

Dorsey and Betty King Scholarship:

Brian King announced his gift to his parents among family and friends at their 50th anniversary party. In honor of his parents' commitment to their children's education, Brian established the **Dorsey and Betty King Scholarship** at East Tennessee Foundation in 2007.

Dorsey and Betty King grew up deep in the mountains of Claiborne County. Neither Dorsey nor Betty King attended college. Brian and his brother, Michael, were the first generation in the family to go to college. Dorsey and Betty were committed to their children attending college and receiving a higher education. "It was ingrained in us that we would go to college. We really had no choice," comments Brian. Dorsey went on to barber school and was a successful entrepreneur. Betty worked for the railroad until she retired in her 50's. With her lifelong commitment to caring for others, Betty went back to school after her retirement and earned her RN nursing degree. She became a Hospice Nurse and she continues to work as a "country nurse", visiting her patients in their homes and caring for them in the final weeks and days of their lives.

When Brian set up the Dorsey and Betty King Scholarship in honor of his parents, he wanted the scholarship to reflect their backgrounds and their passions. This is the reason that the scholarship requires the recipients to either study business/entrepreneurship or nursing. Because Dorsey and Betty grew up in Claiborne County and now live in Campbell County, he chose those two counties as the communities to be served by the scholarship. Dorsey and Betty have been very active in both communities, and Brian knew that they would be pleased that the scholarship would "give back" to the people of the region.

It was also important to Brian that the scholarship provide an opportunity to students who had financial need and would appreciate and benefit from the assistance. He and his brother worked to financially contribute to their college educations and he wanted to help students struggling to make their tuition. It was also important to Brian to support students with academic potential, even if they did not necessarily achieve the highest grade point average. "We want to provide an impetus to these students... we want the students in these communities to get the message that someone believes in them enough to help them with financial assistance, so they will feel, 'I must be of some importance and it is worth it for me to pursue higher education'." One recipient's gratitude is clear, "Words cannot express how grateful I truly am. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I couldn't have done it without you."

When asked what was the most satisfying part of establishing a scholarship at ETF, Brian does not hesitate: "The joy it has brought to my parents...They take the process very seriously and they take great pride in the scholarship. It really means a great deal to them." Brian continues to say that the reason he decided to establish the scholarship at ETF was because he wanted the scholarship to survive his parents and even survive him. "We wanted a legacy that would keep on giving," he says. He also wanted to provide an example for members of the community to follow, of someone from the area giving back to the region from which they came.

Brian has been very impressed with the scholarship applications submitted. The effort and the desire reflected in the students' words make him feel that these young people really do want to pursue a higher education and really do appreciate the opportunities provided them. Brian and his parents find it extremely rewarding to be a part of the ETF scholarship program, a program that is helping to provide those opportunities.