



Doris Greenleaf Memorial Endowment

Doris Greenleaf was an uncommon woman; a journalist, an independent thinker, a feminist before the word had meaning. She was also a mother of four daughters, a wife, and a doting grandmother.

Doris grew up in Minnesota in a family with deep Swedish roots. She appreciated this heritage and the immigrant stories told at family gatherings. She enjoyed committing the stories to writing and early in her life discovered she had a gift. Her writing skills were strengthened in the journalist program at the University of Minnesota as well as through experiences as a reporter for several newspapers.

When she settled in Devils Lake with husband Willard and her young family, she wrote special assignments for the *Devils Lake Journal*. She devoted many years to volunteer public relations for the Devils Lake Public Schools, Lake Region State College, and other organizations. Doris had a strong moral compass and used her writing skills to advocate for social justice. Her last widely published work, an essay titled *Who Will Speak for the Poor*, was published in 2004 in nearly every major North Dakota newspaper as well as on Internet.

Doris was always grateful for her husband Willard's support. He was proud of her willingness to stand up and be counted, at the risk of public criticism. For example, Doris pioneered AIDS education in the community, attempting to replace myth with facts about the

dangerous disease. She had the courage to tell her family's story at a time when AIDS was a taboo topic.

Together, Willard and Doris raised four



daughters—Jennifer, Julie, Elizabeth, and Susan—all strong women and, not surprisingly, independent thinkers. Doris's family established this scholarship in her memory to serve students who are pursuing education and an opportunity to use their talents well. ♦