

# Dick and Edie Sullivan Family Scholarship Endowment



Family, community and education have been the cornerstones and guiding values of Dick and Edie Sullivan. They instilled these values in their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and hope to pass them along to the community of Westfield by establishing the Dick and Edie Sullivan Family Scholarship.

Dick Sullivan was a graduate of the Northampton, MA public school system, Bates College '57 in Lewiston, Maine, and earned his Master's Degree in Education from UMASS Amherst. Dick began his professional career as a history teacher at Mount Everett Regional High School in Sheffield, MA, also serving as the basketball coach and the driver education instructor.

Dick then followed the career path of a public school administrator. He first became the Vice Principal of Greenfield Junior High School. Dick then accepted the position of Principal of the Gateway Regional Public Schools. He later became Assistant Superintendent, and then was promoted and served many years as Gateway's Superintendent of Schools. Dick concluded his career as Superintendent of Schools for the Hadley Public Schools.

Edie Lysaght Sullivan graduated from Scarborough, Maine High School and then graduated from Bates College '56. She graduated from the five year nursing program with a Bachelor of Science Degree and was a licensed registered nurse. Edie's professional career included being on the staff of Maine Medical Center, and then Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington, MA.

Dick and Edie met at Bates College and were married on August 24, 1957 at St. Jude's Church in Scarborough, Maine. They were the very first couple to be married at St. Jude's! They first moved to Great Barrington and then Greenfield, but it is 70 Highland Avenue in Westfield that the family called home for more than 53 years. It was "70 Highland" where the family was raised, friends invited, parties held, the piano played, and everyone who walked through the door became family. It is also where Edie took care of dozens of kids each year, always willing to provide daycare for family and friends.

Dick and Edie strongly believe in giving back to the community, a trait they instilled in their children, Rick, Janet, Brian, Kevin and Bo. Edie served as the Chair of the Board of the Open Door Nursery (YMCA), taught CCD at St. Mary's, was President of the Highland School PTO, and is remembered for running the box office during the musical productions of the Westfield Theatre Group. Edie was a community activist and helped organize the petition to get the referendum on a "new Westfield High School" on the ballot, she was persistent as it eventually passed. Edie is best known for making her "Edie Blankets" for family, friends and many charitable causes. They have been nicknamed the "Best Nap Blankets" in the world, and you know that you are a special friend if she made one for you!

Dick is the past chairman of the Pioneer Valley Superintendents Association and Executive Committee member of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. He was a board member of the MIAA and was recognized as one of the 100 Most Important Leaders by Westfield State College (now University). Dick was a coach for Little League, Babe Ruth and YMCA basketball. He was a Cub Scout troop leader and a member of the Hill Towns Lions Club. He was a member of the St. Mary's Men's Club, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Westfield Red Cross. He is remembered for his performances with the Westfield Little Theatre Group and cohost of the radio broadcast of Westfield Bombers football games.

Dick and Edie have actively supported their grandchildren (Sarah, Abby, Courtney, Kick, Michael, Tori, Christopher, Rob, Becca, Leighanne, and Shannon). They understand how important continued education is and want to help make it available for their great-grandchildren and the next generation of Westfield students. Dick and Edie have endowed this scholarship because they want to continue to give back to the Westfield community, a community that has given so much to them and their family, the community that they will always call home.

Written by: The Sullivan family  
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