

Adam and Elma Donaldson Family Scholarship

Adam Donaldson, Jr. (1907-1988) was born in California and at age 10 moved to Coos Bay to a dairy farm on Catching Inlet. To attend school, he boarded in town for two years and then traveled to school daily in an open boat. He graduated from Marshfield High School. Elma Russell (1913-present) was born in North Bend and graduated from high school in Myrtle Point. She attended the University of Oregon and obtained a teaching certificate from Southern Oregon College. Her first teaching jobs were in one and two-room grade schools in Coos County.



Adam took over the operation of the Donaldson family farm and was serving on the Catching Inlet School Board when he met a new teacher, Elma, who became his wife. The family moved from the farm to Coos Bay in 1950 where Adam worked as manager of the Melowest Creamery and Myrtle Dairy.

The Donaldsons lived in Coos County most of their lives and supported education in many ways. Adam served on the Coos Bay School District Budget Committee and Elma served a term on the Coos Bay School Board. The family hosted the first international exchange student at Marshfield High School in 1960-61. Elma later worked many years on the Coos Bay Student Loan Fund Committee, which helped many local students continue their education beyond high school.

The three Donaldson children graduated from Marshfield High School, attended colleges in Oregon and earned advanced degrees including two Masters degrees and a Ph.D. Both daughters worked in education during their work careers. Adam and Elma have six grandchildren, all of whom have college degrees.

The Donaldson family recognizes the important of post-high school education and has established the Adam and Elma Donaldson Family Scholarship to help Marshfield High graduates to attain their personal educational goals.