Pearl Fairfield believed in education and the opportunity for everyone to receive an education.

Fairfield put in the hard work necessary to achieve her education, returning to school and achieving her GED diploma the same year her son Emmet graduated from Champaign Central High School in 1974.

In memory of her tenacity and love for education, Emmet and his wife Susan established the Pearl Fairfield Scholarship Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. The Scholarship Fund will be awarded to a deserving Sangamon County student who needs financial assistance to attend a university, college, community college or vocational school.

“I hope she would be very pleased that a Fund in her name is helping kids have an opportunity she didn’t have,” Emmet Fairfield said. “It provides for kids who need a little financial help to achieve their education.”

Pearl’s childhood came during difficult financial times for her family, and she left school after graduating eighth grade. Her husband passed away when Emmett was eight years old, and Pearl supported the family. But education was on her mind, and she returned to achieve her GED as Emmet completed high school.
“She always hoped she could have more education, and it was very important to her for me to get a good education,” Emmet said.

Emmet would go on to graduate from law school. Those two graduation days were high on his mom’s highlight list.

“It was a big two days for her,” Emmet Fairfield said.