

Kenneth C. and Loraine M. Dittman Suring Scholarship

Loraine Dittman established the Kenneth C. Dittman and Loraine M. Dittman Scholarship Fund in 2007 to benefit students from Gillett High School and Suring High School who plan to obtain post-secondary education at a college, university or technical college.

Completing college was a financial struggle for Ken and Loraine. They were “on their own” financially, having both come from small hard-working Wisconsin farm families. Ken grew up and went to school in Gillett, WI. He received an electrical engineering degree from the Milwaukee School of Engineering, paying his way by working nights scrubbing brewery tanks.



Loraine grew up in the Colby area and graduated from Stratford High School, Stratford, WI. With the help of occasional babysitting jobs, Loraine earned her nursing diploma, from Deaconess Hospital, Milwaukee, WI. One of Loraine’s nursing school roommates happened to be Ken’s cousin, who introduced the two and that led to their eventual marriage in 1962. Loraine later earned a Master’s Degree at age 55. It wasn’t easy, but their hard-earned education led them both into successful careers. Ken worked for a number of companies including a period as a “trouble shooter” for Allis Chalmers. Loraine was an anesthetist nurse with an Evanston, IL hospital and sometimes worked second shifts at another hospital. She was a self-described “workaholic”. Ken was an avid hunter, fisherman and Green Bay Packers’ enthusiast. When the time came for retirement, they moved into Ken’s family farm home in Gillett, which they purchased from his mother.

The couple’s attendance at a financial planning seminar nudged them to think about after-lifetime gifts. They decided a large part of their estate should provide scholarships for graduates of Gillett and Suring high schools. Having had no children, and remembering their own financial struggles, helping young people pursue their educational goals seemed like the right thing to do.

Eligibility:

Graduating seniors from Suring High School who are planning to obtain post-secondary education at a 2- or 4-year college, university or technical college. The ideal recipient will have demonstrated:

- Financial need
- History of community involvement
- Minimum 3.0 GPA the last two semesters with a solid trend upward the last two years, if grades have not always been at that level, for students planning to attend a 4-year college/university.
- Minimum 2.5 GPA the last two semesters with a solid trend upward the last two years, if grades have not always been at that level, for students planning to attend a 2-year technical school.

Award Amount:

Three renewable \$2,500 scholarship awards per year for up to 4-years (total award \$10,000) for students planning to attend a 4-year college/university.

Two renewable \$2,500 scholarship awards per year for up to 2-years (total award \$5,000) for students that will be attending a 2-yr technical college or a 4-yr college/university.

Selection:

Recipients will be selected each spring by the Suring High School scholarship selection committee. Recipient’s applications will be forwarded to the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.

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). For **subsequent years**, the student must submit all of the above documentation along with prior year’s grade report (unofficial grade report will suffice). After approval of submitted documentation, the scholarship check will be paid directly to the school the recipient will be attending during the first semester. 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 maintain full-time student status with a minimum 2.5 grade point average each year.

Further Information:

Applications are available at your high school guidance office. For more information regarding payment process 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.