

The Patricia Kumler Hoover Nursing Scholarship Fund

During the latter portion of the 20th century, the Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation was blessed to have what they would describe as one of the most dedicated nurses one will ever see. Pat Hoover served the school system for 20 years before retiring after the 1998 school year. She was the only nurse employed by the school for the first 16 years of her tenure and serviced all four buildings in the corporation. When the school switched to five buildings in 1994, Pat decided she could not adequately serve the students by herself, and another nurse was hired to assist her.

Pat's childhood was spent entirely in the Kewanna area. She graduated from Kewanna High School in 1955 and met her husband, George, after he moved to the area as a sophomore. After she graduated high school, she attended Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Indianapolis, where she received an RN diploma. She went back to school later on and got a bachelor's degree in health arts from the University of Saint Francis in Ft. Wayne. Thanks to the Sunshine Society Scholarship given to her by the Sunshine Society girl's organization, Pat was able to attend the school of nursing for very minimal cost.

"I was very grateful for that scholarship, and I felt like at some point I wanted to set up a scholarship as well," Pat said. "When I decided to do that, the Community Foundation seemed like the logical place to come."

Pat's dedication has not ceased in her retirement. She serves on the United Ministries Board as a volunteer, the Woodlawn Hospital Foundation board, the Lucille Rains Residence board out of Indianapolis, and she sings in the church choir. Music is one of her greatest loves, and she plays many instruments including the piano, clarinet, and cello. She also enjoys gardening, needlework, cross-stitching, and sewing. Pat and George's marriage lasted an outstanding 50 years before he passed in 2008. They were blessed with one daughter, Jennifer, and a son, Jeff, as well as three grandchildren, Katie, Alec, and Elle.

After she retired in 1998, she decided to start a nursing scholarship to benefit Tippecanoe Valley students. With the help of the Northern Indiana Community Foundation, the scholarship was started in 2003 under her name. Students receiving the scholarship must be nursing students and graduates of Tippecanoe Valley High School. Students also must be outstanding in the community and in school.

"I've been happy to meet the girls who have won the scholarship. It has been a labor of love," Pat said. "It gives me great hope for the future."