

## Melissa Hoffman Gamel Scholarship

Scholarships are generally started in memory of a key figure of a community who spend their entire life planted in the region. However, Melissa Hoffman's gift came in a very different way.

A 1987 graduate of Rochester Community High School, she is still very much alive and currently lives in Lewis Center, Ohio. She received the money to start the scholarship named after her through a packaging incentive competition at her place of employment, Abbott Laboratories, in 2001. She won the contest and received scholarship designation, which she directed to RHS instead of a college or university, which is where the money typically goes as grants. To go along with the scholarship, she also received a patent in 2002 for her idea, which is a light-excluding, multi-layered material used in producing containers.

Melissa attributes her decision to direct the money to Rochester because of the importance the community plays in her life, and the joy she gets from being able to give back. The scholarship is given to graduates who are interested in the study of engineering and technology. In addition, they have to be active members of the community and have significant academic achievements. The Melissa Hoffman Gamel Scholarship is a perfect example of how an individual can give back to your hometown.