John T. Holmstrom, Jr. (1920-2010) attended Jackson and Lincoln Schools, and graduated in the last class of Central High School. He received his bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Illinois. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army Signal Corp in the Pacific Theater during World War II. John was a law partner at Holmstrom & Kennedy. He was a member of Second Congregational United Church of Christ. He faithfully served his community by participating in numerous civic and political activities, including: Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Swedish American Medical Foundation, Community Hospital Council, P.A. Peterson Center for Health, the Rockford Pro-Am, and many more. John was devoted to the growth and development of the Rockford Community Trust, now the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois - his service to this institution will always be remembered.

John was an avid golfer, winning five City Junior Championships, the State Amateur Championship, the Western Junior Championship, three Men's City tournaments and serving as the captain of the University of Illinois golf team that won two Big Ten Championships in the 1940s. John was a member of the Rockford Golf Hall of Fame. His memory and spirit live on through his wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends and colleagues.

“It was a privilege to work closely with John Holmstrom, Jr. for I could always look to him for sound judgment, tactfully delivered. In my mind, he was the epitome of a top business attorney and counselor, and a very competitive, yet fun golfer.”

- Dick Leighton, CFNIL Trustee Emeritus

PURPOSE

John’s love for golf defines the mission of the John T. Holmstrom, Jr. Memorial Fund - to support golf’s fine traditions by promoting junior golf in Rockford and by providing resources that enable young people to play golf. Grant awards from this fund may be used for green fees, golf lessons, golf equipment, and similar golf-related expenses. It is the wish of the Holmstrom Family that young people throughout the Greater Rockford area have an opportunity to play golf due to John T. Holmstrom, Jr.’s legacy.

ELIGIBILITY

Grants will be made to 501(c)(3) organizations or tax-supported entities such as Rockford Park District, Boys and Girls Club, public schools, etc. Grants will be need based. Applications must include a description of the program’s purpose, location, target population, and substantiation of need. In addition, the application should outline how the project promotes character development through the game of golf. Applicants must submit a budget using CFNIL’s template budget for grantseekers, which can be found here: https://www.cfnil.org/grants/john-t-holmstrom-jr-memorial-golf-grant.

APPLICATION

CFNIL will accept applications between March 13, 2023 and April 17, 2023. The application (available at https://www.cfnil.org/grants/john-t-holmstrom-jr-memorial-golf-grant) must be received by CFNIL no later than 5:00 pm. Send applications to the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, 946 N. Second Street, Rockford, IL.