

Paula Sue Gabrish

Honoring a Family Legacy

As a graduate and former band member at Moore High School, Paula Sue Gabrish says it was an easy decision to support the Moore High School Alumni Association Music Scholarship Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

“I’ve always wanted to do something for my high school,” says Paula Sue. “When my CPA advised me to make a charitable gift, I immediately thought of the music scholarship.”

Paula Sue’s ties to the Moore High School band began before she was born. In fact, Paula Sue, her father, her brother and her nieces and nephews have all played in the band at Moore High School.

After graduating in 1979, Paula Sue earned two associate’s degrees from Rose State College and has been a legal instruments examiner for the Federal Aviation Administration Aircraft Registry for 29 years.

Recently, Paula Sue inherited oil and gas assets and her CPA advised her to make a charitable gift to help offset taxes. In 2010, she made a significant gift to the music scholarship fund that supports an award for a graduating senior who was a member of the band or choral group and plans to pursue a music degree.

Formed in 1989, the Moore High School Alumni Association provides scholarships and other services for students and graduates. The nonprofit organization has established a total of five scholarship endowments at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

Larry Haswell, treasurer of the association and also a former band member, says he has long envisioned creating a scholarship for band and vocal music students.

“Paula’s generous gift to the music scholarship fund helped put into motion the alumni association’s largest scholarship offering to date, doubling previous endowments,” says Larry. “Paula’s band experience has obviously inspired a willingness to give back in hopes that others will have a similar experience. Her support of this program honors her father and is a lasting tribute to her family.”

Moore High School band members and their band director with donor Paula Sue Gabrish.
Front Row: Lauren Kelley, Paula Sue Gabrish, Bethany Peyton
Back Row: Benjamin Browning, Amanda Cox, band director Greg Mangus, Tyler Neal
Photo by Brandon Snider

