Bobby Lee Secret Memorial Scholarship

About the Fund:
The Bobby Lee Secret Memorial Scholarship was established by Washington Irving High School classmates of the late Mr. Secret to honor his memory and achievements in Harrison County, West Virginia. The scholarship will provide one or more $1,000 scholarships to students who reside in Harrison County.

About the Honoree:
Bobby Secret (1942-2017) was a lifelong resident of Clarksburg, West Virginia. He was born in 1942, the son of Patrick and Mary Secret. As a youth, it became evident that he was blessed with extraordinary athletic gifts. He ran faster, threw harder, hit baseballs further, and had an uncanny ability of being where would-be tacklers were not, as he dazzled on the football field.

As he moved on to high school, his athletic exploits became renowned. At Washington Irving High School (WI), Bobby was a four sports phenom. He excelled at football, basketball, track, and baseball. As a senior, he was named All-State in both football and basketball. The Morgantown Touchdown Club named Bobby runner-up as the West Virginia Amateur Athlete of the Year in 1960. Jerry West, who was a pretty good basketball player at West Virginia University, edged Bobby for first place.

At WI, Bobby did more than excel at sports. He excelled in class leadership, community service and scholarship. He found the time to be elected Class Treasurer as a Junior and Senior, to be Treasurer of the Senior Executive Committee, to attend Boy’s State, and to be a member of Hi-Y and District and State Vice-President of Hi-Y. He earned a certificate of permanent membership in Athena, an achievement requiring a B average or better for five semesters, and earned membership in the National Honor Society, an organization honoring students who have distinguished themselves with exemplary leadership, character, service and scholarship. Bobby was honored as one of the top twenty-five seniors in the Class of 1960.

Bobby attended Notre Dame University on a football scholarship and finished his playing career at Salem College, where he earned a mathematics degree. He later received a Master’s degree from WVU.

Bobby parlayed his love for sports into a successful coaching career, including a stint at Victory High School and ten years as head coach of Clarksburg Post 13 Baseball. Coaching ignited in him a passion for teaching youth. As he engaged his students, he shaped their lives with more than academic excellence, teaching such matters as leadership, high moral character, and community engagement. He worked many years at the Salem Correctional Center for Youth, where he nurtured troubled youths from despair to self-worth.

Bobby Secret was transcendent in matters of the heart. His love for his family was unwavering. He was a man of great faith, which was evident in his daily walk. Everyone he met was his friend, and none were less. Bobby lived on this earth to help others, and always thought he should do more.

When Bobby died, a note was received by the family from a young man he had taken in. Here are some excerpts:

“My heart is deeply saddened by the passing of ‘Seeks’, the man who took honor in calling me son. This man gave his life to make sure that my life was better. When I had no one to turn to, the man was always there, loving me, believing in me, and pushing me to keep fighting for my future. There are so many lessons this
man taught me, but the greatest lesson of all was… how to love. You were my angel, my friend, and my Pops. So, I salute you, and I say, well done.”

Such a touching tribute and just one of many. What more can be said? Bobby Lee Secret…“Seeks”… our friend. We thank you for a life well lived!

**Eligibility Guidelines:**

Applicants must be the recipient of a diploma from a Harrison County high school or have successfully fulfilled the Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ (TASC). In addition, applicants must exhibit academic excellence, outstanding moral character, leadership and community engagement, as well as athletic achievement in individual and/or organized athletic activities. This is a one-time award. The funds are to be designated for tuition at an institution of higher learning, either a college/university or a technical school.

**How Can I Donate?**

All donations to the Bobby Lee Secret Memorial Scholarship Fund are invested to increase their value, with net income from these investments paid out annually to meet the requirements and donor objectives of the fund. While the net income is dispersed, the original endowments and any subsequent contributions remain intact and continue to grow.

Individuals, organizations and businesses are encouraged to contribute any amount to one or more of the endowments managed by YCF. Donations help the endowments grow and increase the net income used to provide yearly grants.

To make a donation, or for more information, contact Your Community Foundation of North Central West Virginia, Inc. (YCF) P.O. Box 409, Morgantown, WV 26507. Call us at (304) 296-3433 or visit our web site at [www.ycfwv.org](http://www.ycfwv.org).