



Peter & Marie Ruys Scholarship

Kimberly, Wisconsin was home to Peter and Marie Ruys and their five children. Peter graduated from Kimberly High School and trained as a machinist before leaving to serve his country on a Navy submarine in World War II. He returned in 1945 and worked at Kimberly-Clark and Repap Paper Mill, retiring in 1984. He served on the Vocational School Board, finding time to be a wood worker, gardener, and frequent blood donor. He was a quiet gentleman dedicated to serving his family, neighbors and community.

Pete settled in Kimberly with his wife Marie Schneider of Hollandtown, whom he married in 1947. As a wife and mom, Marie strongly believed that volunteerism and community involvement enhances family life and encourages life-long community participation. She was a pioneer and advocate for women and was elected as the first woman on the Kimberly School Board, serving five terms. She served on many Outagamie County boards and committees and was instrumental in bringing Highway 441 to fruition in the Fox Cities, as well as the Kimberly Business Park. In 2002, the Village of Kimberly awarded Marie the inaugural "Marie Ruys Citizenship Award" which continues to recognize worthy community activists.

The couple made a significant donation to build a scenic platform overlooking the Fox River in Sunset Park, a vision Marie had longed to see for 20 years. Later, Marie donated funds to start the development of a school forest classroom on the Kimberly High School campus.

While neither Peter nor Marie attended college, they realized the value of higher education. They were both avid readers, educating themselves on many topics and issues. Pete lived to be 89, and Marie lived to almost 98. In their long lifetimes, the couple did whatever they could to make their community better and stronger, and their hope was that young people will follow in their footsteps.

Eligibility:

Graduating seniors from Kimberly High School, who have upstanding moral character and values, involvement in community and school activities, leadership skills, a generous spirit and willingness to share time and talent with their community and are planning to attend an accredited two- or four-year college/university or technical school following high school graduation. The ideal candidate will have the following:

- Minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA
- Strong work ethic
- Financial need

Award Amount:

One non-renewable \$500 scholarship award for tuition expenses.

Selection:

Recipients are selected each spring by the Kimberly High School Scholarship Selection Committee.

Payment Procedure:

Scholarship payments will be released after submission of the following to the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region: completed scholarship verification form (located at www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships) and verification of full-time student status (class schedule with credits listed). After approval of submitted documentation, the scholarship check will be paid directly to the school the recipient will be attending. Most communications between the Community Foundation and the student will be via email; **please keep us advised of your current email address.**

Loss of Eligibility:

Failure to register as a full-time student at an accredited two- or four-year college/university or technical school for the fall semester following high school graduation.

Further Information:

For more information regarding this and other scholarships or to obtain scholarship forms please visit the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region's website at www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships or contact us at scholarships@cffoxvalley.org or call 920-702-7619.