

ELLEN GAFFNEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

EST.
2021

A FUND OF THE



BUCHANAN COUNTY
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

here for good.



“It is my desire that Buchanan County students have the opportunity to further their education and become leaders in their community.”

ELLEN GAFFNEY
Fund Founder

Ellen Gaffney was born in 1942 at St. Francis Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa, the eldest of six children born to Marguerite Ellen DeWald Miller and Joseph Miller. She lived with her uncle, Edwin DeWald, and mother in Littleton for the first five years of her life as her father was in the service. In 1947, the family moved to Lamont where Ellen’s parents purchased Miller’s Tavern, which they ran successfully through Ellen’s high school years, when she graduated from Lamont Consolidated School.

Ellen recalls many fond memories of her childhood and Miller’s Tavern as it had one of the first televisions in the county and people used to congregate at the tavern to watch it. She still refers to Lamont as her hometown.

Ellen went to Personal Training School in Omaha, Nebraska where her focus was on business and learning the teletype. Her wide range of work experiences include farmer and wife, Travelers Insurance Company, Avon representative, secretary/treasurer for St. Mary’s Catholic Church-Hazleton, Credit Bureau of NE Iowa, The Ink Spot, and secretary/treasurer for the Buchanan County Landfill. Ellen was also a Buchanan County Supervisor for 28 years; the only female to serve in this capacity for Buchanan County, to-date.

Ellen’s greatest accomplishments include proudly serving residents of Buchanan County as Supervisor for seven election cycles, being instrumental in getting the bond issue passed for the new Buchanan County Law Enforcement Center, providing self-funded insurance for Buchanan County employees, being a founding member of the Buchanan County Economic Development Commission, and being instrumental in bringing rural water to residents of Buchanan County.

Ellen’s love of humankind, volunteering, and efforts to advance the greater good align with her personal life, too. She supports many nonprofit organizations through annual monetary contributions and also gives of her time.

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ONLINE GIFTS CAN BE MADE TO THE ELLEN GAFFNEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT FUND.CFNEIA.ORG/GAFFNEY-SCHOLARSHIP. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS FUND, CONTACT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHEAST IOWA AT 319-287-9106.

Ellen has served as a volunteer “big sister” for Volunteers for Youth in Oelwein, assisted the Buchanan County Health Center gift shop, helped with weekly bingo at Lexington Estate, and provided receptionist support for Fontana Interpretive Nature Center-Hazleton. Ellen served as Archdiocesan president of the Council of Catholic Women. Additionally, she served the Buchanan County Democrats as vice chair of the Central Committee, chair of the Women’s Club, and spearheaded many soup supper fundraisers.

Ellen was also a member of the Buchanan County Community Foundation governing committee for several years and saw first-hand how grant funded projects helped Buchanan County nonprofits and government entities. Her involvement with the Foundation, desire to support Buchanan County, and passion for continuing education led her to establish the Ellen Gaffney Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund will benefit students obtaining higher education who reside in Buchanan County, demonstrate financial need, and who have been gainfully employed during high school.

“Buchanan County has been very good to me, and I am proud to be a long-time, nearly lifetime, resident. I want to give back to this community,” said Ellen. “The Community Foundation is a secure way to ensure my wishes will be carried out for the benefit of future students.”