

Who Was Lydia Collins

Lydia M. Collins was a Newburyport native who attended the Newburyport Public Schools, and graduated from Newburyport High School as a member as the Class of 1962.

Lydia attended Lesley College in Boston where she received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees.

She served as a Special Needs Teacher in Newburyport from 1967 until 1990, when her failing health forced her to retire.



Lydia's first classroom was in the basement of Saint Paul's Church. Later she moved to the Belleville (Bresnahan) School and remained there until 1975. For the remainder of her career she taught at the G. W. Brown School.

Lydia's gift for teaching was acknowledged by administrators, colleagues, and parents. This recognition included election to the status of Master Teacher, receiving the Edward G. Molin Award for Teaching Excellence, and being named as the Parents Advisory Council's Teacher of the Year.

Lydia possessed many heroic qualities. She faced the challenges of kidney disease with determination and courage. For nearly two decades, which amounted to most of her adult life, Lydia endured dialysis, three failed kidney transplants, and many complications accompanying terminal illness without complaint. These ordeals never robbed her of her dignity or undaunted humor, but instead they strengthened her resolve to live, laugh, and to appreciate each day to the fullest.

Why Create A Foundation?

During her teaching career, Lydia was admired by colleagues and students alike. Her untiring pursuits of excellence in everything she undertook, her remarkable inner strength in facing adversity, and her contagious sense of humor were sources of inspiration and endearment.

As a special educator, she believed that all children could learn, and all children were deserving of the opportunity to do so. This belief was manifested in her teaching. With a gentle, yet commanding manner she taught her students to aspire to and expect the best from themselves. As a role model and teacher she urged each student to view a "handicap" not as a limitation or obstacle to overcome, but rather as a challenge that needed to be met.

Many times her caring extended beyond the classroom. Lydia was quick to provide even for the basic needs of her "kids", whether it be a nourishing meal, a warm jacket, or a happy holiday. Her children knew they could count on Miss Collins-she would always be there for them-and she always was. Lydia's generosity of spirit is her true legacy and will always be warmly remembered. She loved her kids, believed in them, and considered it a privilege to be able to work with and help them to make their lives more successful and fulfilling.

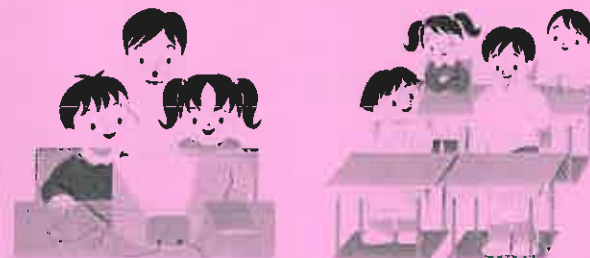
Therefore, in August of 1996, her family and friends created Lydia's Kids Foundation in order to continue Lydia's good work in meeting the physical, emotional, or intellectual needs of students in the Newburyport Public Schools.

How Does LKF Work?

Teachers, nurses, and administrators in the Newburyport Public Schools who identify a child in need are encouraged to apply to **LYDIA'S KIDS FOUNDATION** to fund such diverse needs as eye glasses, boots, warm clothing, summer camp tuitions, and the like.

Applications are then forwarded to a review board and monies are allocated based on need and available funds.

The foundation focuses on providing funds for short-term needs which can not be met by other agencies or organizations. **LYDIA'S KIDS FOUNDATION** does not discriminate for reasons of race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.



LKF is funded through annual fund raising events and through the generous contributions of people and businesses who believe in its purpose.

If you have been touched by Lydia's spirit and want to help keep her dream alive, please consider making a donation.

LYDIA'S KIDS FOUNDATION
Contribution Form

Name _____

Address _____

Regular Gift

Memorial Gift

In Memory Of _____

Please notify:

Name _____

Address _____

Matching Fund Gift

Company Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

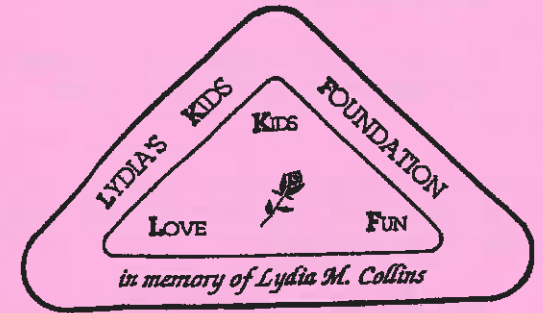
Amount of contribution \$ _____

(Tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.)

Please make checks payable to:

LYDIA'S KIDS FOUNDATION
C/O Institution for Savings
93 State Street
Newburyport, Ma. 01950

LYDIA'S KIDS FOUNDATION



Lydia's Kids Foundation, a private charitable fund, has been established to provide for the physical, emotional, or intellectual needs of students in the Newburyport Public Schools.



Lydia M. Collins
1944-1991