



FIRST DESIGNATED FUND **THE VERNA PALMER MEMORIAL FUND**

In 2004 a highly respected member of our community, Verna Palmer, passed away. Verna although legally blind had spend several years assisting two local charities with her knitting and quilting skills. Her family approached the foundation to see if there was a way to continue to support these charities in perpetuity. This led to the foundations first designated fund being established. With the support of the family and friends the Verna Palmer Memorial Fund has grown to over \$10,000,00.

Through this fund the interest earned each year will go to her two chosen charities, building a lasting legacy. A designated fund is a way to ensure that your chosen charities have the funds to continue doing their good work long after you are gone, **“Providing a lasting legacy”**

Community First

Designated fund keeps on giving

By Jim Mosher

Verna Palmer's passion for helping others — particularly women and children in need — will live on.

After Verna's death from cancer Aug. 11, the Palmer family decided to honour her commitment to Evergreen Basic Needs and the Interlake Women's Resource Centre by establishing a memorial fund. The Verna Palmer Memorial Fund falls under the wing of the Westshore Community Foundation, a six-year-old charitable foundation that has amassed \$550,000 in cash assets.

The designated fund set up by the Palmer family allocates interest proceeds on a 50-50 basis to the two organizations.

Al Palmer, Verna's husband of 55 years, says his family decided to request that people consider making a donation to the Westshore Community Foundation in Verna's memory. That's a common practice, but it's the first time Westshore was mentioned directly in a memorial write-up.

And it would become the first time a designated fund was established.



Verna Palmer gave freely of her time and talents.

Westshore normally disburses funds to a variety of community organizations. Its board determines if there's a need, then provides what it can.

The twist with a designated fund is that money that flows from it goes to an organization or organizations designated by the fund's creator.

“We felt it was fitting to have this sort of fund created,” says Al Palmer. “We aren't after any recognition. We just felt it would help the foundation. Anything they can give from the fund supports our community.”

And it's fitting that the two organizations that will eventually benefit from the fund are ones Verna Palmer held dear.

Verna did whatever she could to help women and children, says her husband. She knitted quilts, mittens and sweaters for the Evergreen Basic Needs annual Christmas drive. She did her part to support the agency's foodbank.

As well, Verna supported the Interlake Women's Resource Centre, which counsels women in crisis.

Verna Palmer's selfless efforts were profiled two years ago in this newspaper.