

## Chilton Area Community Foundation Ruth and John Mattke Scholarship

### Background:

Ruth Jochimsen Mattke was a descendant of the Tams family, one of the founding families of New Holstein, WI, where she grew up. The first in her family to attend college, she graduated from Milwaukee State Teacher's College (now UW-Milwaukee) in 1937 with a BA in Vocal Music Education and a minor in History. She was extremely proud of this accomplishment and proud to be a vocal music teacher in various school systems, including Mayville, Antigo and Rice Lake, to students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

It was through teaching that Ruth met, and later married John G. Mattke of Portage, WI, on February 20, 1945. They immediately moved to the Atlanta, Georgia as John was enlisted in the Army due to World War II, where Ruth again found a teaching position. After the War, she and John settled in Sheboygan, WI, where he taught Mathematics at the High School and Ruth became a mother, homemaker, and choir director at her church.



Both loved music, and John taught himself to play piano, organ, and clarinet by ear, eventually learning to read music. He often served as the accompanist at various school events. Ruth taught her children to play piano and coached them in various musical endeavors. Music and education were staples in the Mattke household, where John and Ruth were partners together in all aspects of life.

Besides raising a family, Ruth and John worked tirelessly to further the recognition of the importance of education as a "top-tier" profession through local, regional, state, and national education associations. They would discuss and craft strategy together. She was a professional educator and leader in her own right. Both emphasized the importance of education in changing people's lives and placing a priority on it above monetary gain.

After John's passing in April 1985, Ruth devoted much of her time to her genealogy research, voluminous correspondence, cooking and entertaining family, friends, and visitors. She spent innumerable hours responding to requests by family and others to provide copies of the appropriate portions of her genealogical research, developing contacts all over the world. She liked to say she came from "strong stock" and was proud of her German heritage, having spoken only "Platt Deutsche" until the age of 3. This was proven true when at the age of 93 she became a cancer survivor, undergoing 2 surgeries followed by 2 different types of radiation therapy, finally being declared "cancer free" which continued until the time of her passing at age 100 on October 9, 2015.

Ruth and John were truly dedicated to education. Their partnership throughout their lives provided a template for others. Ruth was a true forward-thinking woman, especially for her times. She inspired myriads of people, many of whom she never met.

### Eligibility: (taken into consideration to determine recipients)

- Graduating senior from New Holstein High School
- Planning to pursue a post-secondary education at a 2- or 4-year college, university, or technical school
- Academic achievement
- Preference will be given to a student who intends to pursue a major in the field of music, education, or mathematics
- Financial need will be considered

### Award Amount:

One non-renewable \$500 scholarship award for tuition expenses.

### Selection:

Recipients will be recommended each spring by the New Holstein High School Scholarship Selection Committee.

### Collecting the Award & Payment Procedure:

Recipients must fill out and submit Scholarship Acceptance Form and Scholarship Verification Form through the [Scholarship Portal](https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfvrscholar) (<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfvrscholar>). Recipients are required to provide supporting documents as instructed in the Scholarship Verification Form, such as class registration/list **with** credits listed, proof of major, grade transcript, etc.

After approval of online Scholarship Verification Form, the scholarship check will be paid directly to the school the recipient will be attending. The **Community Foundation communicates with students via email**; it is the student's responsibility to keep their Scholarship Portal account updated with their current email address.

### Loss of Eligibility:

Failure to enroll as a full-time student for the first semester of college.

### Further Information:

- New Holstein High School Guidance Department
- Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region
  - Website [www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships/](http://www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships/) / Email [scholarships@cffoxvalley.org](mailto:scholarships@cffoxvalley.org) / Phone 920.702.7623