

Most of us have felt like we had a guardian angel watching over us at some point in our lives. Many MCC students have not only had that feeling, but they can put a name to their guardian angels—Genevieve and Leo Dorr.

The Dorr's, who are from Lapeer, saw an opportunity to significantly help MCC students from Lapeer County. In 2011, the couple established an MCC scholarship solely for Lapeer County students. "Because Lapeer County is outside the college's district, Lapeer students have to pay out-of-district tuition," said Genevieve, who is an MCC alumna. "We wanted to help make it more affordable for students from Lapeer County to pursue their education."

The Dorr's scholarship is not merit-based, and students are able to use the funds for tuition, books, or fees. Both new and returning students,

graduating from MCC has become a family tradition. In addition to Genevieve graduating from MCC, their two sons, two daughters, and a son-in-law all graduated from MCC. Most recently, their granddaughter carried on the family tradition, graduating from the nursing program and joining the alumni ranks.

Over the years, the Dorr's have met many students at the annual donor reception. Meeting "their students" face-to-face redoubled their desire to help students who are committed to completing their degrees. What started as philanthropy has evolved into a passion. Since establishing their Lapeer County scholarship in 2011, they have made it their life purpose to help MCC students from all areas with whatever needs they may have.

During the pandemic, Leo and Genevieve decided to help any MCC student who was facing personal challenges and/or struggling with basic needs. They reached out to Lennetta Coney, wanting to donate to the Lenore Croudy Family Life Center. Their first project was the holiday giving tree, helping families with food, clothing and children's gifts. "We understand the students sometimes have mitigating circumstances that prevent them from completing—that they have needs outside of tuition, fees, and books. We wanted to fill that gap for students, whether it was food, taking care of their families, or transportation," said Genevieve.

Over the years, their Initial \$33,000 endowment fund has grown through additional gifts and earnings. The scholarship endowment is currently valued at \$96,000—\$4,200 was available to the Lapeer Learner's Scholarship this academic year, while additional funds covered small balances, helping students qualify for graduation.

What started out as a scholarship to help Lapeer County students afford their education has grown into a fund that helps all Mott Community College students facing challenges and obstacles while pursuing their education. Leo and Genevieve Dorr are truly guardian angels, living out their passion to help students every single day.

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full and part-time, are eligible to apply. "There are almost no restrictions on the scholarship," said Lennetta Coney, "except that the applicant be from Lapeer County." Genevieve and Leo shared their motivation for starting a college scholarship—when they were younger, they had to overcome financial challenges in order to complete their college educations.

Leo and Genevieve chose Mott Community College to establish their scholarship because



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