

Armstrong County
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2013 ACCF Board of Directors



Chase McClister, President
Christine Moss, Vice President
Autumn Vorpe-Seyler, Secretary/Treasurer

Frank Baker
Sandy Bradigan
Kristen Samosky
Lance Whiteman

Director Emeritus
Richard Snyder

ACCF Staff

Mindy Knappenberger
Executive Director

Jessica Coil
Development Officer

Tracy Peters
Communications & Administrative
Coordinator



Leave a Legacy by Paying It Forward

Christine Moss

What kind of legacy are you leaving for the future?

I want to share the story of our family legacy inspired by our daughter, Gretchen. As a child, Gretchen loved art, crafts, and music. She was a great talker. As a toddler she spoke with everyone she encountered and asked questions about everything she saw. She was outgoing; she made friends easily and was a good listener. She was inquisitive—always curious and willing to learn. She was exuberant and excitable; she talked a lot and very fast. She was stubborn and strong willed; we sometimes disagreed. Gretchen was creative and giving. She enjoyed performing in the high school musicals and playing in the band. She was inducted into the National Honor Society.

In 1992, Gretchen attended Allegheny College. At the end of her freshman year, she and a friend came home for a few days to study for finals. On the way to Meadville to take a final exam on May 7, 1993, Gretchen was killed in an auto accident. Our family was instantly and forever changed.

On the night of the accident and the next day, our family gathered in grief, prayed, and talked with our pastor, Rev. Fred Young, as we tried to work through the shock of Gretchen's death. With Rev. Young's guidance and encouragement, we chose to establish a scholarship fund to honor Gretchen by reacting in a positive way. Family and friends responded with words of comfort and donations for the Gretchen Moss Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The first scholarship was awarded in June of 1993.



Our family managed the scholarship fund for twelve years, awarding scholarships each year. In 2005, we turned the fund over to the Armstrong County Community Foundation to comply

with increased government reporting requirements and to take advantage of the greater investing power of the Foundation. Since 2005, I have served as chairperson of the Scholarship Committee at the Foundation, and my family serves on the scholarship selection committee for the Gretchen Moss Memorial Scholarship. It is my hope that my grandchildren, Caleb and Grace, will be involved as well in the years to come.

The endowed principal of the fund in 1994 was \$25,000. Donations from friends and family have been made through the years. Twenty-three scholarships have been awarded since 1993, ranging in amount from \$1,000 to 1,500. The fund value at the end of 2013 was \$31,145.

What legacy will you leave to the future? How will you intentionally touch the lives of those around you in a big way with something the recipients cannot do for themselves?



Please consider establishing a fund at the Armstrong County Community Foundation. You may also consider contributing to an existing fund at the Foundation that aligns with your values. Thank you.

Christine Moss