



The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County • 160 East Main, Suite 400B • Decatur, Illinois 62523

Scholarships as lasting memorials

Sandra Barnett of Decatur and her husband, Ritchie, began to think about creating a lasting memorial for her parents when her mother, Juanita Tomlinson Gates, died in November.

Mrs. Gates had been involved in many activities and organizations throughout her long life, including being a piano teacher and always a lover of music. A memorial connected to music seemed most appropriate. Since Mrs. Barnett's father Robert Tomlinson was a musician too, it seemed appropriate to include both parents in a memorial with a musical purpose.

Sandy and Ritchie Barnett enjoy attending the many outstanding music programs presented by students at Millikin University, so they decided to create a scholarship to help these students. The ADM Community Foundation Challenge grant with its matching funds led them to create their memorial scholarship trust through The Community Foundation.

The Barnetts' gift to establish the scholarship fund was matched by the ADM grant, and is invested by The Community Foundation to create earnings for an annual scholarship award in the name of Robert Tomlinson and Juanita Tomlinson Gates.

Robert Tomlinson and Juanita Tomlinson Gates Music Scholarship

Juanita Gates was born in 1909 and raised on a farm near Ottumwa, Iowa. She began to study piano at age eight, and rode her quarter horse, Babe, to her teacher's home for lessons, rain or shine. Although classically trained, she liked popular music and especially jazz. In 1935 she married Robert Tomlinson, an established jazz guitarist and local radio personality. They moved to Decatur in 1946 and opened the Universal Music Studios on North Water Street, where they

taught music, sold musical instruments and supplies, and played local "gigs". When Mr. Tomlinson died in 1948, his young widow helped support two small daughters by teaching piano students in her home.

In 1962, Juanita Tomlinson married Mr. Carl Gates and moved to Lansing, Michigan where she continued her interest in music. She was a long-time member of the Mid-Michigan Jazz Society. At the age of 93, she released a CD entitled "Blue Skies", which contained a collection of some of her favorite music. She was seen wherever local jazz musicians were performing until a few weeks before her death.



Robert Tomlinson

Dorothy Mae McCoy Scholarship For St. Teresa High School

Created in memory of Dorothy Mae McCoy by her son Jack McCoy and wife Barbara, this fund in The Community Foundation provides an annual scholarship for tuition to St. Teresa High School in Decatur. Applications are available in the main office at the school; the deadline for applying is April 30.

Robert G. Turner Memorial Scholarship

The Community Foundation has awarded the 2004 Robert G. Turner Memorial Scholarship to Nicole Lutes, senior at Eisenhower High School in Decatur. This fund was established by friends and family of Robert G. Turner, revered teacher and administrator in the Decatur Public Schools, in his memory and honor. Earnings from the fund provide an annual paid scholarship award to an undergraduate social studies student who plans to enter teaching.