

KATHRYN GRIFFIN

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Kathryn “Kay” Grace Griffin was born in 1943 at the family farm near Oberon, ND, to Abe and Erma Griffin. The youngest of six siblings, Kay was known for her energy, hopefulness, and care, her hard work at the family farm, and her many contributions to her community.

Kay started what would become a four-decade career in the banking industry the summer she graduated from high school in Oberon. With her determination and dedication, her job at Farmers & Merchants Bank in Minnewaukan, ND, grew into a full-time position. When the Farmers and Merchants Bank was purchased by Bremer Bank, Kathryn became an employee there and was soon awarded the Best of Bremer award. She carried her work ethic, loyalty, and commitment to service to countless people in the Lake Region. Many people had better days after receiving a friendly greeting from Kay. She did this effortlessly and enjoyed her colleagues and interactions with everyone.

As a lifelong member of Calvary Lutheran Church, Kay enjoyed singing, reading scripture, and assisting others in her church community. She could often be found traveling, attending shows and events, and spending time with her nephew Mark, whom she played a prominent role in raising.

Kay was a person of action and she got things done with gusto. Her years helping on the farm were filled with all sorts of work, from picking rocks in the spring and hauling bales in sweltering heat to painting buildings and helping with livestock. The expression, “get on board or get out of the way” summed up her tireless work ethic. No task was out of bounds for Kay—no complaints, just get the job done!



Kay kept herself busy and engaged, but she also made time to have fun and enjoy life. She was always willing to help and volunteer wherever she was needed. Many organizations benefited from her selfless commitment to others.

The establishment of this endowment is a testament to Kay’s dedication to giving back. She would be proud of scholarship recipients and wish each person a life filled with family and friends, meaningful and challenging work, and a heart for others. This scholarship in her memory will be awarded annually to an exemplary student from rural ND.