

Thanks for your support

Drew M. Cousins Scholarship Fund



Established in 2004 by his family in loving memory of their son and brother the Drew M. Cousins Memorial Scholarship is intended to help deserving young men at Morton High School continue the pursuit of football. The scholarship has been in the amount of \$2500 and it is the family's intention to endow the fund for at least that amount.

Born in Sterling, IL and raised in Pekin, IL Drew moved to Northern Oaks Lake in Groveland, IL in 1994 and attended Morton Junior High school as well as Morton High School.

His interest had always included sports starting with Union Mission baseball at age four, basketball and track. He was encouraged to go out for football during his freshman year at Morton by Coach Hal Chiodo. He played on the offensive and defensive line throughout the rest of his high school career. The friends he made at Morton and the athletic discipline he developed served him throughout his academic career and remain a fond memory for family and friends.

Drew graduated from MHS in 1999 and was awarded a NCAA football scholarship by Illinois State University where knee injuries ended his pursuit of football. He was awarded a Bachelor's Degree posthumously by ISU six weeks after his death on October 29, 2003.

Drew's family wanted to keep his love of football alive with this scholarship. "Football became the definition of his goals, the discipline he needed. It changed the way he approached high school and college," Jeff Cousins said about his son. A perpetual memorial plaque has been placed at Morton High School to include each year's new recipient of this award.

Legacy and stability. Endowed gifts provide a gift that lasts forever. Your gift is invested over time. Earnings from the fund are used to provide annual scholarships. Scholarships made from the Drew Cousins Memorial Scholarship Fund will continue beyond our lifetimes. The fund will grow as future donors with a passion for football, add to it, thus providing increasingly larger scholarships well into the future.



The power of endowment

A half century ago, Paul Cesarz made a choice that continues to benefit his community today. He created an endowed fund in 1952 with \$150,000 in assets. The fund immediately began earning income and distributing grants to causes important to him. Fifty years later and 35 years after Paul's death, the Cesarz Fund had grown to \$1,066,003. And in that 50th year, it generated more than \$50,000 in grants, supporting a range of community needs—a park renovation, a museum exhibit, cancer research, and more. Because Paul chose to endow his gift, he has enabled more than \$1.1 million in grants to go to his community—almost eight times the impact he would have made by giving the original gift to charity all at once. And though Paul has passed away, the fund in his name will go on supporting his community, leaving a lasting legacy.

This example comes from another Community Foundation, but it can happen in Morton too.