
THE LEGACY OF CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE

NEWCOMBE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE 1890 – 1979

Charlotte Rachel Wilson, a Philadelphia philanthropist, was born on March 28, 1890 in Philadelphia. Her father, a physician and a pharmacist, maintained an interest in pharmaceuticals, and, beginning in the 1890s, invested in Smith Kline, a Philadelphia drug company.

Although her older sister and younger brother were college graduates, Charlotte Wilson never attended college. Her vision was impaired from childhood and she could not read for long enough periods to make serious study possible. During World War I, she sold war bonds in her community and was active in the Red Cross, teaching women to knit socks, scarves, and warm hats for soldiers. In 1925-27, she accompanied her parents on a trip around the world where she met Fred Newcombe, the ship's officer, who became her husband almost three decades later, in 1952.

Before his death in 1931, Dr. Wilson secured a firm promise from his daughter that she would never sell any of the Smith Kline stock she would inherit. Her adherence to that promise over the next forty-eight years led to her fortune late in life. At her death, her residual estate was valued at \$32 million.

Mrs. Newcombe greatly valued higher education; during her lifetime she sent the children of several friends to college, taking a vigorous interest in their progress. In her will, she established the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation to continue her scholarship gifts. Her legacy continues under the stewardship of the Foundation's Trustees.

THE CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE FOUNDATION

The Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation is a private foundation located in Princeton, NJ that was created through the will of Mrs. Newcombe. In her will, Mrs. Newcombe charged her Trustees with the creation of a scholarship foundation to bear her name and funded the foundation with approximately \$16 million.

From that original \$16 million, the Newcombe Foundation has provided awards totaling \$65.4 million: \$23.5 million for Newcombe Fellowships and \$41.9 million for Newcombe Scholarships at 102 universities and colleges through 2016-17.

From 1981-82 through 2015-16, Newcombe-funded colleges and universities have provided over 39,000 Newcombe Scholarships through the Foundation's programs for mature women students, for students with disabilities, and for economically disadvantaged students at selected colleges.

NEWCOMBE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Selected colleges and universities receive grants from the Newcombe Foundation for scholarship aid to students with financial need who have physical, medical, learning, or psychological disabilities and who are seeking to complete a degree in higher education. Scholarships may be applied to tuition or may be used to offset some disability-related expenses that lie beyond the institution's accommodation mandates and are not covered by public disability agencies or other financial resources. Each institution is responsible for selection of student recipients and scholarship administration following guidelines established by the Foundation.

The Foundation's latest grants in support of Newcombe Scholarships for Students with Disabilities total \$357,500 at ten colleges and universities.

To learn more about the Foundation, please visit the website at www.newcombefoundation.org.