

Charles & Norma Gary Music Endowment Scholarship



Norma and Charles Gary married in 1946 and started their life together on their farm in Wyben, MA, where they raised their family of seven children. Their love of learning was a part of their entire life. Mom and Dad could be seen in the audience, as well as behind the scenes, supporting their children's many school activities. Education was important to them and they encouraged each of their children to do their best in all they did in all levels of learning.

Dad always loved working with animals and being in the great outdoors. He graduated from Westfield High School and the UMASS Stockbridge School of Agriculture. He put his knowledge to work on the farm. He was active in the Hampden County Young Farmers, Westfield Grange, Hampden County Farm Bureau, New England Milk Producers, Eastern States Farmer's Exchange, AgriMark, Northampton Livestock Auction, Hampden County Improvement League, 4-H Hampden Harvest Group, Westfield Fair Association, Methodist Church, and the First Congregational Church, where he enjoyed sharing his knowledge and helping others.

Mom learned to play the piano and at the age of 11, she became the youngest organist in the Cumington Church. She was a nurse, which prepared her for the role of mother for seven children. Even with a busy farm family life, she was always active in music—teaching piano lessons, singing in choirs, and orchestrating musicals for church and schools. As her children were leaving for their different careers, Mom was able to return to her love of church and classical music by singing in the Methodist Church choir, First Congregational Church choir, Springfield Symphony Chorus, and the Westfield State College Choir. Traveling to Europe with the different choruses, she performed in churches in Poland, Germany, France, England, and Scotland. She was also a member of the American Guild of Organists. She was always learning and sharing her love of music with everyone around her.

Mom and Dad established this scholarship in 2007 with the hope of encouraging students to work towards their own choice of careers in the areas of agriculture or music.

Written by: Martha Gary Rheume
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