

The Maria Perri Cimarusti Memorial Scholarship



June 4, 2025

Maria P. Cimarusti Trust

After the death of the Grantor, the Trustee shall continue the trust for the benefit of the son of the Grantor, *charities*, and the siblings of the Grantor for their lifetimes.

Proposal

- Take \$75,000 “off the top” of the trust, to fund a memorial scholarship in Maria’s name.
- This memorial scholarship fund will serve to honor our beloved Maria by providing financial assistance to students, aligning with the honoree's values and legacy. It allows family, friends, or organizations to celebrate a person's life and impact by supporting deserving students pursuing their educational goals.

Background

- Maria was a straight A student for all 12 years of her schooling. She never received less than an 'A' in any semester or school year.
- She mastered the mandolin at a very young age and was a child prodigy with that instrument.
- She was an indomitable spirit that made her unique, and provided her strength, hope, and courage to face each day with a smile. Maria also demonstrated perseverance on a long-term basis. The last 20 years of her life were spent laying on her back after a serious hemorrhage stroke. She was admired because she never complained no matter what obstacles life threw her way.
- Generous and fun-loving until her dying days.

Award \$5,000 annually to a deserving student from Ambridge Area HS to apply to the tuition of college of their choosing.

Inspirational Story from Maria's Past

- The 2019 movie Breakthrough is about a boy who falls through ice and is miraculously revived by his mother's prayers. The film is based on the true story of John Smith, who was 14 when he fell through a frozen lake and was underwater for 15 minutes. Smith was pronounced dead at the hospital, but his mother prayed loudly, and he fully recovered 16 days later.
- Miracles from Heaven is a 2016 American Christian drama film about a young girl who survives an accident and is miraculously cured of an incurable disease. The movie is based on the true story of Christy Beam, whose daughter, Annabel, suffered a near-death experience and was later cured of pseudo-obstruction motility disorder, a rare syndrome that prevents the body from processing food.
- After watching both movies together, Maria's mom laments that although she says the rosary every day and a Novena and knows God and Jesus hears her prayers, her wishes that Maria is cured from her long-suffering stroke of 20 years have not been answered.
- In the Catholic faith, Novenas are often used to request a divine favor and is the same prayer is repeated for 9 consecutive days.
- Maria tells her Mom "miracles are for people who need them to believe in God, but God has nothing to prove to me. I know in my heart that Jesus is my savior and I will have everlasting life."

How to Create an Endowed Scholarship

- **Contact your school's financial aid or development office.**
- The first step is to contact the school you'd like to offer a scholarship. The development or financial aid department can tell you what you need to do to create the scholarship, how it will be administered and the next steps.
- **Contribute the minimum amount.**
- The minimum amount required to open an endowed scholarship varies, but you'll typically need a minimum of \$50,000 to get started. From there, you can add more funds to the scholarship fund as you see fit.
- **Decide on applicant criteria.**
- As the scholarship's founder, you get to decide the criteria on which it's awarded. You may decide that the scholarship is for students who plan to study in your field or limit it to students in a specific area. Common criteria include minimum GPAs, specific majors or economic background.

Scholarship Criteria

- Academic excellence (GPA, Awards & Recognition)
- Extracurricular Activities
- A beautiful spirit with a generous heart.
- Kindness & compassion.
- Community Service
- Strong Christian Faith preferred but basically looking for a good person!

Ambridge Area High School

