

# Catherine Aborjaily Memorial Endowment Scholarship



Catherine Solomon Aborjaily  
Oct. 22, 1926 to Jan. 31, 2021

"Go for it!" As a child of immigrants and as the eighth child of 10 children, Catherine knew how to stand up for herself and get what she wanted. With fiery red hair and a dynamic personality, Catherine absorbed all that Boston had to offer. Although her father felt that college was wasted on women, Catherine applied for and was accepted into an assistant program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) offered only to the college bound girls. As an independent Lab Technician in the 1940's and 1950's, she met and worked with brilliant professors and graduate students in the nascent fields of radar, computer science and cybernetics. While at MIT, Catherine worked on the secret Manhattan Project and helped to build one of the first computers.

By fulfilling her patriotic duty of writing to a serviceman, she found her soulmate, Alfred Aborjaily, who was serving in the Army Air Corp. After the war, Alfred attended Harvard, and then went onto Tufts Medical School. He was the first specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Westfield area. Being a doctor's wife meant in addition to raising four children, volunteering in the community. She led breast cancer self-awareness campaigns, eye health screenings, fundraised for Public TV, was a Trustee for a local bank, and supported the Springfield Symphony, among many other volunteer efforts. Ever resourceful, she would find a way to get things done for successful results.

As an extrovert's extrovert, Catherine loved creating parties and get togethers, making everyone feel welcome and special. She enjoyed travel and visiting people, relishing the various differences and similarities from around the world. As a lifelong learner, she was always curious, eager for new experiences and meeting new people from all walks of life. Never old, she prepared for a long, happy life, keeping friends and family close.

This scholarship, established by her family, is to help you achieve the gift of a formal education that was denied to her, and to find a way to reach all of your life goals. No matter what is thrown at you, remember Catherine's two favorite sayings, "Seek and ye shall find" and "GO FOR IT!"



Written by: Ruth Aborjaily  
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