

Richard Bahleda Memorial Endowment



“Home is where the heart is,” and Dick Bahleda’s heart was in Westfield. He lived in this city his entire life. As a self-employed realtor, Dick sold homes in this community to others. He truly believed that Westfield was a great place to live.

Born here in 1918, Dick attended the public schools and graduated from Westfield High School. He was a talented basketball player for WHS, and was selected for the All-Western Massachusetts Basketball Team in his senior year.

Dick lived in his house on Jefferson Street for his entire adult life. He never married, but for many years he did share his home with his only sibling, Eleanore. Keeping active in Westfield was important to Dick and he belonged to St. Peter’s Church, their St. Stephen’s Society, the Westfield Moose Lodge,

Eagles Lodge 300, and the Westfield Elks Lodge 1481.

As a self-employed realtor, Dick would often buy “handyman special” homes and renovate them himself. Once he completed all the improvements, he used his real estate broker’s license to sell the home. One former client smiled as she quipped, “Dick’s favorite color must have been yellow because every room in our new home was painted yellow!”

Dick Bahleda was still living in his home on Jefferson Street when he died in 1990. Eleanor established this scholarship to honor her brother because of his love for Westfield. This city was his home, and this scholarship comes from his heart.

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