

History of the The Paul and Margaret Yoder Scholarship Program

The *Yoder Scholarship Program* had its beginning in large part through the influence of Paul and Margaret (Peg) Yoder – both of whom were strong proponents of educational assistance for the people, and particularly the young people, of the Hickory Nut Gorge.

After Paul's death, Peg, an early member of the *Kiwanis Club of Hickory Nut Gorge*, helped to develop an ad hoc committee to examine the feasibility of that club's providing scholarships or educational grants for Gorge residents, primarily children. Other members of that committee included Blaine Cox, Bill Bush, Tom Bowman, Riley Hardy, and Sheila West. While grants began to be provided informally, Peg continued to insist that formal applications and examination of high school averages and other criteria to select recipients, were necessary for a well managed and effective educational assistance program.

When Peg's health precluded her continuing as a member of the club, Paula Jordan became involved in the effort to formalize the scholarship program, serving as the incorporator and, later, the president of the Kiwanis Club of Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3 tax exempt corporation. Others instrumental in development of the foundation were Mark Brewer, the organizing president, Mary Ann Ransom, a later president, and attorney Ronald P. Johnson of Greensboro, N.C., who donated his legal services to the effort. The complete list of organizing Directors is given below.

The foundation began providing scholarships in 2002. The scholarship fund was named to honor both the Yoders when Peg Yoder passed away in 2005.

When the *Kiwanis Club of Hickory Nut Gorge* ceased activities in 2007, the funds and functions of the *Yoder Scholarship Program* were moved to the newly-created Education Committee of *Shepherd's Care*, where it continues to provide scholarships and other educational assistance to the people of the Hickory Nut Gorge. Paula Jordan continues her services to the program as chair of the Shepherd's Care Education Committee.

*Organizing Directors of the
Kiwanis Club of Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation, Inc.*

Formed the 29th day of November, 2001

President: Mark Brewer
Secretary/Treasurer: Paula Jordan
Director: Sharon Theiss
Director: Marcia Hardy
Director: Bill West
Director: Mary Flack
Director: Sheila West