The **L. Scott Hoff Scholarship Fund** was established in 1986 by the American Business Club (ABC) of Springfield in memory of the son of one of its members, Larry Hoff. It has been supplemented through the years with donations from ABC and family and friends of Scott and Larry. The purpose of the scholarship is to assist a student with certain characteristics but limited financial resources in obtaining a degree in higher education. Through this scholarship, it is hoped that many students will be given the opportunity to achieve their educational goals and have happy and productive futures.

People who knew Scott remember him as a compassionate, entrepreneurial, highly intelligent young man with a great sense of humor. At the age of five, Scott was fascinated by the concept of “infinity” and at age six he was reading the local newspaper. To the chagrin of his teachers, his intelligence often resulted in boredom in the classroom and a need to entertain himself. In the third grade, a teacher reported that Scott hadn’t finished his homework but he did bring a dead mouse to class - you can imagine the response! During that same year, Scott befriended a classmate who came to Springfield from Germany and did not speak English. Scott made it his responsibility to be a mentor and interpreter for her.

At the age of eleven Scott started various businesses to produce the funds he needed for purchasing a car and going to college (you can guess what an 11 year old boy wanted first). He cut lawns, babysat, recycled aluminum cans and took garbage to the curb for older neighbors. Scott was not your typical little boy.

Sadly, Scott took his own life at the age of 13 and a half. No one is certain what led him to make such a final and horrific decision. It is known that he called some of his friends and told them of his plans. Unfortunately, his friends thought he was kidding. It is important that friends faced with the same circumstances tell an adult who can intervene and schools provide student assistance programs to help prevent such tragedies.

The scholarship is now under the care of the Community Foundation.