Spring 2026

Heritage Circle

Honoring The Past. Inspiring The Future.

Marist Legacy

A Legacy of Faith, Family, and Service

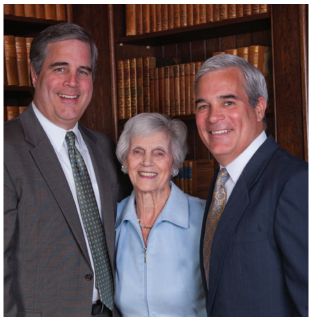
The Mary Jane Crawford Scholarship Fund

After raising seven children and being part of the Marist School community for two decades, Mary Jane Crawford has left a lasting impression on the school she loved. Today, an endowed scholarship created in her memory continues her legacy by helping future students receive a Marist education.

Mary Jane was known for her sense of humor and her resilience in the face of life's challenges. Widowed at just 42, she raised seven children on her own. Throughout those years, she relied deeply on the most important part of her life: her faith. A devoted Catholic, she had a profound reverence for the Blessed Mother and a steadfast trust in God's providence, which gave her the strength to make the sacrifices needed to position her children for success.

Mary Jane and her late husband Jim believed strongly in the importance of Catholic education, which they knew would form their children academically, spiritually, and morally. Even after her husband's tragic passing, Mary Jane remained committed to that goal, and three of their seven children attended Marist School: Pat Crawford '77, Bill Crawford '80, and Tom Crawford '81. Marist became a meaningful part of the Crawford family story, reflecting the values she worked so hard to instill at home.

Her connection to Marist deepened when she joined the school's staff in 1981 as the front office receptionist. In 1982, she became the administrative assistant to Steve Franks, the dean of student discipline, and then to his successors, John Findey and Mike Trapani, before she retired in 2001. For generations of students, Mrs. Crawford was the first person they encountered when arriving at school. They came to know Mary Jane through her honesty, her sense of humor, and her ability to see through just about any excuse.



Mary Jane with her sons, Patrick and Bill

For the Crawford family, Marist was more than a Catholic school. It became a community that helped shape their lives. After her sons graduated, the family's connection continued into the next generation, with seven of Mary Jane's grandchildren attending Marist: Christie Crawford Glenn '03, Greg Van Volkenburg '04, P.J. Crawford '05, Mary Beth Van Volkenburg '06, Doozer Crawford '08, Mike Crawford '10, and Anne Crawford '20.

When Mary Jane Crawford passed away in August 2018, her children contacted Marist's Advancement Office to learn about ways they could honor their mother's legacy. They were pleasantly surprised by how simple the process of establishing a named scholarship could be. Afterward, Bill Crawford '80, Heritage Circle member Pat Crawford '77, and their sister Kate Van Volkenburg rallied their family to fund the scholarship together. The Mary Jane Crawford Scholarship Fund has since supported four Marist students, two of whom have graduated and are currently enrolled in college.

> ***"[The scholarship] is a way to honor our mom's life and make sure what mattered most to her—faith, family, and education—continues for others."***
>
> **—KATE VAN VOLKENBURG**
>
> *Daughter of Mary Jane and Jim Crawford, and Parent of Greg Van Volkenburg '04 and Mary Beth Van Volkenburg '06*

Through the Mary Jane Crawford Scholarship Fund, Marist students now and in the future will have the opportunity to experience the same faith-centered education that meant so much to the Crawford family.

We are deeply grateful to those who establish endowed funds, such as the Mary Jane Crawford Scholarship Fund, through outright donations or estate plans. These meaningful contributions honor loved ones, recognize former faculty, and advance our mission. Donors who include Marist in their estate plans are welcomed into the Heritage Circle in recognition of their generosity.

For more information on making a planned gift to support Marist School, please contact the Advancement Office at **giving@marist.com** or **(770) 936-6424.**

Marist School

Why

ENDOWMENTS MATTER

More than Ever

ENDOWMENT → **ANNUAL SUPPORT** → **FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Marist School's endowment provides a strong foundation for the continued excellence and accessibility of the Marist educational experience. The endowment is a permanent fund invested for growth and provides a steady stream of revenue into the school's annual operating budget to support tuition assistance, faculty and staff professional development, and other important initiatives. Through careful stewardship and wise investment practices, Marist's endowment provides a source of perpetual funding that ensures the continued advancement of the school's important mission.

Gifts to Marist School's endowment have a lasting philanthropic impact, helping to secure the school's future and advance its mission for generations of students. One way to support the endowment is through a planned gift. By including Marist in your estate plans, you can create a meaningful legacy that continues to benefit the school long into the future.

When a planned gift meets established minimum contribution levels, it may also provide the opportunity to establish a named endowed fund.

When you establish an endowed fund, the gift is invested permanently. Each year, a portion of the investment earnings supports Marist students while the remaining earnings continue to grow the fund. This structure allows a single gift to support the mission of Marist year after year, generation after generation.

Named endowed funds provide:
- Financial Stability
- Support for Students
- Strengthening of Programs and Facilities

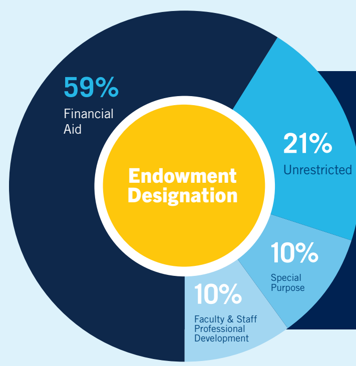
A named endowed fund lets you create a lasting legacy to carry your values forward and inspire and support the Marist School community for generations.

"An endowed scholarship is a great way to honor someone you love and help future students at the same time."

– BILL CRAWFORD '80
(son of Jim and Mary Jane Crawford, see front page story)

Endowment $40,734,984*

*as of December 31, 2025



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Named Endowed Funds

2025–2026 DISTRIBUTION	$1,339,893

4% SPENDING POLICY

Each year, the Board of Trustees approves a 4% distribution based on the endowment market value over the last 12 trailing quarters.

Ways to Establish an **Endowed Fund**

Make a **gift outright today**

Create a **planned gift through a will or trust***

Name Marist as a **beneficiary of an account or policy***

Combine **current and future gifts***

These types of donations are gratefully recognized through membership in Marist's Heritage Circle, our planned giving society, honoring those who include Marist in their estate plans.

BEQUESTS: The Most Popular Planned Gift

One of the simplest ways to support Marist School's endowment is through a **bequest in your will or trust.**

A bequest allows you to make a meaningful gift **without affecting your finances during your lifetime.**

Many supporters choose to include Marist as a beneficiary in estate plans because this option is:

- **Easy to arrange**
- **Flexible**
- **Revocable if circumstances change**
- **A way to ensure that your gift supports the area of Marist's mission you care about most**

In addition to helping sustain Marist's mission for future generations, bequests may offer potential tax and financial benefits while allowing you to meet important charitable and estate planning goals.

Ways to Structure a Bequest

- **Specific Bequest:** Designate a dollar amount or a specific asset, such as stocks or property, to support Marist's mission.
- **Percentage Bequest:** Dedicate a percentage of your estate's value to Marist, ensuring your gift remains proportional regardless of changes to the estate size over time.
- **Residual Bequest:** Direct to Marist what remains in your estate after all other specific bequests, debts, and expenses have been paid.
- **Contingent Bequest:** Create a thoughtful back-up plan that only takes effect under specific circumstances—for instance, if your primary beneficiaries are no longer living. This option ensures your assets will still support Marist's mission if your first choices cannot be fulfilled.

Start planning your legacy today by visiting maristlegacy.org

For many, a bequest is the FIRST STEP toward creating a lasting legacy of education.

Bequests may be designated to create a named endowed fund, allowing your family's legacy to live on at Marist.

BEQUEST (YOUR WILL)

MARIST ENDOWMENT

IMPACT MARIST SCHOOL IN PERPETUITY

Beneficiary Designations

Another simple way to support Marist School is through **beneficiary designation.**

Assets such as retirement accounts, investment accounts, and life insurance policies allow you to name a charitable beneficiary without updating your will.

These gifts are:

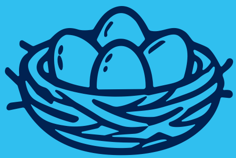
- Easy to arrange
- Flexible and revocable
- Potentially tax-advantaged

Common assets used for beneficiary designation gifts include IRAs and retirement plans, life insurance policies, and investment accounts.

For life insurance policies that have outlasted their original purpose, you have the option to gift the policy to Marist by naming us as both the owner and beneficiary of the policy. If you continue to pay premiums on the policy, those payments may be tax-deductible as charitable contributions. If the policy is fully paid up, you may be eligible for a charitable deduction based on the value of the policy.

You can also simply name Marist as a beneficiary, which is an easy way to create or grow an endowed fund and leave a lasting impact.

A Simple Way to Build Your Legacy



IRA

Life Insurance

Investment Account

Heritage Circle

The Heritage Circle recognizes members of the community who have chosen to include Marist School in their estate plans to strengthen the school's endowment and provide support for future generations of students.

Members receive invitations to special events, recognition in Marist publications and on the Heritage Circle Honor Wall, and a lifetime pass to regular-season Marist athletics.

MARIST SCHOOL ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

giving@marist.com (770) 936-6424 maristlegacy.org

Marist School