

# Gwen Moss:

## HONORING MOM WITH A SCHOLARSHIP

*Ever since Dr. Gwendolyn Moss' mom Joyce passed away in 1998 she had pondered the best way to permanently honor her mom's memory. After she lost her dad James this summer, Moss decided the timing was right to create the Rev. Dr. Joyce G. Moss Theological Scholarship at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation in memory of her mother.*

"I am excited to be able to do this. I think my mom would have a big smile on her face right now," Moss says of her mother who was secretary of First Baptist Church West Munden in Chesapeake for 20 years and after earning her degrees became associate pastor. Moss started the memorial scholarship in December with a \$25,000 charitable gift. It will forever help area students attending either Richmond Virginia Seminary, her mother's alma mater, or Regent University School of Divinity. Gwen earned her master's degree from Regent. Moss Scholars

will be students who dream of pursuing a full-time career in Christian ministry like Moss' mom did.

Moss, assistant principal at Deep Creek Middle School in Chesapeake, is no stranger to the power of scholarships. Scholarships helped her graduate debt-free from Norfolk State University where she earned her bachelor's degree. When she was a high school guidance counselor, Moss saw how scholarships changed lives of seniors heading off to college.

Ten years ago she arranged for a future bequest to the Hampton Roads Community Foundation to provide future scholarships for students from her alma mater, Lake Taylor High School in Norfolk, or Chesapeake Public Schools where she works. To accomplish that Moss designated the community foundation as the beneficiary of her retirement account.

When Moss made those future plans, she knew that "one day I will also put a scholarship together for my mother. I've been saving for that and finally said that the time is now." She plans to later find a special way to memorialize her father.

Moss is inspired by her mother who grew up in Norfolk County, which is now Chesapeake and graduated from night school when Moss, the youngest of her three daughters, was in junior high.



Rev. Dr. Joyce G. Moss



PHOTO BY GLEN MCCLOUD

Dr. Gwendolyn Moss

"When I was in college, she was in college, too," Moss says of her mom. Joyce Moss earned two bachelor's, a master's and honorary doctorate of divinity degrees. "She was literally like a sponge soaking it up and would often share with enthusiasm all that she was learning and had learned." Joyce Moss later taught at her seminary and served as president of Tidewater Alumni Association of Richmond Virginia Seminary.

With regards to her own charitable estate plans Moss says she hopes "to live to be 100-plus. But in life you don't know. Just in case something happens, I know this part of my life is set."

*Reprinted from the Spring 2015 Good Tidings newsletter*



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