

Jenny Smith Memorial Fund History and Criteria

There are few in this world that truly leave an extraordinary mark on their communities. Virginia “Jenny” Smith was such a person. She has left a lasting legacy of service, the impact of which will be felt for a long time. Despite all of her business and community activities, she never lost sight of the importance of family. She was a devoted daughter, sister and aunt. There was never too little time to bake cookies with a niece or vacation with the family. She loved surf fishing, snorkeling and running.

Born and raised in Stevenson, Maryland she was educated at Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore, Maryland; Skidmore College in Saratoga Spring, New York, (1971 summa cum laude) and Dartmouth College. She started her career as a teller with Union Trust Company, now Signet Bank, in Baltimore, working her way through and up the ranks. In 1992 she joined First Fidelity Bank as a Senior Vice President and in 1995 was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Union National Bank in Westminster, one of only four women in the state of Maryland to head a bank at that time.

Jenny Smith began volunteering early. She was a Junior Grey Lady at Union Memorial Hospital when she was a teen. Her community service included memberships on the Boards of Directors of The United Way of Central Maryland, Villa Julie College, Carroll County General Hospital Foundation, Carroll County Children’s Fund and the Westminster Rotary Club. In 2000 the United Way of Central Maryland recognized her commitments by awarding her the Clementine Peterson Award for outstanding community service.

Upon her death in July 2001, memorial contributions were made in Ms. Smith’s honor to The United Way of Central Maryland. The United Way Community Partnership of Carroll County, a Board of local leaders, many of whom knew Jenny well, chose to use the funds to establish The Jenny Smith Fund with the Community Foundation of Carroll County, Inc. In alternating years, grants will be made in her honor to provide a scholarship to the Carroll County YMCA Camp for middle school students or to a Carroll Community College or McDaniel College student to serve an academic internship with a Carroll County United Way Agency.

Questions about applications for grants or contributions to the Jenny Smith Fund may be directed to the United Way Community Partnership of Carroll County, 410-840-2837 or to the Community Foundation of Carroll County, 410-876-5505.