarship Committee will choose the recipient(s) of this scholarship annually.

#### **Waylen & Milton Holtet Scholarship Fund (Viroqua)**

Waylen was born Oct. 15, 1923, in the town of Clinton, Wis. Waylen served in World War II, stationed in the South Pacific. On returning to Wisconsin, he farmed with his brother, Milton. He was an avid fisherman. He spent many winters in Florida, as a fishing guide on Lake Okeechobee.

The designated purpose of the Fund is to establish a perpetual scholarship fund with the net income from said fund to be used to provide scholarships for post high school education.

The Waylen O. Holtet estate established scholarships to graduating seniors at the school districts surrounding their hometown of Cashton, Wisconsin. Each year, four scholarships for post high school education will be provided to four students (two girls, two boys) in need of scholarship assistance each year.

The Board of Education or its designee shall be responsible for setting the guidelines for distributions from the Fund and shall advise the VAF, in writing, as to the amount and timing of such distributions. The VAF shall not issue distributions from the Fund without the explicit written request from the Board of Education or its designee. The VAF shall review the proposed distributions to ensure they are not inconsistent with the VAF's Bylaws as amended and are in

compliance with the designated purpose of the Fund.

### **Winding Roads Art Tour Pass-Through Fund**

Winding Roads Art Tour “WRAT” is an event to raise awareness and financial support for recurring production of WRAT, a Viroqua-area event showcasing working artists, studios and curated venues selected to represent the quality and variety of visual arts in the area, partnered with sponsoring businesses, and organizations that enrich local culture and promote economic development.

### **Unrestricted/Undesignated by Donor Funds**

#### **Duane & Myrna Gald Fund**

Duane was born on June 26, 1934, in Viroqua. The family moved to Janesville and then back to Viroqua where he graduated from Viroqua High School in 1952. While in high school he was active in basketball and baseball. He then attended the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire where he was a member of the Eta Phi Fraternity. During the Korean War he served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Korea where he worked in Intelligence. Following his military service he attended and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Madison with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. He married Marilyn Schneider and they were later divorced. He then married Jean Hogshead and they made their home in Port Washington. She later died in 1991. He worked several years in engineering and purchasing where he traveled to the Orient. On July 24, 1999, he married his high school classmate, Myrna Jacobs Hulsether. They lived in Viroqua and wintered in Apache Junction, Arizona. He also held membership at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Viroqua, Jacobson-Olson American Legion Post No. 138, Life Membership at Westby V.F.W. Post No. 8021 and ASA 501st Army Group. He was a sports fan his entire life.

Myrna was born on April 24, 1934, at Purdy, rural Viroqua. She graduated from Viroqua High School in 1952. On October 2, 1954 she married David Hulsether. They lived in Madison where she worked at Madison General Hospital for thirty-three years. They moved to Viroqua in 1986 and Mr. Hulsether died on August 1, 1995. She was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Vernon County Historical Society, Viroqua Eagles Aerie No. 2707 Auxiliary and the Eastern Star. She was recognized in 1997 as a volunteer for the restoration of the Temple Theatre, Eckhart Enchantment, Vernon County Historical Society, Wild West Days, Vernon Memorial Hospital and the Sherry-Butt House where she served as a tour guide. She also enjoyed playing cribbage, 500 and golf at the Viroqua Hills Country Club. On July 24, 1999, she married her high school classmate, Duane

"Lefty" Gald. They spent their summers in Viroqua and their winters in Apache Junction, Arizona.

Established to continue financial support for local projects and to continue to improve the quality of life for area residents and future Viroqua alumni.

### **Gary and Pat Hall Fund**

Gary Hall was the long-time owner of Hall Realty of Viroqua. He was born on September 18, 1931 in Readstown, WI. He graduated from Viroqua High School in 1948. He attended Ripon College for a short time and then Gale Institute in Minneapolis. On June 10, 1950 he married Patricia "Pat" Stafslie, she graduated from VHS that same year. They moved to Marion, OH where he was employed by the Erie Railroad for eleven years. Gary was the adventurous type, and in 1961 they moved to Liberia, West Africa where they lived until 1967. While there he was employed by the Liberian Mining Co. as a railroad train dispatcher. They returned to Viroqua where he became a real estate broker and established Hall Realty, Inc. He also was president of H & B Builders and built many homes in the area. He was a director for the Viroqua Chamber of Commerce and was on the Viroqua City Council for six years. He also was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Viroqua Eagles Aerie No. 2707 and for many years a member of Viroqua Hills Country Club. In 1987 his son, Kerry purchased his business and he and Pat moved to their beloved Mississippi River home near Victory, rural De Soto.

Gary chose to establish the Gary and Patricia Hall Unrestricted Fund with the Viroqua Area Foundation as a way to give back to the community in which they both loved to be used for community improvement projects. He requested verbally for a \$500 contribution to be made to the Humane Society annually.

### **Howard B. and Lorene O. Johnson Fund**

Howard was born Aug. 23, 1924, in La Crosse. He graduated from Westby High School and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a B-17 bomber pilot and was a POW in Germany, for nine months. He worked for Boeing Aircraft in Seattle. He eventually returned to our area, where he worked as a sales rep for Armour Products. In 1962, he established Johnson's Soil Service, which made fertilizers for local farmers. His company was eventually converted to lawn and garden fertilizer and was re-named Howard Johnson's Enterprises Inc., with a nationwide distribution. Howard was active in the community and was proud to have re-established the Snowflake Ski Club after his return from World War II as Howard was a ski jumper in his youth. Howard was an avid golfer and fly-fisherman, and on one of his trips fishing out west, ABC

Wide World of Sports requested to film him as he was fishing because of his excellent technique. Howard quietly helped many people and organizations within our community.

To be held and maintained as a separate, unrestricted fund or account within the Foundation designated with the names of Howard B. and Lorene O. Johnson.

The high school student will apply for the scholarship through the Viroqua High School common application form available in the guidance office. Graduating senior from Viroqua High School who is pursuing further education. The student will be a full-time student in college or other type of further education and enrolled as a full-time student in the following semester of their educational program. The student will demonstrate financial need. The high school student will be in the top 10% of his/her class.

#### **Laurel A. Skrede Memorial Fund**

Laurel was born on May 24, 1955 in Viroqua. She graduated from Viroqua High School in 1973. She joined the U.S. Navy and served four years completing her duty at Pearl Harbor. She served on the UW Platteville campus through the department of protective services for 26 years. This scholarship was established to honor her memory and longtime service at the UW-Platteville campus.

Laurel A. Skrede established this Undesignated Fund to be held consistent with the VAF Bylaws as now exist or may hereafter be amended. Payouts are based on a percentage of the total return of the Fund, with the remaining portion left to allow the Fund to grow.

#### **Ole & Judy Gulbrandsen Fund**

Ole was a founding board member of the Viroqua Area Foundation. He established a legal practice in the community. He was philanthropic in every way. He loved the Viroqua community and gave generously to all organizations and capital projects.

Ole & Judy Gulbrandsen established this Undesignated Fund to be held consistent with the VAF Bylaws as now exist or may hereafter be amended. Payouts are based on a percentage of the total return of the Fund, with the remaining portion left to allow the Fund to grow.

#### **Thor J. and Alice Thorson Family Fund**

Thor was a founding board member for the Viroqua Area Foundation. He owned Thorson Funeral Home and was an advocate for community growth. He gave generously to all organizations in and around Viroqua. He loved to golf and travel.

Thor J. Thorson established this Undesignated Fund to be held consistent with the VAF Bylaws as now exist or may hereafter be amended. Payouts are based on a percentage of the total return of the Fund, with the remaining portion left to allow the Fund to grow.

#### **Viroqua Area Foundation Board Member Fund**

The Viroqua Area Foundation (VAF) Board Member Fund established by the VAF Board of Trustees past and present with assets intended to remain in the VAF Board Member Fund Undesignated to better serve the greater Viroqua Area.

#### **Viroqua Area Foundation Community Projects Fund**

This fund was established by the VAF Board of Directors to transfer portfolio earnings that will be gifted for one calendar year for community projects.

#### **Viroqua Area Foundation Endowment Fund**

This endowment fund was created by the VAF Board of Directors to place all memorial and in honor of contributions made by community members that do not have a designated/restricted or undesignated/unrestricted fund established.

#### **Viroqua Area Foundation General Fund**

The Administrative Expenses are charged through the General Fund and the Administrative Fees are transferred into the General Fund. A portion of the Administrative Fees are transferred to the VAF Community Projects Fund each year.