

Pat Keady Memorial Scholarship

Thanks to a longstanding friendship between a legendary basketball coach and local community activists, a Community Foundation scholarship will help reduce college costs for a deserving male and female Maconaquah High School senior who plan to attend Purdue University.

The Pat Keady Memorial Scholarship Fund, established by renowned Purdue basketball coach Gene Keady, was proposed by South Miami County Kiwanian, Herschel Gulley, whose youngest son, Robert, nearly played for Keady in 1989. Since then the friendship between the Keadys and Gulleys grew into an inspiring effort to help Maconaquah Schools.

The idea for the fund took root when Keady and his wife, Pat, considered establishing a scholarship; but, early in April 1009, before their plans for the fund were complete, Pat died. Gene established the scholarship fund with the South Miami Kiwanis Club in her memory.

After months of planning, the date of the scholarship fund's first major fundraiser was determined. More than 100 supporters teed off at Rock Hollow Golf Course August 6, 2010. Gene and several of his players participated. Afterward, he said that he has a few more fundraising ideas, including, when the fund reached \$1 million, allowing the top donor the honor of shaving the coach's head.

The fund presently provides two \$1,000 scholarships. Preference is given to members of the Maconaquah High School Kiwanis Key Club.

"Since the alumni association has no money in the bank for scholarships, I think this is huge," Herschel said. "When the fund reaches a certain amount, the majority of the interest could go to scholarships that could be opened up to many colleges or universities in the state of Indiana."

"The Community Foundation is a great vehicle to use to help Maconaquah Schools, especially for this scholarship," Herschel said. "It feels great to help Gene do something like this for our community."

To be eligible for the Pat Keady Memorial Scholarship, students must be graduating seniors of Maconaquah High School attending Purdue University. Two scholarships are given out, one each to a male and female student with good athletic accomplishments. Special consideration is given to basketball players or members of the Maconaquah High School Kiwanis Key Club. Involvement in school, work, and the community is important as well as financial need.

