

Donor Profile

Anne Simpson Memorial Scholarship

Leaving behind a legacy to support youth in the community

Originally from Scotland, Anne Simpson spent most of her life living in the community of Westwood. A vivacious woman with a true zest for life, her spirit is sure to be remembered in the area she called home for many years to come.

When Anne Simpson passed away on December 4, 2016, she left a generous donation to the Patricia Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star — a member of the Masonic body. Anne served as a member of the Eastern Star for more than 50 years and provided tremendous support during that time. The Patricia Chapter was not expecting this donation upon her passing and held a special meeting to unanimously decide where to invest and meaningfully donate the gift she left. One of the decisions to come out of that meeting was the idea to invest in a child's future within her community, as Anne had a profound fondness of children.

"Although she did not have children, she often spoke of children because she loved children," shared Pamela Eagleton, Patricia Chapter Trustee.

The chapter established the Anne Simpson Memorial Scholarship at Westwood Collegiate based on a donation of \$10,000 to the St. James Scholarship Foundation. The Foundation, in partnership with the Winnipeg Foundation, is now able to offer this scholarship in perpetuity in the amount of \$500. The scholarship will be presented each year to a deserving candidate based on criteria reflecting Anne's life and values. The successful recipient will have the highest average out of two Grade 12 Science courses, a minimum of 40 community service hours and will be registered to pursue science at the post-secondary level.

The science component of the scholarship seemed a natural fit for an award honouring a woman who spent her life working in the healthcare industry. Anne came to Canada from Scotland with all of her requirements to work as a nurse. She worked at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg as the Supervisor of Nursing where she demonstrated her passion for helping others on a daily basis.

"We felt she would like to help someone going into the health field," said Pamela. "If this donation helps somebody make a decision to go into a program that is science related, then we've won."

The Patricia Chapter recognizes the difficulties placed on young people today and the fact that financial strain may impact a person's decision to pursue further education. While the chapter supports multiple charitable causes in Winnipeg each year, the main criteria of their



donations is to help people.

"We want to confirm to this young person that somebody else has faith in them, a whole organization has faith in them and their process," said Pamela.

The Anne Simpson Memorial Scholarship honours an intelligent, hard-working woman determined to make the most out of life and aims to help future recipients do the same. Anne's peers at the chapter affectionately reminisce about her ability to lighten any room many, many candle power, always match her purse with her shoes, show up with a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her face. According to them, she had an enviable sense of humour and savoir-faire.

The Anne Simpson Memorial Scholarship will be presented for the first time at the Westwood Collegiate graduation on June 25, 2019. Thank you to the Patricia Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star and to the late Anne Simpson on helping to install this new opportunity for deserving youth in our community.