

Bethlehem Central United Employees Association

2021-2022

KATHERINE 'KATY' DEPORTE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This year, members of the Bethlehem Central United Employees Association (support personnel of the Bethlehem Central School District) will be awarding two \$500.00 scholarships to college bound graduating seniors of the Bethlehem Central High School and graduating seniors of BCUEA members.

The Katherine "Katy" DePorte Memorial Scholarship is open to all graduating seniors. Applications must be completed in full and returned to the Counseling Center, Bethlehem Central High School, 700 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054, no later than Friday, April 1, 2022. Winners will be announced at the end of May.

ABOUT KATHERINE 'KATY' DEPORTE

Katy retired in September 2002 after 46 years as a lunch-room aide at Slingerlands Elementary School at the age of 81. But that is not all there is to know about Katy. In fact, Katy was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in English. Katy started volunteering as a grade mother at Slingerlands when her daughter was in second grade. At that time, the teachers had to eat lunch with their students. Katy voluntarily came in to take the students and read to them while the teachers had a lunch break. In the late 1950's Katy became part of a statewide pilot program to institute an aide program for elementary school lunch periods and helped to develop the noon aide program as it exists at Slingerlands. Over the many years, Katy mentored every lunch aide as they began their new positions at the school. As an employee of Bethlehem Central, Katy stood out as an exemplary employee who was always willing to go above and beyond. Her love for education and for children was demonstrated in every aspect of her life for more than 40 years.

Katy also shares her caring skills in the community, as she had been a volunteer for the Multiple Sclerosis Society for more than 35 years, although no one in her family ever suffered from this disease. She had written a monthly newsletter for MS patients called 'To You From Katy'. This is just another example of Katy's sacrificial giving. To demonstrate how important Katy was to our school district, her peers have established this scholarship in her name because of her heart of gold, her love of children, and her dedication to education.

It is with great pride that we award this scholarship to this year's recipients and it is our hope that they too will value Katy's attributes of unselfishness, citizenship, education and empathy for other people's needs.

List activities in which you have participated (school, community, work).

School: _____

Community: _____

Work: _____
