

John and Sophie Choratch Scholarship Fund

The *John & Sophie Choratch Scholarship Fund* was created by a transfer from the estate of Sophie Choratch. It provides educational scholarships to deserving students of Washington County whose parents either work or volunteer as a first responder.

Sophie Choratch often spoke of wanting to provide scholarships to students in Washington County. She wished for a fair selection process and she also wanted the students to be able to attend the school of their choice. However, when the tragic events of September 11, 2001 occurred, Sophie was moved to help the victims in New York. In a codicil to her will she instructed that the residue of her estate be set up in a trust “to assist worthy students of post high school studies, in the payment of their tuition and miscellaneous expenses of their training both in college, post graduate school or trade school. It is my direction that the funds be expended for only students whose parents were victims of the September 11, 2001 Twin Towers Tragedy.”

In response to the 9/11 tragedy, many Americans, like Sophie, were moved to contribute to charities to help the victims. In fact, contributions were so great that charities stopped accepting additional gifts and urged those wishing to help to contribute in their local communities. Because the original intent of Sophie’s fund was no longer practical, Washington County Orphans Court permitted the Community Foundation to redirect the scholarships to the children of first responders in Washington County. A total of \$800,000 was received from Sophie’s estate, making this fund the largest scholarship fund of the Community Foundation.

Sophie Choratch was born February 2, 1916, in Donora, PA, the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Lenhart Andrews. She was a graduate of Donora High School and the Hixson School of Floral Design, and was a member of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in Donora. Sophie was the owner and operator of John’s Flower Shoppe in Donora for almost 40 years, retiring in September of 2002. She was preceded in death by her husband, John.



Chapman Annex, 331 South Main Street, Washington, PA 15301

www.wccf.net

724-222-6330

info@wccf.net