



## *The Aunt Shirley Elementary Art Fund*

Announcing: The Aunt Shirley Elementary Art Fund!

To fill a great need in Jennings County schools, the Byram family has established a classroom grant fund for elementary school teachers who wish to give their students quality visual art lessons and projects. Many teachers pay for these lessons out-of-pocket due to lack of public funding.

If you are interested in donating, please mail payment to the Jennings County Community Foundation and clarify that it is for this fund. smile emoticon:) Please share! More details below.

"This fund was established as a 92nd birthday present for our (the Byram family) Aunt Shirley. She is a woman of pure compassion and charity, as she is a giving member to multiple organizations. Her hospitality is an inspiration to all who know her, and especially those of us who are blessed to call her our aunt.

Raised in Jennings County and a graduate of North Vernon High School '43, Shirley Grayson-Theriault (Byram) was the daughter of Lester and Olive Byram, sister of Bobby Byram. She attended Depauw University for a year, then transferred to Purdue University earning a degree in Child Psychology. She moved to Chicago, Illinois and began working at Rand McNally, where she rose the ranks to VP of Industrial Relations and became the first female executive of the company. To this day, past employees of the company will speak of her kindness and their admiration for her leadership. She also met Gene Theriault in the company. They would marry in North Vernon on May 1st, 1949 at a family-owned house on Durbin Street. Not all work, her downtime included traveling, fishing, rounds of golf and many tennis matches. In the 1980s, her and husband Gene Theriault moved to Florida to enjoy the luxury of retirement. Her tennis team even won the state championship in their division! Years after the passing of Uncle Gene, Shirley married her neighbor, Ed Grayson who was a retired Colonel in the US Marines. They

married on November 25, 1995. Today, Shirley lives in Englewood, FL enjoying great company with friends/family, the beautiful weather, and (almost) always winning in Bridge.

The "Aunt Shirley Elementary Art Fund" will provide the charitable spirit of love that our Aunt Shirley has provided to her family and friends, to hopefully countless of kids in Jennings County. The visual arts education they receive will teach them how to think creatively, and become more prepared to problem solve. The youth's artistic talent being tapped early will foster an even more vibrant and beautiful community for the future."