

Josette Yakobitis Memorial Scholarship

“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day...”
~ 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Josette Yakobitis passed away on December 15, 2017 after a courageous battle with a very rare form of cancer. She struggled with her illness, myelofibrosis, for nearly four years before she passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, when she was only 56 years old. Josette had a kind spirit and a very generous heart. She was the woman that would give her last dollar to someone in need or would buy a misfit toy so that it would have a warm and loving home.



She worked for the Wyoming Area School District for six years as a hall monitor and loved that job. She enjoyed interacting with both students and teachers, all of whom she loved dearly. Josette would create pins for every senior to wear at graduation.

Josette’s talents were many. She was skilled at creating ceramic pieces, which her family is grateful to have as treasured mementos. She enjoyed board games and took great pleasure in defeating her husband, children, and sisters whenever she could! She was a city girl at heart, despite growing up in the country, and loved calling West Pittston her hometown. She was a compassionate animal activist, always looking for ways to love on abused and lost animals.



Her family will gratefully remember the kindnesses extended to Josette during her difficult journey. During the early stages of her illness, Wyoming Area employees banded together to host a fundraiser to help offset the steadily rising cost of her treatment. Family, friends, and local businesses, including the Topsy Turtle, Gober’s, and Fox Hill, donated homemade food. Everyone in attendance shared a special memory of Josette. Many people continued to stay in touch with her during her illness and home confinement, offering words of encouragement and daily prayers.

To keep Josette’s memory alive, her loyal husband, Gerard, and her children Faith, Andrew, and Michael are offering this scholarship in her memory. It is offered to a Wyoming Area graduating senior who can relate to her life. One who is kind, loving, generous, and has a special place in his or heart for animals.

Besides her immediate family, Josette leaves behind her sisters, Michele and Anna, and her brother Anthony.

Criteria: Josette's children, all Wyoming Area graduates, and her husband, Jerry, are very pleased to offer this scholarship in memory of Josette to a Wyoming Area graduating senior, who much like Josette is a kind, loving, generous person; or one who sees himself/herself successful in life or one who may have a special place in his/her heart for animals who may be abused or lost. Applicants may be those who are enrolled in a certificate program, trade or technical school, community college, or 2 or 4 year college/university.

Required Essay: In a solid essay of at least 500 words, choose one of the following prompts and tell the selection committee your thoughts: (Identify your choice in the first line of your essay.)

1. Describe a situation in which you were kind or loving or generous to someone. How did you feel and how did it help you develop into the person you are today?
2. Describe a situation in which you showed compassion for animals, especially those who were abused or lost. How did you feel and how did it help you develop into the person you are today?
3. What qualities do you believe you possess to be successful in life? How did you develop them and tell us about any success you have experienced as a result of developing these traits?

