

Thomas Lane Memorial Endowment



Thomas Edward Lane was born in Manchester, CT and moved to Westfield as a young boy. He attended St. Mary's Elementary School and graduated from St. Mary's High School. His undergraduate education was completed at College of the Holy Cross, and he earned a M.Ed. at Springfield College.

Tom's tenure as a faculty member in Westfield Public Schools began in 1961 at the Intermediate School as a teacher of Latin and English. He continued in these departments at Westfield Junior High School. When the school became a middle school in the 1970's, Tom taught social studies for a seventh grade team. In 1981, he transferred to Westfield High School where he joined the Foreign Language Department and the Social Studies Department. Tom was once again teaching Latin and U.S. History. It was in these two venues that he most enjoyed working with young people.

During his tenure as a teacher, Tom was involved in the early days of Citizens' Scholarship Foundation fundraising. He also served as advisor to the Latin Club, advisor to the class of '89, and started a "school store" to help finance activities for the '89 class. Tom retired in 1992 after 31 years as a teacher, as he began to lose his battle with cancer. He really enjoyed being a teacher, so this was a very difficult decision for him to make. In his mind, it was the only fair choice for the sake of his students. Tom could no longer give his daily tasks all his time and energy.

When Thomas Lane died in 1995, the family knew that there would be an outpouring of sympathy from family, friends and colleagues. We decided to establish this scholarship which would be administered by CSF. All four of our children were recipients of scholarship aid from this foundation during the 1980's and early 1990's. The family felt that in this gesture, Tom's involvement in the education of young adults would continue. The very first recipient of this scholarship was Tim Cheever, one of Tom's former students, and an undergraduate at his alma mater, Holy Cross. I felt this was more than appropriate.

Written by: Connie Lane
September 13, 2005