



## *The Gordy Ahlgren Future Fund*

The Gordy Ahlgren Future Fund has been established within the Cloquet Educational Foundation as a lasting legacy to support Cloquet students who are committed to lifelong learning, dedication to athletics, and pride in their hometown.

Many who knew Gordy counted themselves lucky, remembering him fondly as a favorite uncle, fun friend, and loving husband.

Gordy Ahlgren, 1967 CHS Yearbook

Gordy began his life as a hometown boy, enjoying the many of the activities and events of the 1960s that Cloquet had to offer from dances, cars, football and hockey. He was known for his athletic abilities as well as his commitment to continuing his education. While a student at CHS, Gordy was a three-sport letter winner (football, hockey and track) and was a member of several memorable teams. After graduation in 1967, Gordy went on to receive a degree in education and coaching from UMD. As time went on Gordy's interests revolved around coaching and mentoring students in Hayward, Wisconsin, the district where he was a teacher. According to his wife, Linda, "Students were important to him. He taught, coached and mentored generations of students. He was thrilled when he saw a former student succeed."

Life, to Gordy, was not a spectator sport. He enjoyed the company of active friends and a loving family and will be remembered as putting a little "life" into whatever activity he was involved in – hunting, fishing, fast cars, and playing pool, to name just a few. His nephew, Jason Ahlgren, remembers fun times in Hayward goofing around, using pool sticks as air guitars to play Beach Boys songs, as well as his uncle's passion for cars – especially the high horsepower "family car" Gordy and his brother Bruce convinced their mom to buy.

Gordy was clearly a fun and light-hearted guy, but as Jason points out, "The one thing that was clear early on, and he made sure we knew, was that family was always the most important thing in life."

In addition to his love of family, Gordy's fundamental beliefs were that education is vital, athletics are healthy, and Cloquet is a special place.

You can take the boy out of Cloquet, but you can't take the small town out of the boy. The Gordy Ahlgren Future Fund leaves a legacy for many Cloquet students, who, like Gordy, embrace the challenges of high school sports, academics, and activities full-on. Gordy's legacy has come full-circle, right back to where he began – Cloquet.