

The Richard C Nordholm Family Fund



Richard C. (“Dick”) Nordholm, his wife Marianne, their children and grandchildren established the Richard C. Nordholm Family Fund to commemorate Dick’s 80th birthday. Dick came to Cloquet in 1951 after graduating from Carleton College and lived here for 24 years. He and his family continue to spend summers at their cottages at Big Lake.

“We raised our children in Cloquet,” noted Marianne, “And feel that they had many educational advantages from the school system. I was able to teach children swimming lessons at the Herb Drew Pool for eighteen summers, and even made a few pieces of furniture in Gerhart Lutter’s evening adult woodworking class.”

Dick’s served on the Cloquet School Board from 1962 to 1968, including a term as treasurer.

“I remember many dinner table conversations about issues that were important to Dad such as recruiting a new superintendent, the change to modular scheduling, hiring and keeping great teachers and all the financial and design planning that went into the new Senior High School,” said his son, Brad (CHS Class of ’74).

Dick also proudly directed the Northwest Paper Foundation and its successor, the Potlatch

Foundation, from the mid-1950s until 1981. The primary emphasis of both Foundations was higher education scholarships. During his leadership many Cloquet High School graduates received full scholarships to the college of their choice. Support was also provided for many other school programs.

“We all benefited from the athletic, artistic, academic and extracurricular activities available in Cloquet”, noted daughter, Sarah Nordholm Davis, (CHS Class of '76). “Members of our family were able to participate in competitive swimming, skiing, football, orchestra, tennis, science fair, jazz and marching bands, synchronized swimming; there was something for everyone. Our AFS exchange student brother from Denmark, Jens Sorensen (CHS Class of '73), played Uncle Max in the high school’s production of The Sound of Music! Because of our upbringing, we’re still involved in many of these activities many years later.”

Karen Nordholm Anderson and her husband, Bob Anderson (CHS Class of '82), whose father Emmett served as a Middle School counselor for 24 years added, “It’s great to come back to Cloquet and see the efforts to keep Cloquet schools so strong. We’ve lived around the world, and would be proud to have our own children in Cloquet schools. This is a special community because of the educational system that is in place here.”

“The Cloquet Educational Foundation represents so much of what has been important to me in my life,” Dick said. “Great public education is at the core of our democracy and our ability to compete in a global economy. Extracurricular activities enrich our lives. Times have changed, and it is critically important that we find new and creative ways of providing financial support for the education of our children. I’m thrilled about this fund because it is a way for us to give something back to a community that has given us so much.”