



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

## SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSE

To provide educational resources to graduates of Byron High School who intend to pursue a career in music education.

## APPLICANT CRITERIA

- ✓ Be a high school graduating senior or graduate of Byron High School, and
- ✓ Plan to pursue a career in music education.

Preference will be given to current high school seniors.

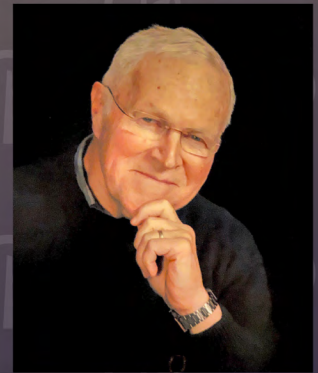
## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

 [scholarships@cfnil.org](mailto:scholarships@cfnil.org)  
[www.cfnil.org](http://www.cfnil.org)

 815-962-2110

 946 N Second St.  
Rockford, IL 61107

# DAVID L. JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



## SCHOLARSHIP BACKGROUND

David Johnson was the driving force in music education in Byron for over three decades. His affinity for music was cemented at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and ultimately from the esteemed music program at the University of North Texas in Denton.

David began teaching in the Byron School District in 1965 as the high school band director. After pausing efforts in Byron to serve in the US Army as a trumpet player, singer, band leader, and arranger, he returned home to resume teaching. David transformed the notion of music education in Byron by using his college-earned and army-tested standards for quality and discipline to coax generations of students to success in music. He was equally at home conducting the high school band and choir as he was singing along with his ukulele in a class of kindergarten students.

His serious but creative and approachable teaching style built confidence and musicality in his students in all styles of vocal and instrumental performance as well as in music theory and composition. David also led Byron bands and choirs in numerous out of state and international performances. The Byron Chamber of Commerce named David its "Citizen of the Year" in 1993.

David served as orchestra director and vocal coach for school musicals, extra-curricular jazz band and swing-choir director, middle school cross country coach, Byron High School junior class advisor, ski club advisor, and teacher's union president. In "retirement," David went on to teach music history at Rock Valley College. He also directed the United Church of Byron choir for many years.

David believed in educating the "whole child" and the importance of music curriculum at every grade level. He got the best out of his ensembles, but more importantly, he always encouraged each student to grow to their individual musical potential and their potential as people. This co-equal vision of shaping musically talented and literate but also kind and disciplined people was what made David special and what we hope will be proliferated through this scholarship.

## TO APPLY

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) administers more than 90 scholarships and awards more than \$350,000 to students in northern Illinois every year. CFNIL's online application automatically matches you to every scholarship for which you are eligible. The application opens each year on December 1st and closes February 1st.



Visit [cfnil.org/scholarships](http://cfnil.org/scholarships) to learn more about the awards which are available and [cfnil.org/scholarship-resources](http://cfnil.org/scholarship-resources) for guidance about how to apply. When you are ready, click the "Apply for a Scholarship" button found on the top of every page on CFNIL's website.