



## **Richland Fire & Emergency Services Scholarship Fund History and Purpose**

### **History:**

This Scholarship Fund was established in memory of James W. Dover (Sep 26, 1937 - Aug 24, 2017), husband and best friend of Mary J. Dover for 37 years. Jim was unable to finish high school due to family hardships, but eventually completed his GED and was the first person in his family to receive a college degree. He valued education and passionately believed in bettering oneself through education and hard work. He believed in professional development and learning more to enhance knowledge within the work environment. Jim and Mary, both military veterans, eventually retired in Richland where they worked to give back to the community that had given them so much. They continue to give back through this scholarship fund.

Establishing the Richland Fire and Emergency Services (RF&ES) Scholarship through the 3 Rivers Community Foundation is Mary's legacy to her husband and a way to honor the outstanding men and women at the Richland fire department. It was only through the extraordinary support of the firefighters that Jim's wish to stay home and not be placed in a care facility was able to be honored. Their sincerity, kindness and compassion were remarkable. In addition to their official duties they assist many people through their Community Outreach Program (COP) purchasing food, clothing and other necessities for people and sponsoring families over the holidays providing dinners and gifts for everyone. They once responded to a call from an elderly woman whose home flooded in the middle of the night. It turned out to be a broken water heater. Later that morning, using money from their COP fund, they purchased and installed a water heater. After responding to home fires, they occasionally help families obtain lodging until the Red Cross responds. These are but a few examples of how Richland firefighters support our community outside of their official duties. They have a significant impact on the community and deserve recognition for their dedication to helping others.

### **Purpose:**

This scholarship is to assist RF&ES firefighters achieve their academic and career goals. It will provide one or more scholarships to be awarded to Richland firefighters each calendar year in an amount determined by the Advisors and the Scholarship Advisory Committee. The Donor anticipates awarding three \$2,000 scholarships annually using pass through monies until the Scholarship Fund has sufficient money to support endowed awards. The number of scholarships awarded, and the amount of each award, may be amended by the Donor or the Advisor(s) as the need arises.

Each scholarship will be awarded to applicants selected by the Scholarship Advisory Committee. Recipients have one year to accept the funds for the college or university they attend. Funds can be used for online or on campus classes.