
THE LEGACY OF CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE

NEWCOMBE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS



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, since 1981, the Newcombe Foundation has provided grants totaling over 40,000 Newcombe Scholarships, totaling \$50 million, through the Foundation's programs for Mature Students, for Students with Disabilities, and selected populations of students with financial need. In addition, the Foundation has supported over 1,300 Doctoral candidates with over \$20 million in Fellowship support.

NEWCOMBE FOUNDATION PROGRAMS: SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- [Newcombe Scholarships for Mature Students](#) support completion of bachelor's degrees by students 25 years of age or older who need financial assistance at selected colleges and universities. These scholarships reduce dependence on loans and recognize the challenges faced by those who seek higher education while juggling family and work commitments.
- [Newcombe Scholarships for Students with Disabilities](#) support students with financial need who have physical, medical, learning, or psychological disabilities and who are seeking to complete their degrees. Scholarships may be applied to tuition or may be used to offset some disability-related expenses that are not met by other resources.
- [Special Scholarship Endowments](#) are intended to support a specified group of economically disadvantaged students who are served by selected institutions and whose need for financial aid is not adequately met by available sources.
- [Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships](#) are designed to encourage original and significant study of ethical and religious values in all areas of human endeavor. Awards are based on a rigorous national competition administered by The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

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