

LuAnn Bennett

Believes Education Is the Key to Equality and Opportunity

Almost 200 seventh and eighth grade students and teachers pass through the Richard A. Bennett, Jr. Wing each school day, but few know the family whose generosity made that space—and countless other opportunities—possible.

Rick and LuAnn Bennett, owners of an asset and real-estate management firm in Washington, DC, joined the Potomac community in 1986, when their oldest son Kevin '99 was entering kindergarten, soon to be followed by sons Ricky '02 and Bryan '01. Having volunteered for years in schools serving disadvantaged communities in St. Louis and Washington, DC, Rick and LuAnn were struck by the stark contrast between Potomac's educational environment and that of the children they were tutoring in nearby Anacostia.

Demonstrating their shared conviction that all children should enjoy a nurturing school environment, Rick and LuAnn established the Bennett Minority Endowment in 1989 to fund scholarships for students from minority backgrounds. Their involvement with programs for disadvantaged children had shown them how education can play a key role in narrowing gaps among socioeconomic groups. The Bennett Minority Endowment, LuAnn states, is her family's way of helping to close that gap, beginning when students join Potomac in kindergarten. LuAnn believes that a diverse student population in the classroom is mutually beneficial because it allows all children to learn with and from students from a variety of experiences and backgrounds.

The Bennetts' philanthropy quickly grew beyond the endowment to include the Annual Fund, Fall Frolics, Friends of the Library, Book Fair and multiple capital projects. Rick served on Potomac's Board of Trustees from 1988 until his untimely death in 1994. As a tribute to his steadfast commitment and extraordinary generosity to Potomac,



Rick's fellow Trustees named the new, recently completed Intermediate School wing in his honor.

When reflecting on this difficult time, LuAnn remembers how fellow parents, friends and faculty members reached out to and looked after her family. She explains that it is easy for her to continue to support a place that took such good care of her children during Rick's illness and after his death.

LuAnn joined the Potomac Board of Trustees in 2000 and served as Chair from 2002 until 2005. She runs the firm she founded with Rick in 1980 under the name Bennett Group, and remains committed to promoting educational equality in Washington, DC. The Bennett Group has partnered with the District to assist education-oriented community groups.

We are grateful to the Bennett family for their enduring commitment to The Potomac School.

For more information about making a gift to Potomac's endowment, please call the Development Office at (703) 749-6329.