

The Akron Las Donas Marcus Hackworth & Scott Sechrist Memorial Scholarship

Janet Hackworth and Duane (Hack) Hackworth, residents of Fulton County, have been very involved in the community for many years. In July of 1997, their only son, Marcus, sadly passed away in a car accident as well as one of his best friends, Scott Sechrist. Both Marcus and Scott had graduated from Tippecanoe Valley High School (TVHS) in 1994.

Marcus was known for his genuine kindness and sincere willingness to help others. He could often be found helping friends with automotive matters, such as changing oil or spark plugs in their vehicles. Fixing cars was just one of his hobbies, and he was extremely fond of his 1957 Chevrolet and 1971 Pontiac. Some of his other interests included hunting, fishing, and playing sports. At TVHS, he was a member of the football team for two years and the tennis team for one year. Around the community, he was involved in the Akron Volunteer Fire Department with his father and was very active in his church. His caring attitude toward others was very evident through the activities he participated in and the work that he did, and he was loved for it.

Hack said, "During the calling hours there was one boy who said he didn't have many friends, and he appreciated Marcus and how kind he was."

Scott was also a graduate of Tippecanoe Valley High School. He lived within the Warsaw and Akron communities for most of his life. Scott participated in various activities around the community, worked for Helsler's Metal Finishing, Inc. of Warsaw, and was a member of the Beaver Dam United Methodist Church. Scott enjoyed golfing and fishing, and upon graduating from TVHS, he went on to study at Manchester College and later at St. Joseph College.

Since the passing of their son, the Hackworths have remained very involved in the community. Janet is a long time member of the Akron Las Donas, a women's club that strives to promote sociability and ethnic values. Janet serves on many boards in Akron, such as the EMS, the Public Library board, and the Cemetery boards. Hack has been a devoted member of the Akron Volunteer Fire Department since the late 1970s. Together, Janet and Hack started a support group for those in the Akron area who struggle with the loss of their children. The group meets once every two to three months and is designed to lend a helping hand to those going through tragedies similar to what the Hackworths have encountered.

In 1998, the Las Donas partnered with Janet and Hack to create a scholarship fund with the help of the Fulton County Community Foundation. This scholarship memorializes Marcus and his best friend, Scott. Since the two men were graduates of Tippecanoe Valley High School, the club found it fitting to award the scholarships to other graduates of TVHS. Community fundraisers, such as the Pampered Chef Bingo and the Celebrity Basketball Game event, have been held to raise money for the fund.

Recipients of the award must excel in academics, serve throughout the community, and participate in athletics while in school. They also must obtain an 8.0 or higher GPA on a 12.0 scale. The Hackworths and Sechrists have hope that through this scholarship, their sons' memories will be carried on forever.

The families also hope to commemorate their sons by helping out other students of the community and presenting them with this scholarship in their honor.