

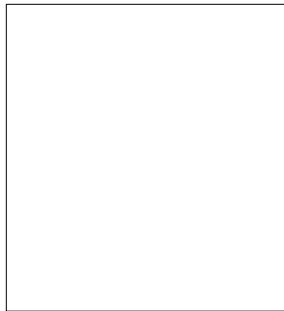


SARAH WHITTAKER FUND ESTABLISHED IN MEMORY OF BELOVED TEEN

There is no understanding why a teenager would make such an unplanned, impulsive decision with such a permanent outcome. Sarah Ann Whittaker, born 1991, was loved and cherished by her family. Karen, her step-mother was especially close to Sarah. No one in the family, including her counselor and her many friends, had any hints that she would commit suicide.

Born in Piqua, Ohio to Allen and Brenda Whittaker, Sarah enjoyed 4-H and scrapbooking, and always had a smile on her face, as described by her two older brothers, Jacob and Joshua. She had a bubbly personality. Since her death Allen Whittaker has embarked on a crusade to see the light in this horrible tragedy. He prefers to remember all of the joy Sarah put into this world and to extend that goodness to other families' so this will not happen to another teenager.

Allen visited Greenville High School in May, 2008, and did presentations to all of the tenth grade classes. At that time he shared that although he knows this was an unplanned act on Sarah's part, it was irreversible and so devastating for their family. He knows that with her loving heart that if she had thought it through, she would never have wanted to hurt them or



anyone this way. Allen shared with the students that there are no problems that cannot be worked out. He also offered to talk to anyone that needed someone to listen and that day at the high school he also offered trained professionals to help. "If I can help even one kid or one family by talking about what happened to us, it's worth it," says Allen.

Presently, Allen and his family and friends are raising money to establish the Sarah Whittaker Memorial Scholarship Fund. They want it to be an endowment so that future generations may always remember and learn from this journey they had thrust upon them. Sarah always wanted to go in to teaching and since she struggled hard on her grades, they want it to be for students in Darke County entering teaching with a "C" average.

If you would like to make a contribution to this account, please send a check payable to the HOPE Foundation/Whittaker Fund and send it to

Continued on page 3, Whittaker

GARBIGS IN LEGACY SOCIETY

Phil and Karen Garbig have named the HOPE Foundation of Darke Co. in their Will, establishing them as members in the HOPE Legacy Society.

On July 20, 1987, Phil & Karen Garbig had no idea how the birth of their son Zachary would change their lives forever. Zachary was born with Hirschsprung's Disease, a condition where the nerve cells are not present in the intestines and the intestines are not able to function properly. Zachary required many surgeries and many hospitalizations early in his life. He was unable to digest food and therefore required continuous intravenous feedings. But having a strong will and determination Zachary lived his life among family and many friends playing little league baseball, SAY soccer, YMCA basketball, boating and playing Nintendo with his buddies.

Zachary was a very good student at Arcanum Elementary. He was in the Real Pals gifted program and participated in Odyssey of the Mind, an academic competition. Zachary was always helping others and his teachers recall that he was a good reader who often helped kids who struggled with reading and math. Even with his own problems, Zachary always wanted to do something for somebody else.

Phil & Karen were also determined to make his life as normal as possible. Despite many hospitalizations and many setbacks, Zachary loved life. Phil & Karen recall Zachary being hospitalized for a very serious complication and, after dismissal from the hospital Zach insisted on playing in a soccer tournament that week. This was the attitude that Zach chose to face his disease with and these were the opportunities that allowed

Continued on page 3, Garbig

THE NEW DARKE COUNTY ENGINEERING AND SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP

Establishing a scholarship to benefit students interested in pursuing study of engineering or the sciences was Denny and Shirla Neff's goal in October 2007. Denny noted, "I wanted to contribute towards the establishment of this fund in the hopes that



Denny and Shirla Neff

other people would add to it so that it could grow for the benefit of students." Denny noted that our society is more concentrated on technology. "The engineering aspect of a one's education; an area that requires some discipline and uses an exacting science is needed even

Continued on page 3, Neff

2008 Student Scholarship Recipients

This year \$79,143.00 in scholarships were given to the students below.

This brings the total of scholarships distributed since 1989 when HOPE was started to \$726,437.00

Greenville National Bank, Ansonia Branch

* Meagan Williams, Ohio State University, Ansonia H.S.

Ansonia Area Jaycees

* Holly Riffle, Ball State University, Ansonia H.S.

United Way/ Troutwine Estate

* Lance Matthieu, Wright State University, Bradford H.S.

Paul C. & Helen D. Warner Memorial Fund

* Laurielle Charis Cobb, Cedarville University, Greenville H.S.

* Jared P. Monnin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Gville H.S.

Louise Winbiger Bales Scholarship Trust

* Ambrea Faye Schlechty, Wright State University, Ansonia H.S.

Pauline Bales Memorial Scholarship Fund

* Ambrea Faye Schlechty, Wright State University, Ansonia H.S.

Velma & Merlin Applegate Memorial Scholarship

* Lee Kozak, University of Northwestern, Ansonia H.S., 2nd yr.

Fred Miltenberger Memorial Scholarship

* Bryant Michael, Ohio State University, Arcanum H.S.

Mr. & Mrs. Howard (Eva) Fisher Scholarship Fund

* Holly Riffle, Ball State University, Ansonia H.S.

* Sierra Shiverdecker, Wright State University, Arcanum H.S., 2nd yr.

* Brooke Strayer, Ohio State University, Arcanum H.S., 2nd yr.

* Lance Matthieu, Wright State University, Bradford H.S.

* Jennifer McKibben, Butler University, Franklin-Monroe H.S.

* Joel William Longnecker, Central Bible College, Tri-Village H.S.

* Kimberly Grieshop, Bowling Green State University, Versailles H.S.

* Nicole Heitkamp, Ohio State University, Versailles H.S.

* Tim Best – Ronnie Kreitzer Memorial Fund

* Benjamin R. Dapore, University of Dayton, Versailles H.S.

J. Howard Trump Art Scholarship

* Julia Francis, Edison Community College, Versailles H.S.

Matt Wuebker Memorial Scholarship

* Jeremy Shardo, Walsh University, Versailles H.S.

Kenneth J. Gibboney Memorial

* Lance Matthieu, Wright State University, Bradford H.S.

Edwin, Mac and Marguerite Stoltz Memorial

* Carolyn Ruck, Cedarville University, Greenville H.S.

John Charles and Alice Schafer Memorial Fund

* Holly Riffle, Ball State University, Ansonia H.S.

* Ambrea Faye Schlechty, Wright State University, Ansonia H.S.

* Kyle Siefring, Miami University, Ansonia H.S.

* Meagan Williams, Ohio State University, Ansonia H.S.

* Stacie Lyme, Ohio State University, Ansonia H.S., Second year

* Benjamin C. Seger, Ohio State University, Ansonia H.S., 2nd yr.

* Lee Kozak, University of Northwestern, Ansonia H.S., 2nd yr.

Irene Bolen Memorial Scholarship

* Elizabeth Ann Abel, University of Findlay, Mississinawa-Valley H.S.

Robert and Iris Bolen Memorial Scholarship

* Elizabeth Ann Abel, University of Findlay, Mississinawa-Valley H.S.

Virginia Nischwitz Scholarship Fund

* Brooke Strayer, Ohio State University, Arcanum H.S., Second year

Coty M. Frady Memorial Scholarship

* Kyle Siefring, Miami University, Ansonia H.S.

Norton Family 4-H Scholarship

* Ambrea Faye Schlechty, Wright State University, Ansonia H.S.

Kenneth H. & Virginia M. Flory Memorial Scholarship Fund

* Joshua Brandon, Washington University, Arcanum H.S.

* Craig Allen Denlinger, Indiana University, Arcanum H.S.

* Ashley Nicole Howard, Ohio State University, Arcanum H.S.

* Alex Johnson, Ohio State University, Arcanum H.S.

* Bryant Michael, Ohio State University, Arcanum H.S.

* Kylie Smith, University of Cincinnati, Arcanum H.S.

* Bryant Weyrick, University of Findlay, Arcanum H.S.

* Brenda Denlinger, Capital University, Arcanum H.S., Second year

* Frank Perkins III, Ohio Northern University, Arcanum H.S., 2nd yr.

* Adam Schweiterman, Ohio State University, Arcanum H.S., 2nd yr.

* Sierra Shiverdecker, Wright State University, Arcanum H.S., 2nd yr.

Galen B. Fourman Scholarship

* Carolyn Ruck, Cedarville University, Greenville H.S.

Eleanor J. Hughes Memorial Scholarship

* Logan Halderman, Ohio State University, Franklin-Monroe H.S.

* Brooke Johnson, Ohio State University, Franklin-Monroe H.S.

* Laurielle Charis Cobb, Cedarville University, Greenville H.S.

* Jared P. Monnin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, G H.S.

* Carolyn Ruck, Cedarville University, Greenville H.S.

* Elizabeth Ann Abel, University of Findlay, Mississinawa-Valley H.S.

* Joel William Longnecker, Central Bible College, Tri-Village H.S.

* Megan Marshall, Miami University, Tri-Village H.S.

* Benjamin R. Dapore, University of Dayton, Versailles H.S.

* Julia Francis, Edison Community College, Versailles H.S.

* Jordan Richard Schlater, University of Cincinnati, Versailles H.S.

* Jeremy Shardo, Walsh University, Versailles H.S.

Regina K. Delk Memorial Scholarship Fund

* Laurielle Charis Cobb, Cedarville University, Greenville H.S.

Jeanie Hawley Memorial Scholarship

* Jared P. Monnin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Gville H.S.

The \$8,000 Amie McClurkin Scholarship Fund

* Ambrosia S. Davidson, Anderson University, Greenville H.S.

* Chelsea Schmidt, Ball State University, Greenville H.S.

* Jennifer Beisner, Butler University, Greenville H.S., 3rd. yr

David and Bonnie Snider Scholarship

* Joel William Longnecker, Central Bible College, Tri-Village H.S.

* Gwen Ellen Stephen, Ball State University, Tri-Village H.S.



*Photo by
Crystal Lee Ann Photography*

Garbig Continued

Zachary to forget that he was a child with a very serious medical condition.

When Zachary was 11 years old, his liver failed and Zach became extremely ill. Zachary was transported to Omaha, Nebraska where he received a liver and small bowel transplant. Zachary was given the opportunity to have a transplant as the result of another family's tragedy. After losing their child to an automobile accident, they allowed the organs to be donated and Zach was a recipient.

For seven long months, Zachary suffered many complications with his transplant. Zachary S. Garbig died on June 25, 1999. Although Zachary did not survive, the transplant made the Garbig family aware of the organ donor shortage.



Phil and Karen Garbig members of Legacy Society

Zachary was a good example to his family & friends – Zachary is a hero. Therefore, the Garbig family has established a living memorial in Zachary's name to encourage organ and tissue donation. The Garbigs desire to help educate Darke County as to the need for organ and tissue donation. They hope others will understand that an unfortunate tragedy can bless the lives of others by giving them hope and a second chance at life.

This memorial has been funded by generous donations from family and friends. The fund has financed public awareness billboards, promoted awareness and public enrollment at community blood drives, funded public enrollment at the Darke County Campus of the Edison Community College, participated in public school awareness programs and other events.

Phil & Karen have also chosen to continue this legacy through a bequest in their Estate Planning. The bequest will fund the Zachary S. Garbig Memorial Fund to continue the education and promotion of organ donor awareness in Darke County.

Neff Continued

more.” He hopes more students aspire to that career area, if they are interested. He added, “It requires a lot of work to want to go into engineering or the sciences and he wanted to establish this scholarship to help encourage students to do so, whether they are pursuing a 2 or 4 year degree.”

Denny noted, “I have a lot of respect for engineers. It is a good discipline to study and it can lead to entrepreneurial pursuits. Studying in this area provides better opportunities to pursue for students' futures.” He added that now there are so many jobs that demand a qualified work force. Personally, Denny started in pre-med and switched to business. Shirla studied in education and worked as a teacher in all of the Greenville buildings at some point in her career before retirement. Both of their sons have engineering degrees – one in chemical and one in industrial engineering. Shirla added, “They both moved on because they had the grounding and qualification to move from one field to another.”

Denny and Shirla wanted to do something for the community. Shirla noted that she had “Scholarships in college and wanted to help someone else.” They both commented that the HOPE Foundation serves an extremely important purpose for the community with young people. Denny noted, “We get value served in regards to scholarships issued.” They decided that HOPE was the vehicle to help the community and meet their needs.

Denny had previously served as an original board member on the “Dollars for Scholars” Group, back in the late 60's early 70's, a scholarship program. Treaty Co. and the Neff Co., with which he was associated as President of the Neff Co., both had scholarships.

Shirla and Denny hope that others will support this scholarship fund so it will be able to afford more students' scholarship opportunities. This scholarship will be first awarded in the spring 2009.

The HOPE Legacy Society is for members of the community who include the HOPE Foundation in their estate planning. It may be a bequest through their will or through proceeds from an insurance policy. The gift can be specified for the board of directors to use it as they feel is best for the overall community or it can be used for scholarships or for a specific nonprofit agency. The ideas of where you can leave a legacy gift for the community are endless.

How do you become a member of the legacy society? Contact Patty Lavy, President of the HOPE Foundation for information. You do not have to report how much you plan on giving to the HOPE Foundation or even sign a binding contract. You just have to report that at this time your plan is to include HOPE in your financial estate planning. We take your word that you will follow through or let us know if your plans change. Give your community a gift of a lifetime and leave your own personal legacy for Darke County. Call Patty Lavy at 548-HOPE for more information.

Whittaker, Continued

the HOPE Foundation, P.O. Box 438, Greenville, OH 45331. Once the fund reaches the Endowment Level of \$25,000, the interest will be distributed for scholarships every year forever. Your gift is tax-deductible. For more information on the family and to obtain links on teenage suicide prevention, please go to www.sarahwhittaker.com



201 W. Main St.
PO Box 438
Greenville, OH 45331
937-548-HOPE

*Special thanks to Kathleen
Kilgallon, for assisting in
publishing this newsletter.*

TRUSTEES

BILL BAUMANN
REBSCO Inc.
Psychotherapist
Greenville & Sidney

FRED BERNHARD
Oakland Church (Retired)
Bethany Theological Seminary
Advancement Associate

TIM BOOHER
Managing Partner
R.J. Warner Insurance LLC

JULIE BORING, C.P.A.
Boring and Associates

STEVE BURNS
President & C.E.O.
Greenville National Bank

NICK COX
President
R. B. Cox Insurance Agencies

PHILLIP R. GARBIG Attorney
Garbig & Blinn, L.L.C.

MIKE GRAY
Superintendent
Darke Co. Educational Service Center

TOM GUILLOZET Attorney
Hanes, Schipfer, Cooper, Graber, Guillozet
Detling, Ltd.

JON HEIN
Darke County Common Pleas Judge

EILEEN LITCHFIELD
Darke Co. Law Library
Darke Co. Career Mentorship Program

R. E. LAUGHLIN
CEO, (Retired)
Wayne Hospital

SUSAN MUNTEAN
Attorney
Gary L. Flinn Co., LPA

RODNEY ODA, C.P.A.
Fry & Co.

MARVIN J. STAMMEN
President & CEO
Second National Bank

RICHARD TROUTWINE
Troutwine Auto Sales

JEAN YOUNG
Chief Operating Officer
Family Health

DENA WUEBKER
Agricultural Educator
Versailles High School

KENT A. ZECHAR
Managing Partner
Zechar Bailey Funeral Homes

STAFF
Patty Lavy
President

Website: www.hopedarkecounty.com
E-Mail: hopefoundation@woh.rr.com

Return Requested
HOPE Foundation
201 W. Main St.
PO Box 438
Greenville, OH 45331