

## Mary Rutzen Memorial Endowment



Mary (Sathory) Rutzen was a true legend in Westfield! Born and schooled here, she established herself as a very successful local business woman. Mary's commitment to our community was unparalleled as she immersed her energy in numerous charitable endeavors. Former Westfield Mayor John Palczynski still raves about Mary Rutzen's countless contributions to our city.

Mary began her real estate career in the mid 1950's working as a realtor for Wilcox & Enko Real Estate Company in Westfield. Confident in her abilities, she and her sister Ann Poulin founded the Poulin & Rutzen Real Estate Company in 1958. Their office was located on 8 Main Street in Westfield and their business became enormously successful. Mary worked tirelessly right up until her retirement in 1990 at the age of 80!

Helping to make Westfield a great place to live was good for her business, but all of Mary's community efforts were a gift from her heart. She was a life member of the Stanley Park Foundation, and she did fund raising for Noble Hospital as a member of the Noble Hospital Auxiliary. Mary was a communicant of St. Mary's Church, and she was an active member of the Westfield Women's Club, the Garden Club, Tekoa Country Club, the local chapter of the American Red Cross, the Westfield Historical Society, and the Sarah Gillette Foundation. She established this scholarship with Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of Westfield in 1991, and her obituary indicated that memorial contributions be made to the Westfield Boys & Girls Club following her death in 1993. Mary was a driving force in the preservation of Grandmother's Garden on Smith Avenue in Westfield in the late 1960's. From 1968-1973, she chaired the Grandmother's Day events at Grandmother's Garden. It brought her great satisfaction to see this garden rejuvenated for public pleasure again.

Mary Rutzen truly loved Westfield and she helped to improve the quality of life for all its citizens. This scholarship is just one small part of the large legacy she left in our city.

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