"A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives"

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A Life of Inspiration, Love, and Charity
Ruby Wilkens Memorial Scholarship Fund

Ruby Wilkens worked hard to raise her four children, Jerrel, Karen, Lon, and Bruce. She dedicated her life to her family, farm, and…. Music.

In high school Ruby began teaching private music lessons. This is something that would eventually continue through the rest of her life. She attended Emporia State University where she completed a degree in music, and taught music in a public school before she was married. In 1948 Ruby, along with her husband and family moved to Scott County to farm. It was only a few short years following the move that her husband passed away after which she raised her family while continuing to manage the operation of the farm.

During this difficult period Ruby continued her love for music by playing organ and piano at the Baptist Church and directing the choir. In the 50s Ruby taught grade school music in Scott City after which she was persuaded by the schoolboard to teach music at the Beaver Flats and Manning grade schools.

“The Scott Community Foundation is a wonderful opportunity to help grow community and promote excellence within the community. The scholarships spread the influence of values that we have here in our community and shares them with the rest of the world…” Bruce Wilkens

Throughout her life she continued to teach private music lessons, performed and accompanied at school and community programs, and played for numerous weddings and funerals. Bruce, her youngest son, stated that she never kept track of the number of students she gave private lessons, but the family would love to know that number! Even at the age of 98, Ruby still had one student.

Inspired by the work of Scott Community Foundation and to honor their mother’s legacy, her family established the Ruby Wilkens Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund gives a yearly college or university scholarship to a student graduating from Scott Community High School who is pursuing a degree in Music.

Bruce, speaking for the family said “The reason the family chose to give a music scholarship is to honor her legacy and her passion for music. Music has lasting value to a student. Music is therapeutic. Even if you don’t end up making a career out of it, you will always be able to enjoy music.”