

Fred & Helen Rose Inspire-a-Dream Scholarship

Description

The Fred & Helen Rose Inspire-a-Dream Scholarship was created and funded by Fred and Helen Rose to inspire bright but disadvantaged youngsters who might not normally think about attending a college, to aspire to a post-secondary education. Funds from the Rose Scholarship Fund are used to match funds raised by each grade school for the students from that school who receive awards.

This is an unusual scholarship in several ways. First, though it is a college scholarship, it is awarded to middle school graduates. Second, the recipients do not apply for the scholarship, but rather, they are nominated and selected by committees at each of the participating elementary schools. The scholarship is modeled after one created by Dr. Rick Brietzke, principal at Purdy School. With the Rose endowment, the scope of the scholarship was expanded to include all of the public elementary schools in the Fort Atkinson School District.

The Roses moved to Fort Atkinson in 1968, shortly after Fred earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in physics. Helen Rose holds a master's degree in speech pathology and taught for several years in the Madison School District.

Dr. Rose started two high tech businesses and merged them with a small existing company in Fort with the intention of taking it in a new direction based on his products. He was appointed president of the company in 1971, when it had sales of about \$300,000 per year. When he left the company in 1985, it had worldwide sales of over \$22,000,000 per year with an office in Europe. The company had various product lines of electronic instrumentation for electrical engineering, nuclear physics, and medical applications applied to measurements of heart, bone, and brain functions.

Since 1985, Dr. Rose started several high-tech companies in telecommunications and voice-based applications using microprocessors. The last of these companies was sold in 2002. In addition to professional activities, he has been involved in the community as a member of the board of directors of a number of organizations, including the Boy Scout Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, the Fort Atkinson Boys and Girls Club and the Rotary Club.

Mrs. Rose has been very active in the community since coming to Fort Atkinson. At various times, she has served on the Fort Atkinson School Board, including acting as its chairman and on the Library Board, including being its chairman. She has also been on the Board of Directors of the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation (FACF), served as its volunteer Scholarship Chairman for 12 years. In addition, she has been an active member of a variety of local groups such as American Association of University Women and the Tuesday Club. In 2002 she was recognized for her contributions to the community by being awarded the local Lions Club Distinguished Service Award.

Eligibility

Eligible students are students who:

- Are graduating from Fort Atkinson Middle School after attending one of Fort Atkinson's public elementary schools.
- Are thought to have academic promise but whose circumstances might not normally put them on a track for a college education.

Once awarded, while attending high school, the student must maintain a minimum 3.0 gradepoint average, provide community service, meet citizenship criteria as determined in the "Fort Atkinson High School Code of Conduct," and meet regularly with an adult mentor to discuss post-secondary plans.

The scholarship can only be used for a four-year college or a one- or two-year program at a two-year college or technical school intended to prepare the student to transfer to a four-year program.

Selection

Each elementary school that desires to participate in this program shall appoint a committee of faculty or community residents to oversee their scholarship granting process, the selection of students, and the assigning of mentors.

Each elementary school may nominate one or more students each year for the scholarship. Each elementary school must raise a sum equal to half of the scholarship amount. If a school does not raise that amount, no scholarship will be granted that year to a student from that elementary school, and the matching amount from the endowment fund may be used for extra scholarships at another school.

Each school shall assign a faculty member, or a member of the community at large, to be a mentor for each student receiving a scholarship. The mentor shall meet at least twice per year, or more, if deemed useful, with the student to provide support, advice, and encouragement.

If, despite the best efforts of the elementary school principal, mentor, and high school counselor meeting with the student to provide guidance and direction, it becomes evident that he/she will not be able to achieve the 3.0 gradepoint or other requirements, the elementary school principal or committee that nominated that student may name a replacement, subject to the following conditions:

- The replacement must be from the same grade as the original recipient.
- The replacement must be a student originally considered for selection.