



New endowment to benefit student volunteers
November 2016

The Catholic Foundation of Maine is pleased to announce a new endowment created to honor a woman who touched the lives of countless people. The Laurianne Michaud Cormier Endowment will allow for an annual scholarship to be awarded to a Saint Dominic Academy student who excels academically and is a volunteer at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Lewiston or another area health-care facility.

A Lewiston native, Cormier attended Saint Peter's School and then Cours Supérieur, an upper school for girls.

She always dreamed of becoming a nurse, but when she was 11, her father died of leukemia. The oldest of six children, she started working to help support her family.

"You have a duty to help out, and what we needed was money," she told *Harvest* in a 2012 interview.

At age 16, Laurianne began working in a shoe factory, a job she was fortunate to keep through the Great Depression. She left to raise her two daughters but later returned and worked until she was age 62, a total of 39 years.

In her retirement, Laurianne didn't slow down. Instead, she fulfilled her lifelong dream to help the sick. She volunteered at St. Mary's, running errands, bringing patients to X-ray or, as she once put it "doing anything thing they asked us to do." She later worked at the front desk, in the pharmacy, and handling mail.

"You want to do, not sit back and do nothing," she said of her volunteer work.

Cormier accumulated nearly 20,000 hours of service over 35 years at St. Mary's, and in recognition of her contributions, she received the Mayoral Volunteer Inspire by Example Award in 2010 and was named a Volunteer Hero by Maine's First Lady Ann LePage at the Governor's Awards for Service and Volunteerism in 2012.

Cormier was still helping out at the hospital a short time before her death on June 23, 2015, just two weeks shy of her 103rd birthday.

The Laurianne Michaud Cormier Endowment was created by her daughter Louise Jean and Louise's husband, Raymond Jean, of Scarborough.

The Catholic Foundation of Maine provides people with the opportunity to create lasting endowments to support the work of the Catholic Church in Maine. The endowments benefit parishes, schools, seminarians, and ministries. The foundation manages the funds to ensure their long-term viability so that the charitable wishes of the donors are carried out.

*If you would like to learn more about creating an endowment with the Catholic Foundation of Maine or contributing to an existing one, contact **Elizabeth Badger**, Executive Director at:*

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Or visit our website: www.catholicfoundationmaine.org