Gwendolyn Lathwell Memorial Scholarship

**Scholarship Value: $450**

Mrs. Gwendolyn Lathwell was an inspiration to all who knew her. With her commitment to her family and community, she brightened the days of countless individuals through community events and following her four sons to their countless sports events. When she was the head cook at Betsie Valley Elementary, she had the opportunity to impact many children through her smile and caring ways. Her number one enjoyment in life was loving and cherishing the lives of children. Sadly, Gwen passed away in a car accident on November 27, 1989 while heading to work.

Gwen was born in Frankfort, Michigan on December 3, 1945 and was raised by Jack & Doris Derby in Bear Lake on their farm with three other sisters, Susan Jabrocki, Brenda Bickel and Louise Haik. Gwen completed 2 years of college at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City and then married Gary Lathwell on August 27, 1966. They had four children, Christopher, Kevin, Kurt and Chad, who all graduated from Benzie Central, and resided on Joyfield Road in southern Benzie County. While the children were growing up, Gwen and Gary involved the family in 4-H, Boy Scouts, numerous sporting activities, camping, community volunteer activities and Blaine Christian Church. Gwen tirelessly gave back to her community because she knew the Lord had blessed her with a healthy family and the ability to listen to and help others.

Gwen was a wonderfully dedicated mother who stayed home with her children until Chad was old enough to attend first grade. At that point, she started cooking in the Benzie County School system, first at the high school and then at Betsie Valley Elementary School.

When Gwen passed away, our community was deeply saddened. It was amazing to hear the many stories about how Gwen had brightened someone’s day through her small gestures, and that she would be dearly missed.

The Gwendolyn Lathwell Memorial Scholarship was initiated at the time of Gwen’s death to memorialize the contributions she made to our community. The intent is to provide academic assistance to an aspiring Benzie Central High School student who will be attending college following high school graduation. The non-renewable scholarship of $450 will be awarded to one graduating student each year who best exemplifies the three criteria Gwen believed in most: 1) academic achievement, 2) dedication to the people in one's life and 3) contribution to the community. It is the Lathwell family’s hope that the recipient will dedicate theirself to achieving academic and professional excellence in college and beyond, and giving back to the community.

# Checklist for Application

[ ]  Application

[ ]  High School Transcript

[ ]  Application Addendum

# Application Addendum for Gwen Lathwell Memorial Scholarship

Name:

What was your most memorable high school academic achievement and why?

How about an achievement outside of class?

People In Your Life

Who is a person you admire or respect and what main quality is special about that person?

What is a memorable family experience while growing up?

Contribution To The Community

What was your favorite activity related to the overall Benzie County community and why?

# Educational and Personal Goals

What are you looking forward to at college; what are your goals?

# Budget Requirements

Tuition Expenses:

Travel Expenses:

Room & Board:

Fees, Books, etc.:

Other:

Parent’s Contribution:

Loans:

Student’s Savings:

Expected Summer Earnings:

Scholarships/Grants:

Other:

What other scholarships and grants have you received:

I affirm that any proceeds obtained as a result of this application will be used solely for expenses related to furthering my education. Proof of enrollment must be provided by the registrar’s office to the Benzie Central Superintendent of Schools in the fall before the award will be granted.

If you are able to contribute to this scholarship at a later date to help future students, would you be willing to do so?

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:**  **DATE:**

**SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN:**  **DATE:**