

## fund highlights



### DR. GERALD E. CLARK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION *established 2008*

Jerry Clark lived his life to the fullest. Best known for his kindness, sense of humor, and commitment to serving others, Jerry's life is one to celebrate.

Planning to enter the medical field, Jerry attended the University of Pennsylvania for undergraduate studies. After his senior year, he answered the call to patriotic duty and enlisted in the Marine Corps. During his time of service he rose to the rank of Captain, serving in both Korea and Japan. After completing his military service, Jerry returned to the University of Pennsylvania and completed his degree in dentistry. Jerry then enjoyed thirty-five years practicing dentistry in Newtown Square, feeling privileged to serve and care for all of his patients.

Jerry was a family man. In 1960 Jerry wed Elizabeth Corman and together they raised three children: Jeffrey, Jodi, and Douglas. Jerry and Liz were faithful members of the Willistown United Methodist Church. Jerry served as Sunday School Superintendent, Lay Leader, Head of the Pastor-Parrish Relations Committee, and Adult Sunday School Teacher.

Upon retirement from dentistry, Jerry pursued his passion for teaching. He volunteered at the Kennett Square Library working in the bilingual program. He earned his substitute teaching license and taught first in the Octorara School District, then for the Unionville/Chadds Ford School District. Jerry taught history and literature with gusto. Jerry's joy was infectious as he motivated and encouraged students to pursue their education.

Jerry's brother Alan fondly notes, "Jerry wasn't the type of person who commanded attention. But you certainly knew when he walked into a room. His zest for learning and life was contagious."

Jerry's sister Carol recalls, "As I think of my brother and his love for all people, I am reminded of the words from Rudyard Kipling, 'If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with Kings-nor lose the common touch...' Even with all of his accomplishments Jerry was a humble person who respected everyone."

"I often thought of him as a Renaissance man," remarks Jerry's wife, Liz. "With so many interests, Jerry always kept himself busy with something. If Jerry's hand wasn't occupied with a book, a paint brush took its place." The Clark home is decorated with Jerry's beautiful renditions of Japanese art. Liz remembers Jerry often saying he wanted to be an absent-minded professor.

When Jerry passed in August 2006, friends and family made memorial contributions to the Willistown United Methodist Church in Jerry's name. Family members knew they wanted to use the funds to share Jerry's life and his core values. A portion of the contributions were set aside as the family searched for a suitable charitable vehicle.



## It's been such an overwhelming outpouring of support in **remembrance of Jerry**

After learning that Willistown United Methodist Church had an endowed fund at the Community Foundation, Liz contacted them to explore possibilities. Liz explained to the Foundation staff that since Jerry worked at Unionville High School, it seemed fitting to offer a scholarship, in his name, to a deserving student intent on continuing his or her education.

"Scholarship funds have quite a few parameters established by the IRS," notes Community Foundation Donor Services/ Grants Vice President Beth Harper Briglia, CPA. "We are very aware of the legal and tax issues involved in scholarship awards, and we help donors navigate them successfully."

After an informative meeting with Foundation staff, Liz and her family created a memorial scholarship fund in Jerry's name. Liz commented, "It was important to us that donations would be invested to grow the fund in perpetuity. We wanted to make sure Jerry's legacy lived on through a continuing memorial scholarship fund."

The scholarship committee's plan was to combine Jerry's passion for education with his love of golf by holding an annual golf fundraiser at the Radley Run Country Club. Liz explains, "Our goal was to raise enough money in five years to reach an endowment level able to honor Jerry's memory through a perpetual scholarship. Annual scholarship awards will assist Unionville High School seniors to access higher education."

"It's been such an overwhelming outpouring of support in remembrance of Jerry. I'm really touched," Liz marvels. "We've nearly met our fundraising goal. The fund is almost at the point where it generates the level of income needed for a continual annual scholarship award that Jerry would be proud of."

Liz, we can say it for you...your Renaissance Man would be proud!