

DOING GOOD IN  
*Your Backyard.*

Doc and Stevie  
Shoemaker

*Sullivan County*

Scholarship Fund

*To help students in Sullivan County reach their dreams of studying humanities or life sciences in college.*



## A Lasting Legacy of Education

It's been widely reported that the cost to attend a four-year university is rising at a clip that's double the rate of inflation. Because of those tuition hikes, it's not uncommon for current and prospective college students to face a dilemma: Either abandon the idea of furthering their education or saddle their future with loans.

Fortunately, thanks to the Thomas W. "Doc" Shoemaker & Stefana H. "Stevie" Shoemaker Scholarship Fund, there's another option for students in Sullivan County, Pennsylvania.

"My mother was a lifelong learner," Jim Shoemaker, Doc and Stevie's son, said of his mother. "After she had six kids, she went back to college and got her bachelor's degree and went on to get a master's in library science—all this after raising six kids. That was something my father (Doc) felt he wanted to give back to the community. The education part of it was important to him and to my mother."

When Stevie died in 2012, the elder Shoemaker vowed to honor his wife's memory and commitment to education. He worked with Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) leadership to create a scholarship fund that would benefit Sullivan County students planning to study English, library science, or journalism in college.

Stevie worked as the librarian at the local high school, Sullivan County High School, where she instilled in those students the joys of books and education with the same passion she did with her children at home. When the local weekly newspaper, The Sullivan Review, was in danger of folding, Doc and Stevie stepped up to purchase it. Together, the husband and wife successfully ran the paper for 40 years before selling it to their son, John.





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Because of Stevie’s background, it made sense for the fund to benefit students who shared her interests in humanities and the written word. And when Doc died in 2018, Jim and his siblings knew they needed to similarly pay tribute to the man who spent decades as the town’s trusted veterinarian by widening the scholarship’s focus.

“After [Doc] passed away, the six of us kids decided to add to the [fund’s] principal amount and expand the scholarship to include not only the original humanities but also life sciences like chemistry and biology because my father was a vet,” Jim said. “He studied chemistry in college and taught biology in the local high school.”

While the fund has always successfully helped Sullivan County students reach their dreams of attending college, the Shoemakers hope the larger scope and increased principal amount will allow it to make an even bigger impact moving forward. Since the scholarship was first established in 2012, recipients have gone on to attend Temple University or Bloomsburg University, graduating with degrees in Biology and Kinesiology.

CFTT works with local educators to help select who receives the scholarships each year. Jim said his family appreciates the fact that they’re able to handle the administration and maintain the heavy lifting and financial management of the fund.

“The process with CFTT is transparent and straightforward,” he added. “They are managing the money well, and the investment returns have been very good.”

The Shoemaker children have expressed interest in continuing to increase the fund’s principal amount, which should enable even more scholarships to be distributed—something Jim knows would make Doc and Stevie proud.

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