

History of the Evans/Hansen/Weldon Scholarship Fund

In 1962, the Ella Evans Good Neighbor Fund was established by the Kentucky Federation of Homemakers (now KEHA) at the request of Mrs. Carl Evans, the President at that time. In 1974, the state board voted at their mid-year meeting to honor Mrs. Evans by including her name in the fund's title. In 1999, restricted funds were set aside to perpetuate this scholarship fund. The amount available for the scholarship would be the total of the interest on the restricted fund plus the contributions made that year by the KEHA members.

The Viola K. Hansen Scholarship Fund was established by the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association in 1969 in appreciation for Dr. Hansen's leadership of the Extension Home Economics program in Kentucky from 1956 until 1965 when an unfortunate accident resulted in her early retirement. The income for this fund was provided through donations from Homemaker members.

In 1942, the Myrtle Weldon Student Loan Fund was established in appreciation of Miss Weldon. The fund provided low interest loans to deserving Home Economics students. In 1972, the Myrtle Weldon Memorial Scholarship was first presented to a home economics student at the University of Kentucky. In 1975, KEHA voted to discontinue the Myrtle Weldon Student Loan Fund and transferred the balance to the Myrtle Weldon Memorial Scholarship Fund. This scholarship fund is sustained through donations made by KEHA members. A scholarship was given annually to deserving student(s) in the University of Kentucky College of Human Environmental Sciences, based on the income from this fund. (Note: the College of Human Environmental Sciences has now become the School of Human Environmental Sciences in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment at the University of Kentucky.)

In 2004, funds were no longer available to award three single scholarships under the above established funds. It became necessary for KEHA to recommend combining the three scholarship funds into one scholarship. The decline in interest rates, organization membership and donations necessitated this action.