Mary Coutant, A Legacy of Love and Leadership

On October 9, 2012, the community of Northwest Connecticut said goodbye to a beloved community leader, a woman revered for her advocacy work, a woman who gave countless hours to improve the lives of children in the community she loved.

Mary Coutant was born Mary Humeston in 1941 in New Haven, the youngest of the six Humeston children. A high-energy athlete, young woman, Mary was an active member of the local YMCA, working with the Torrington YMCA as the Women and Girls Secretary and working as a camp counselor at the YMCA Camp Mohawk for Girls each summer.

She earned a degree in psychology from Springfield College in Massachusetts, a school with a strong athletic focus and historical partnership with YMCA USA. In 1964, she established the Winchester Youth Service Bureau, an agency that functions as a case manager for families of at-risk children, helping them to access agencies and resources, so their children’s experience success at school, at home, and in the community.

“Mary was a force for good,” Foundation President Guy Rosezzi said. “And her contributions to the welfare of our community, especially where it concerns children, will be felt for generations to come.”

Over the course of her life, Mary received the Torrington Rotary Club’s Paul Harris Fellowship award, was named Person of the Year by the Torrington UNICO Club, and earned the Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Connecticut’s Community Leader Award.

In recognition of Mary’s contributions to the community in 2001, recently renamed The Mary H. Coutant Fund for the Summer Fun Camp was established at the Foundation.

In her youth, Mary served as a Counselor in Training at Camp Mohawk, developing leadership skills, including public speaking, teaching and counseling. She met her husband, Roger Coutant, at the camp in 1965.

“Our expectation is that every girl is going to go home and change the world as a positive force for good in the community.”

Camp Mohawk and Foundation Fundholders Help Girls Reach Their Potential

For almost 70 years, Camp Mohawk in Litchfield has helped girls and young women from Northwest Conn. and around the world build confidence, home skills and work toward reaching their potentials. From June 23 – August 17, more than 700 girls across the camp for one or two weeks of activities, including swimming, horseback riding, animal husbandry, arts and sports programs and curriculum that develops their confidence, leadership, communication and teamwork skills.

“Every activity at the camp has a curriculum,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director. “We push our girls and our staff to continue in their personal growth, knowledge and appreciation of themselves. Our expectation is that every girl is going to go home and change the world as a positive force for good in the community.”

Camp activities are geared toward girls learning about themselves and their relationship to their natural environment as well as how to work as a member of a team. Girls work in pairs or in groups to push themselves to support and encourage each other. Every night in the cabins, they sit down for a counselor led non-demonstrative discussion about values, spirituality and their relationships with their natural environment. Camp counselors meet with each camper individually on the front porch of the cabin to discuss her day, including any happy experiences, frustrations and comments about activities.

In 2012, 700 campers attended Camp Mohawk using financial scholarships, a number that grows every year. Marchand hopes that number will represent 10 percent of campers by 2015.

“Her contributions to the welfare of our community, especially where it concerns children, will be felt for generations to come.”

Mary H. Coutant Fund

Mary was a Legacy of Love and Leadership

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In 1960, Mary Coutant was Mary Humeston, a teenage girl attending Camp Mohawk, a camp for girls nestled among 1,500 acres of state forest in the hills of Northwest Connecticut. As a Counselor in Training (CIT), Mary worked to develop leadership, public speaking, teaching and counseling skills. During her time at Camp Mohawk, she served as assistant waterfront director, senior unit director and eventually led the CIT program. In 1962, she met another fellow camp counselor named Roger Coutant; the two married four years later in 1967.

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In addition to establishing The Mary H. Coutant Fund for Rising Star Camp, Mary bequested seed money to Camp Mohawk for the establishment of a non-restricted fund. The Camp Mohawk Fund will support Camp Mohawk and enable others to continue Mary’s legacy by including the Camp in their estate planning.

Mary Coutant’s Legacy Lives at Camp Mohawk

“Mary was a force for good,” said Foundation President Guy Rosezzi. “Her contributions to the welfare of our community, especially where it concerns children, will be felt for generations to come.”

Mary was a Legacy of Love and Leadership

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In 1960, Mary Coutant was Mary Humeston, a teenage girl attending Camp Mohawk, a camp for girls nestled among 1,500 acres of state forest in the hills of Northwest Connecticut. As a Counselor in Training (CIT), Mary worked to develop leadership, public speaking, teaching and counseling skills. During her time at Camp Mohawk, she served as assistant waterfront director, senior unit director and eventually led the CIT program. In 1962, she met another fellow camp counselor named Roger Coutant; the two married four years later in 1967.

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In addition to establishing The Mary H. Coutant Fund for Rising Star Camp, Mary bequested seed money to Camp Mohawk for the establishment of a non-restricted fund. The Camp Mohawk Fund will support Camp Mohawk and enable others to continue Mary’s legacy by including the Camp in their estate planning.

Mary Coutant’s Legacy Lives at Camp Mohawk

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In 1960, Mary Coutant was Mary Humeston, a teenage girl attending Camp Mohawk, a camp for girls nestled among 1,500 acres of state forest in the hills of Northwest Connecticut. As a Counselor in Training (CIT), Mary worked to develop leadership, public speaking, teaching and counseling skills. During her time at Camp Mohawk, she served as assistant waterfront director, senior unit director and eventually led the CIT program. In 1962, she met another fellow camp counselor named Roger Coutant; the two married four years later in 1967.

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In addition to establishing The Mary H. Coutant Fund for Rising Star Camp, Mary bequested seed money to Camp Mohawk for the establishment of a non-restricted fund. The Camp Mohawk Fund will support Camp Mohawk and enable others to continue Mary’s legacy by including the Camp in their estate planning.

Mary Coutant’s Legacy Lives at Camp Mohawk

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In 1960, Mary Coutant was Mary Humeston, a teenage girl attending Camp Mohawk, a camp for girls nestled among 1,500 acres of state forest in the hills of Northwest Connecticut. As a Counselor in Training (CIT), Mary worked to develop leadership, public speaking, teaching and counseling skills. During her time at Camp Mohawk, she served as assistant waterfront director, senior unit director and eventually led the CIT program. In 1962, she met another fellow camp counselor named Roger Coutant; the two married four years later in 1967.

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In addition to establishing The Mary H. Coutant Fund for Rising Star Camp, Mary bequested seed money to Camp Mohawk for the establishment of a non-restricted fund. The Camp Mohawk Fund will support Camp Mohawk and enable others to continue Mary’s legacy by including the Camp in their estate planning.

Mary Coutant’s Legacy Lives at Camp Mohawk

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In 1960, Mary Coutant was Mary Humeston, a teenage girl attending Camp Mohawk, a camp for girls nestled among 1,500 acres of state forest in the hills of Northwest Connecticut. As a Counselor in Training (CIT), Mary worked to develop leadership, public speaking, teaching and counseling skills. During her time at Camp Mohawk, she served as assistant waterfront director, senior unit director and eventually led the CIT program. In 1962, she met another fellow camp counselor named Roger Coutant; the two married four years later in 1967.

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In addition to establishing The Mary H. Coutant Fund for Rising Star Camp, Mary bequested seed money to Camp Mohawk for the establishment of a non-restricted fund. The Camp Mohawk Fund will support Camp Mohawk and enable others to continue Mary’s legacy by including the Camp in their estate planning.

Mary Coutant’s Legacy Lives at Camp Mohawk

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In 1960, Mary Coutant was Mary Humeston, a teenage girl attending Camp Mohawk, a camp for girls nestled among 1,500 acres of state forest in the hills of Northwest Connecticut. As a Counselor in Training (CIT), Mary worked to develop leadership, public speaking, teaching and counseling skills. During her time at Camp Mohawk, she served as assistant waterfront director, senior unit director and eventually led the CIT program. In 1962, she met another fellow camp counselor named Roger Coutant; the two married four years later in 1967.

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In addition to establishing The Mary H. Coutant Fund for Rising Star Camp, Mary bequested seed money to Camp Mohawk for the establishment of a non-restricted fund. The Camp Mohawk Fund will support Camp Mohawk and enable others to continue Mary’s legacy by including the Camp in their estate planning.

Mary Coutant’s Legacy Lives at Camp Mohawk

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In 1960, Mary Coutant was Mary Humeston, a teenage girl attending Camp Mohawk, a camp for girls nestled among 1,500 acres of state forest in the hills of Northwest Connecticut. As a Counselor in Training (CIT), Mary worked to develop leadership, public speaking, teaching and counseling skills. During her time at Camp Mohawk, she served as assistant waterfront director, senior unit director and eventually led the CIT program. In 1962, she met another fellow camp counselor named Roger Coutant; the two married four years later in 1967.

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In addition to establishing The Mary H. Coutant Fund for Rising Star Camp, Mary bequested seed money to Camp Mohawk for the establishment of a non-restricted fund. The Camp Mohawk Fund will support Camp Mohawk and enable others to continue Mary’s legacy by including the Camp in their estate planning.

Mary Coutant’s Legacy Lives at Camp Mohawk

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In 1960, Mary Coutant was Mary Humeston, a teenage girl attending Camp Mohawk, a camp for girls nestled among 1,500 acres of state forest in the hills of Northwest Connecticut. As a Counselor in Training (CIT), Mary worked to develop leadership, public speaking, teaching and counseling skills. During her time at Camp Mohawk, she served as assistant waterfront director, senior unit director and eventually led the CIT program. In 1962, she met another fellow camp counselor named Roger Coutant; the two married four years later in 1967.

“Mary emanated the spirit and energy of Camp Mohawk,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director.

In addition to establishing The Mary H. Coutant Fund for Rising Star Camp, Mary bequested seed money to Camp Mohawk for the establishment of a non-restricted fund. The Camp Mohawk Fund will support Camp Mohawk and enable others to continue Mary’s legacy by including the Camp in their estate planning.
Mary Coutant, A Legacy of Love and Leadership

On October 9, 2012, the community of Northwest Connecticut said goodbye to a beloved community leader, a woman revered for her advocacy work, a woman who gave countless hours to improve the lives of children in the community she loved.

Mary Coutant was born Mary Humes in 1941 in New Haven, the youngest of the six Humes children. A high-energy athletic young woman, Mary was an active member of the local YMCA, working with the Torrington YMCA with YMCA USA. In 1961, she earned a degree in psychology from Springfield College in Massachusetts, a school with a strong athletic focus and historical partnership with YMCA USA. In 1970, she established the Winchuck Youth Service Bureau, an agency that functions as a case manager for families of at-risk children, helping them to access agencies and resources, so their children can experience success at school, at home and in the community.

Mary was a force for good, said Foundation President Guy Rovezzi. “And her contributions to the welfare of our community, especially where it concerns children, will be felt for generations to come.”

In recognition of Mary’s contributions to the community in 2001, Recently renamed The Mary H. Coutant Fund for the Summer Fun Club was established at the Foundation. The Fund will support Camp Mohawk and enable others to continue Mary’s legacy by including the seed money to Camp Mohawk for the establishment of a non-restricted fund.

In 1996, Mary was named Person of the Year by the Torrington UNICO Club; and earned the Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Connecticut’s Community Leader Award. Mary was named President of the Year by the Torrington UNICO Club, and earned the Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Connecticut’s Community Leader Award.

The Mary H. Coutant Fund for the Summer Fun Club was established at the Foundation in 2001. Recently renamed The Mary H. Coutant Fund for the Summer Fun Club was established at the Foundation in 2001. Recently renamed The Mary H. Coutant Fund for Rising Star Camp, the endowment is used to support programs that benefit at-risk children through the Winchester Youth Service Bureau aged 5 to 15 by encouraging healthy choices and goal-setting.

Mary Coutant’s Legacy Lives at Camp Mohawk

Throughout her life, Mary worked to develop leadership, public speaking, teaching and counseling skills. During her time at Camp Mohawk, she served as assistant waterfront director, senior unit director and eventually led the CIT program. In 1962, she met Fred Petersen, another fellow camp counselor named Roger Coutant; the two married four years later in 1967.

Mary earned a degree in psychology from Springfield College in Massachusetts, a school with a strong athletic focus and historical partnership with YMCA USA. In 1970, she established the Winchuck Youth Service Bureau, an agency that functions as a case manager for families of at-risk children, helping them to access agencies and resources, so their children can experience success at school, at home and in the community.

Fred Petersen, Public Servant, Veteran’s Advocate, Compassionate Man

Fred Petersen served on the Foundation Board for eight years. He passed away in October of 2012.

Fred Petersen was a man of many talents and interests. He served on the Foundation Board for eight years and was a member of the local YMCA, working with the Torrington YMCA with YMCA USA.

He was a force for good, said Foundation President Guy Rovezzi. “And her contributions to the welfare of our community, especially where it concerns children, will be felt for generations to come.”

“From firefighter and ambulance driver to railway policeman and Boy Scout leader, dad was active in the community—wherever he was,” Mary Elizabeth Whedaker said of her father, who was born and raised in Newport, RI.

Fred’s passion for public service and his compassion for others made him the ideal community leader, as his resume readily proves.

“Fred was a big, strong, Indiana man, the man of the family,” said Mary. “He was always there for us.”

Fred’s love of sports and the outdoors continued into his later years. He was an avid golfer, enjoying the company of friends as they battled on the course. He was also an accomplished musician, playing the accordion and guitar. Fred was a man of many talents and interests, and he passed away in October of 2012.

Camp Mohawk and Foundation Fundholders Help Girls Reach Their Potential

Almost 50 years, Camp Mohawk in Litchfield has helped girls and young women from Northwest Conn. and around the world build confidence, home skills and work toward reaching their potentials. From June 30 – August 17, more than 700 girls across the camp for one or two week activities, including swimming, horseback riding, animal husbandry, arts and sports programs and curriculum that develops their confidence, leadership, communication and teamwork skills.

“Every activity at the Camp has a curriculum,” said Fran Marchand Camp Mohawk Executive Director. “We push our girls and our staff to continue in their personal growth, knowledge and appreciation of themselves. Our expectation is that every girl is going to grow and change the world as a positive force for good in the community.”

Camp activities are geared toward girls learning about themselves and their relationship to their natural environment as well as how to work as a member of a team. Girls work in pairs or in groups, learning to push themselves and support and encourage each other. Every night in the cabins, they sit down for a counselor led non-demonstrational discussion about values, spirituality and their relationships with their natural environment. Camp counselors meet with each camper individually on the front porch of the cabin to discuss her day, including any happy experiences, frustrations and comments about activities.

In 2012, 70 campers attended Camp Mohawk using financial scholarships, a number that grew every year. Marchand hopes that number will represent 10 percent of campers by 2015.

Our expectation is that every girl is going to go home and change the world as a positive force for good in the community.

Camp Mohawk and Foundation Fundholders Help Girls Reach Their Potential

The Foundation recently awarded Camp Mohawk $5,000 through the Carlton D. Fyler and Jenny R. Fyler Fund toward camp scholarships, an award that will provide a week at camp for seven girls. The Carl D. Fyler and Jenny R. Fyler Fund was established in 1988 through the Fylers’ unrestricted gift of $1 million.

Mohan Camp Trustees believe in a ‘take every girl who wants to come’ philosophy, and we count on our generous donors to help meet that goal for our girls,” said Marchand.

Camp Mohawk receives financial support through several funds managed by the Foundation. The Cindy Morse Leadership Development Fund was established in 2006 in honor of her father, a former Camp Mohawk program director and trustee who was dedicated to the development of the Camp. The fund supports the camp counselor leadership training program. The Arlene Foulke Memorial Fund, established in 2008, provides college scholarships to Camp Mohawk counselors. In 2012, a new fund was established through the legacy of Mary Coutant, a longtime advocate for women and girls and a former Camp Mohawk counselor. The fund supports spiritual and Camp Mohawk staff to use monies wherever they are needed, including new signs for the camp, which is currently underway.

Providing for Momentum: New Funds Benefit Community

One Twenty One Fund, established as a donor-advised fund supporting charitable, scientific, and educational initiatives primarily in Northwest Connecticut.

The Litchfield Garden Club Centennial Fund, established in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Garden Club’s 1913 founding. The endowed charitable fund supports projects and programs in the greater Litchfield area in the fields of gardening, horticulture, civic beautification, environmental awareness, and historic preservation.

Camp Mohawk Fund, established through a gift from Mary Coutant, a longtime advocate for women and girls and a former Camp Mohawk counselor. The unrestricted fund supports Camp Mohawk, a camp for girls in Litchfield County.

Mary and Fran are an inspiration to us all. Their vision is what makes the work we do possible,” said Camp Mohawk Executive Director Fran Marchand.

Mary and Fran are an inspiration to us all. Their vision is what makes the work we do possible,” said Camp Mohawk Executive Director Fran Marchand.

“Camp Mohawk is an opportunity to help girls develop those social and leadership skills,” said Marchand. “But it’s also an environment where they can develop a relationship to nature and understand the world as a positive force for good in the community.”