Catherine Burgholzer Memorial Scholarship
Greater Worcester Community Foundation

When Catherine Burgholzer passed away at age 52, her children created this scholarship to continue her work supporting the education of Shrewsbury students. It is awarded to graduating high school seniors, preferably from Shrewsbury, who have had a parent with cancer.

Catherine Burgholzer (1958-2011) was born and raised in Worcester, the daughter of Stavros and Paraskevi Ninos. She had a brother and two sisters, including her twin, Maria.

Catherine graduated from Doherty Memorial High School in 1976 and from Westfield State College in 1981. She captained her gymnastics teams in high school and college, competing in local and state competitions. After earning a Paralegal Certificate from Assumption College in 1982, she worked for real estate law firms in Boston and Worcester.

Catherine married Paul Burgholzer in 1984, and they had three children: Julie, Casey and Paul. Being a loving and devoted mother was her greatest passion. The family moved to Holden in 1993. Catherine was an active member of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Worcester. Her many other interests included traveling, photography, biking, skiing, golf, yoga, and floral design.

Catherine earned a Masters in Health Education from Worcester State College in 2000. She launched a second career teaching health at the Coolidge and Paton Elementary Schools in Shrewsbury and Adaptive Physical Education throughout the Shrewsbury school district. Catherine truly enjoyed her students and colleagues.

Julie, Casey and Paul envisioned this scholarship as a tribute to their mother, who died of cancer in 2011. “We want to support others who’ve been through this,” says Julie. Family members pooled their talents to raise funds. Catherine’s husband, Paul, ran his first Boston Marathon in 2014 to recruit donors. Together, they raised $10,000 from 150 friends and relatives. “We are very touched by all this support,” says Casey. “Together, we are keeping our mom’s values alive.”

For more information, please contact:
Greater Worcester Community Foundation
370 Main Street, Suite 650 • Worcester, MA 01608
508-755-0980 • scholar@greaterworcester.org