Patty Barton was a long-time member of the Zonta Club of the Coos Bay Area. When she passed away in 2018 a scholarship fund was established in her name. The intent of the scholarship is to provide on-going support to a student who has overcome a significant life challenge, just as Patty did during her early years.

Widowed at 28, Patty was left alone to raise her two daughters. She worked hard to give them a good life. She loved to work with numbers and was employed as an accountant and bookkeeper for various companies. Patty married Jon Barton in 1990 and they moved to Coos Bay in 1994. While they loved to travel to visit family, their commitment to our community always brought them home to their friends and projects.

Her life here was full – she shared many hours with several organizations including Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) as a volunteer for 15 years and the Coos County Friends of Public Health. Her membership in the Zonta Club gave her opportunities to support women and be supported by women. Patty’s many friends appreciated her fashion sense, personal style, warm heart and generosity. She is mostly remembered as a “counselor and supporter, a strong woman with a big heart who reached out to other women to help them improve their lives.”

Providing educational opportunities for young women facing challenges, as she once did as a single parent, was Patty’s passion. With that in mind, the Zonta Club, along with the support of Jon Barton, established the Patty J Barton Memorial Scholarship in 2016. Over the last two years the fund has grown substantially through many contributions. The club is proud to announce that the first scholarship will be awarded in 2020. It is designed to support a student during their efforts to obtain a degree. Upon meeting the requirements, the recipient will be eligible for up to a maximum of $20,000. The scholarship fund is administered by the Coos Bay Area Zonta Service Foundation.

The Zonta Club members feel that Patty would be proud of their effort to continue her support of others. Both Jon and Patty have and continue to support the Bay Area – for that we are thankful!