

JOSEPH “PEP” & FRANCES SIMEK – ENERQUIP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



A component fund of the



Frances “Fran” Simek and Joseph “Pep” Simek

Joseph (Pep) and Frances Simek moved to Medford from Chicago in 1960. By 1962 they were running the Tombstone Tavern located next to a cemetery, along with Pep’s brother, Ronald. The brothers came up with the pizza making idea to bring in more money to support their families. They worked out of the bar’s 6-by-6-foot kitchen.

The pizzas were fine, but they got better after Pep broke his leg and, unable to tend bar, had time to fiddle with the recipe. He called the owner of a favorite

Chicago pizza place, who told him “the secret was in the spices.” The resulting pizzas were a hit, and within three years Tombstone Pizza was available in the Medford area, selling 2,000 pizzas a day and known for the tagline, “What do you want on your Tombstone?”

The influence of their family remained in Medford for years.

The company was sold to Kraft in 1986 and eventually to Nestlé. Later Pep established Pep’s Pizza in Medford, and had numerous other business interests which included the Embassy Suites/Regency Suites Hotel of Green Bay, Paradise Shores Hotel and Resort in Lake Holcombe, Captain Morgan’s Retreat in Belize, and Enerquip of Medford.

With her husband’s encouragement, Frances became a major supporter for civic projects, settling a discussion about a new library by donating \$1 million to have it built in 1998. One night out of the clear blue sky she called the mayor and told him that the argument about the library was over. She was building it.

The Simeks were generous to the community in many ways, often downplaying their role.

Joseph “Pep” Simek, Sr. passed away on February 18, 2013; Frances preceded him in death on November 1, 2010. They are survived by two sons Joseph, Jr. and Richard, a daughter, Lauren, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

PURPOSE OF THE FUND:

The Joseph “Pep” & Frances Simek – Enerquip Memorial Scholarship Fund was established within the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin in February of 2014. Earnings from the fund will be distributed annually in the form of scholarships to graduating seniors from Medford High School for students to attend an accredited technical school.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS:

To apply for consideration, students are requested to submit the general application to the Scholarship Selection Committee at Medford High Schools.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

The following qualities should be taken into consideration in the selection process:

- Graduating high school senior from Medford High School
- Planning to pursue a post-secondary education at an accredited technical college in any field of study
- Actively involved in school and community
- Willing to work hard, with a strong work ethic
- Demonstrating excellence in all they do
- 3.0 GPA or greater
- Financial need is not a deciding factor

The Community Foundation will monitor the selection process. All information will be held in the confidence of the Scholarship Selection Committee, the Community Foundation board of directors, and its staff.

Members of the immediate families of any of the Selection Committee members shall be eligible to apply with the provision that the related member not serve on the committee during the year in which the application is considered.

NOTIFICATION AND PAYMENT:

The Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin will confirm the selection of the committee with the recipient. The scholarship will be paid after the student has completed their first semester of post-secondary study. Payment will be made directly to the technical school the student is attending, after the student has provided the Community Foundation office with proof of registration for the second semester, along with a copy of their first semester grades.

Questions or requests for further information can be directed to the Community Foundation office.



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