

## Passing on the Westman Legacy

Sandra (Sandy) and John Mayfield created the Ted and Wilma Westman Scholarship fund in memory of Sandy's parents, Ted and Wilma Westman. These scholarships support individuals who have been out of high school for 5 years or more and are returning to trade school, like the Ukiah Beauty School.

After Wilma Westman earned her license in 1944, she opened the "Dollhouse Beauty Shop" while living in Bremerton Washington. Later, it was at her "instigation" that the family joined other relatives who had moved to the Eureka area to buy stock in and work at the Mutual Plywood plant in Somoa. The family thrived, with her mother working "fixing hair" while her father was involved in the plywood plant. Sandy recalls that "My mother was able to contribute financially to her family because she had acquired a vocational education."

Sandy established the fund because she wanted to help young people stay in our community and find meaningful work, saying "our young people have a great need for vocational training and there's not enough of it available." The Ukiah Beauty College is one of only two vocational schools in Mendocino County. The program requires 1600 hours of classroom and "hands-on" training and takes eleven months to complete on a full time schedule. Many of the students work nights and weekends to cover the tuition. Although it is less expensive than out of county competitors, it still costs over eleven thousand dollars for tuition, supplies and insurance.

Scholarship recipients apply through the Community Foundation of Mendocino who administers the scholarship program. At one recent award ceremony, four recipients received awards amidst 20 of their peers from the Ukiah Beauty School. The scholarship awardees Ariane Bojorques, Eric Guevara, Danielle Seymour, and Kristien Armstrong received the award from Megan Barber Allende from the Community Foundation and thanked the Mayfields. With a hint of a tear in her eye, Sandy Mayfield simply stated, "It feels good to do this."

Ted and Wilma Westman moved to Ukiah in the 1980's to be close to Sandy and John Mayfield. They led lives full of family and friends. Now Sandy is honoring the legacy of her parents through the Ted and Wilma Westman Scholarship Fund. "It is important to me that the next generations know something about my parents and what they stood for," says Sandy. And that is what a legacy is all about.