

Since 1998, Winnie Crim has made more than 150 gifts to the Tracy Wilson Memorial Fund. Her average gift is \$20 and collectively, her giving is making a real difference for students seeking tuition assistance at St. James the Greater Catholic School in south Oklahoma City. She gives to a fund in memory of a former student who was also the son of a dear friend. Coupled with gifts from others and strong investment performance, Winnie's giving is making an impact today and will continue to do so for future generations of St. James students.



Winnie Crim

That's the power of endowment.

If you'd like to discuss how your charitable giving can make a real difference, contact us at 405/235-5603 or info@occf.org.

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In 1996, Winnie Crim made her first gift to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. It was for the endowment fund for St. James the Greater Catholic School in south Oklahoma City. She would make a second gift to the same fund the following year. It was in 1998 that Winnie began directing her gifts to the Tracy Wilson Memorial Fund, an endowment that supports tuition assistance for St. James students. And she has continued to make gifts, more than 150 to date, to that endowment.



St. James the Greater Catholic Church and its school have played an integral role in Winnie's life. The 85-year-old served as the church's music director for more than 30 years and she also taught music at the school. It was at St. James that Winnie met Tracy and his parents, Thala and the late Ken Wilson. In her role as music director at St. James, Winnie befriended Thala when she joined the choir. The women remain close, talking by telephone each day. "She's always been like a daughter to me and Tracy was one of my students, I taught him music," Winnie says. "Then, when the church installed a sound system, he would help me get it started."

Tracy attended St. James and graduated from Mount St. Mary's Catholic High School. He was a sophomore at Northeastern State University when he died from injuries suffered in a traffic accident in

1997. Tracy's mother, Thala, says Tracy received a strong education at St. James and when he died, the family wanted to do something in his memory. "There were times we were concerned about being able to pay the tuition but knew that it was so important for him to attend our parish school," she says. "This endowment is a way for Tracy's memory to stay alive while providing tuition assistance to others who may struggle to pay."

Thala adds that without Winnie's consistent support, the endowment would not have grown to where it is today, where on average it assists up to five students each year. "I appreciate the love she had for Tracy and her desire to see this scholarship fund grow in his memory," she adds.

Winnie's unwavering support of the Tracy Wilson Memorial Fund not only benefits current and future St. James students, but her gifts are always made in memory of loved ones and friends, thus honoring their lives as well. Contact us at 405/235-5603 to find out how you can make a lasting difference.



Tracy Wilson



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