



The Gordy and Jackie Nelson Memorial Fund

Established 2021 as a lasting tribute to a life well-lived, devoted to education and children and shared by many



The children of Gordy and Jackie Nelson have selected the Cloquet Educational Foundation to honor their parents with a new endowed fund, The Gordy and Jackie Nelson Memorial Fund. Gordy passed away in 2010, and Jackie passed away in 2019.

Adding to the 25 additional endowed funds, The Gordy and Jackie Memorial fund will continue the life-long mission of Gordy and Jackie Nelson as champions of education, supporters of children and committed members of their community.

Both graduates of Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, Gordy and Jackie were married in 1956 and began their life together in service to others as teachers. Gordy retired from the Cloquet School district in 1990 after teaching English and Spanish for 33 years, impacting several generations of Cloquet students with his easy smile and mastering of the English and Spanish language. Many will remember Jackie as easy to talk to as well as a good listener. She was kind-hearted and a strong volunteer in areas that guided children. They enjoyed spending time together as life revolved around their children Beth, Paul, and Jennifer. Their combined support of community through their church, musical events, and social circles (playing bridge) enriched them and those around them. Later, their interests took them “south of the border”, where they worked passionately at the Casa Hogar Children’s Home in Oaxaca, Mexico.

The Gordy and Jackie Nelson Memorial Fund will serve as a reminder of the commitment they had to quality education, support of community, and empowering children through learning. Their son Paul remembers them as, “truly remarkable people. They provided us with sound faith, guidance, and inspiration to try all we can to be good people and helpful partners in our community.”