



Kelly Family Scholarship recipient Lena Berry and founder Barbara Kelly.

Kelly Family Scholarship Fund: Giving Students a Start

"Asparagus sent me to college," said Barbara Kelly, who grew up on a farm in Kent County.

But Kelly, a retired associate dean from the University of Delaware, knows she was lucky to have a family with the means to pay for her education.

That's why she established the Kelly Family Scholarship Fund at the DCF to provide scholarships for students from Caesar Rodney High School to pay for college. Kelly and her parents all graduated from Caesar Rodney, and Kelly also taught there for five years.

Kelly created the scholarship fund with part of her inheritance and money from her personal investments. She relies on the DCF to solicit applications, vet candidates, award the scholarships to worthy students and administer the fund.

"They are experts, which is why people throughout the state trust them to take care of their funds," Kelly said. "The foundation also is focused on doing good for people in Delaware, just as I am."

Among the recent recipients of the Kelly Family Scholarship is Lena Berry, who is studying at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., heading for a career in science. Berry is receiving a \$2,000 scholarship for each year she is in school, up to \$8,000.

"I'm giving her a start," Kelly said.

"It's up to Lena to do the rest."

What is a Scholarship Fund?

A scholarship fund is a tax-free investment account that generates a source of charitable dollars to help reduce financial barriers for people seeking to advance their post-secondary education, while typically granting you tax benefits.

At the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) we work with you to personalize your scholarship fund to support students based on criteria that are important to you, such as fields of study, specific schools or demographic segments.

We leverage our knowledge of Delaware and the competitive scholarship process to ensure your scholarship dollars are having the greatest impact.

HOW A SCHOLARSHIP FUND WORKS

- **OPEN THE FUND** with an initial gift to the DCF of \$25,000 or more in cash or other assets, such as appreciated stock, mutual funds or real estate. Most establishing gifts are tax deductible.
- **NAME THE FUND AND DESIGNATE CRITERIA** such as financial need, academic standing and field of study. The DCF staff can help you think through appropriate goals and language.
- **CHOOSE AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY** from the DCF's investment pools, or ask about ways to keep your personal financial advisor involved.
- **THE DCF PUBLICIZES THE SCHOLARSHIP** through our relationships with high schools, our website, social media and other outreach.
- **STUDENTS APPLY ONLINE.** By completing a single application, students apply for your scholarship and dozens of other DCF scholarships.
- **THE DCF SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE SELECTS RECIPIENTS.** In some cases, you or your designee can be part of the selection process.
- **THE DCF VERIFIES AWARDEES' ENROLLMENT AT APPROVED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.**
- **THE DCF DISTRIBUTES FUNDS DIRECTLY TO THE SCHOOLS THE RECIPIENTS WILL ATTEND.**
- **ADD TO YOUR FUND AT ANY TIME** to take advantage of additional tax benefits while increasing the amount available for scholarships.
- **REVIEW YOUR FUND ACTIVITY ONLINE.**

The DCF handles all of the administrative requirements of the fund, from investments to paperwork.

A scholarship fund at the DCF is a powerful gift to the community that will change people's lives by increasing their educational opportunities. To begin the process of establishing your new scholarship fund, please contact Joan Hoge-North, vice president for philanthropy, at jhoge-north@delcf.org or 302.504.5224.