

Marie's Courageous Fight Lacrosse Award

Purpose:

The purpose of the Marie's Courageous Fight Lacrosse Award is to honor the memory of Marie McGuire's courageous fight against cancer. Marie showed incredible strength, perseverance, and courage during her battle. Marie was a "Lacrosse Mom" who loved to watch her daughter Erin and son Brady play lacrosse. Marie was committed to support and encourage Erin and Brady from "Pockets" at Gamber Recreation Council all the way through high school at Winters Mill and their college careers. The award will be given annually to one boy and one girl graduating lacrosse player in Carroll County public schools. The award will be a cash award given directly to the student athletes who have overcome hardship and show the same character as Marie.

Mission Statement:

Marie's Courageous Fight Lacrosse Award honors the resilience, determination, and spirit of student-athletes who refuse to be defined by adversity. Inspired by Marie's legacy of strength, perseverance, and courage, this award recognizes lacrosse players (one male and one female) who has faced hardship yet continued to pursue excellence on the field, in the classroom, and within their community.

Our mission is to empower and celebrate those who rise above life's challenges, demonstrating courage, character, and an unwavering commitment to growth. By supporting these remarkable student-athletes, we aim to inspire future generations to fight forward, overcome obstacles, and achieve their fullest potential.

Scholarship Award Criteria:

The recipients of the awards must meet the following criteria:

1. Fulfill all requirements to graduate from their respective Carroll County public school at the end of the academic year in which the award is given.
2. A current player on a Carroll County public school varsity lacrosse roster.
3. Has submitted a 500 - 750 word essay to describe their resilience, determination, and spirit to not be defined by adversity. How they have shown strength of character, perseverance, and courage to overcome physical, emotional, health, or other obstacles or challenges in their life. Describe how they will continue their pursuit of excellence.
4. Have been selected by the award committee from among the applications received, as the candidate that most represents the resilience, determination, and spirit of Marie's Courageous Fight.

Nominations:

Nominations must be in writing by submitting a 500-750 word to describe their resilience, determination, and spirit to not be defined by adversity. How they have shown strength of character, perseverance, and courage to overcome physical, emotional, health, or other obstacles or challenges in their life. Describe how they will continue their pursuit of excellence.

Although not required, we encourage a "Letter of Recommendation" for nominees by family members, teachers, guidance counselors, coaches, advisors or members of the community to show examples of the perseverance and strength to overcome adversity (academic achievements, leadership, teamwork, athletic achievements, work ethic, community outreach).

Nominations must be submitted no less than 20 days before the last high school graduation of Carroll County public schools.

Nominations can be submitted through a Carroll County high school teacher, guidance counselor or coach or emailed to:

mschudel@wearecarroll.org or laxcountyusa@gmail.com

Donors and Funds

The initial donors (Founders) will consist of Hugh and Helen Burgan (Marie's Parents), Frank McGuire (Surviving Spouse), Erin McGuire (Daughter) and Brady McGuire (Son), Dave and Kelly Burgan (Brother & Sister-In-Law). The initial fund will start with a minimum of \$5,000 to be deposited in February 2026.

The Founders will make additional donations along with raising funds through family, friends, and the community. The Founders will also hold fund-raising events for additional funds.

The award will be no less than \$1000 per recipient and distributed directly to the recipient by the Community Foundation of Carroll County.

Donations will be used to provide an annual award determined each year by the Founders of no less than \$1000 per recipient. Any expenses incurred by the Founders to promote and administer the fund. The Community Foundation of Carroll County shall administer the award fund for a fee to be paid by the fund.

Selection and presentation of the Award:

The award committee will review all nominations and select the recipients of the awards. Initially, the award committee will consist of one or more of the Founders. The award committee may seek advisement and advice from individuals (teachers, counselors, coaches ... etc.) other than the Founders. The award committee will expand to include individuals who were meaningful to Marie and those who continue to positively impact the community she was passionate about.

The announcement and distribution of the award will be determined by the Community Foundation of Carroll County. The determined amount will be decided by the Founders and paid directly to the award recipients by the Community Foundation of Carroll County.