



Kathleen M. Hagan Memorial Scholarship

Kathleen Mary Hagan was born in Westfield in July of 1928, was the daughter of James and Catherine O'Rourke and was a lifelong resident of the city. Upon her high school graduation Kathy went to Bay Path Secretarial School. She was employed by New England Telephone and Telegraph and Stanley Home Products as an executive secretary for many years.

Kathy married Charles "Bud" Hagan in 1956 and together they raised three children including twin girls, Sheila and Nancy, and a son named James (Jim). She was an active leader in the Brownies and Girl Scouts, as well as the following sporting activities of her children: soccer, baseball, tennis, swimming and basketball.

Once the children began junior high school, Kathy returned to the workforce and started a new career as a teacher's aide in the Westfield Public Schools. Kathy was devoted to her work in the classroom at Fort Meadow School and Smith Avenue School, and she truly enjoyed being with students teaching them to improve their reading and writing skills. She developed lifelong friendships with her fellow teachers and administration staff. The impact she had on her students has lasted throughout their lifetimes. Recently a former student wrote that he and his sister remember her having the nicest disposition and that she made a difference in their lives.

Education was important to Kathy and she worked hard every day to help students reach their potential. She instilled the value of an education in each of her cherished nine grandchildren, and was always happy to support their school and athletic activities.

Kathy lived each day with a bright smile and deep faith. She was always willing to help others and ask what she could do to help. Our family was blessed to have her as a mother and grandmother all these years until she passed away in November 2020.

Kathy loved this community and our local school system, she was so proud to be a part of it. Each of her children received a scholarship from CSF Westfield, and she would be so pleased and humbled to have a scholarship in her name to help further a deserving student's education in their pursuit of a college degree.

Written by: Jim Hagan

December 16, 2020