



Gift from Wills and Trusts
Legacy of passionate commitment
Creates scholarship opportunities for Cowlitz County

For Gerald “Jerry” Bergquist (Bergy to his friends), each day was an exuberant celebration of life, friendship and his abiding passion for athletics.

Friends old and new received the same warm welcome and outstretched hand, along with greetings like “Hey Tiger!” and “Hi Porky!” as they took their place in Jerry’s spacious heart.

A gifted athlete who played for the Shamrock Tavern softball team – winner of the Washington State Championship in 1955 – Jerry brought many gifts to the world of athletics. Softball coach, manager and sponsor. Basketball and football referee. Top shuffleboard player. And always, generous supporter of the many teams he sponsored.

For all his energy and enthusiasm, Jerry was quiet about his accomplishments and contributions. “You didn’t know he was there when the game was over because he didn’t want to draw attention to himself,” remembers Bill Cheatley.

When Jerry died, he left behind a large community of friends and family who mourn the loss of his bright, open spirit. But Jerry’s enthusiasm for athletics and learning, and the role they can play in building community, lives on through his bequest. His funds at the Community Foundation will support two college scholarships: one for music students from R.A. Long High School and another for football players from Kelso High School.

For generations to come, Jerry’s legacy of passionate commitment to community and life will be renewed every time eager young students embrace the new opportunities these scholarships have created.



Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

January 2009



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