Legacy of Susan C. Jacques

[Music]

Susan, she is an alumna. She graduated from Thomas College in 1947, and she graduated with a degree in secretarial studies, and then went on to work in a field that was not a common field for women in those days.

She was in purchasing at Central Maine Power. She worked on purchasing, and she worked on getting the best prices and the most into whatever they needed to procure. And she loved to type and I am sure she wrote a lot of purchase orders on her old typewriters, and she combined everything with that, but it evolved more into a business side of hers.

And so, she was a go-getter, pioneering woman in the '50s, and that makes me very happy and proud of her, and I love to think of an alum like that from 1947 breaking that new ground in Maine.

Susan, at the end of her life, circled in on what really impressed her most and what gave her the foundation to feel very proud of the life and the work that she performed. Thomas, even back then, it was everything to Susan. She was so proud of that education.

Another thing that really resonates with me about Susan is her clear values and education. So, at the end of her life, when she was thinking about her estate and the mark she wanted to leave, she chose two schools in Maine to be the recipients of her gifts. And so that really resonates with me personally. I cannot think of a better impact to leave than supporting students who are trying to make their life better.

A gift like Susan's to the college is transformational. It is over a million dollars of unrestricted funds that we can use for scholarships for any student coming to Thomas College to help them get their degree here.

I appreciate that she has this named scholarship now that our future generations of students are going to get to reap the benefit of, and that they are tethered forever to her memory.

This scholarship is about access to education, and so this scholarship will allow students who otherwise could not afford to be in college to have that opportunity and to meet their full potential having an education on board.

She wanted to give other people the opportunity to succeed, to become self-reliant, and Susan always thought that education brought a certain pride to one's life.

One of the ways that this gift from Susan is going to be so transformative to Thomas College students in the future, those students who aren't even born yet, that we don't even know yet, is that they are going to get to have access to the phenomenal kind of education that already exists here, and the college of the future that we're developing even now.

It is normal to think about our legacy and how we might want to be remembered, and these kinds of thoughts lead naturally to what my values are? And values are the thing that really drives how we would all like to be remembered when we are gone.

A planned gift is really an amazing way to take those values, turn them into impact on real students' lives, and turn that into the legacy. Because when you give a scholarship gift to Thomas College, students receive that gift for generations, and the college names that gift, and students know that the values of the donor were education and student support and care for students and care for Maine.

So, we look forward to having conversations with our donors about what possibilities are available to them through our advancement office and all the ways that we can help you make the kind of difference that you desire to make.

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