

EPSILON ETA / LINDA CRONIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The **Epsilon Eta/Linda Cronin Memorial Scholarship** was established by Epsilon Eta Chapter #2001 of ESA International in Topeka, Kansas on March 24, 1992 in honor of their sister, Linda Cronin, who died of cancer. The scholarship is designated for a Shawnee County resident in Kansas attending any university or college in Kansas with any major. The first scholarship was awarded was in 1993.

Judging Criteria A: This scholarship is weighted evenly to Financial Need and Scholastic Ability: Scoring 100 points, the distribution is 10 points for Character, 20 points for Leadership, 10 points for Service, 30 points for Financial Need and 30 points for Scholastic Ability.

Epsilon Eta was chartered on May 24, 1953 in Topeka, Kansas. Its members have been active at all levels of ESA International. Philanthropic projects supported by this chapter include: St Jude Children=s Research Hospital; Heartspring; Easter Seal; Topeka Association for Retarded Children; Topeka State Hospital; County Home; Stormont-Vail Hospital; St Francis Hospital; Head Start; KNI; KTWU public television; Families Together; March of Dimes; Rescue Mission; Lung Association; Heart Association; Leukemia Society; Christmas Bureau; Let=s Help; Salvation Army; and the Disabled American Veterans. Support is provided in the form of fund raising, gifts-in-kind, and volunteer hours.

In 1992 the Epsilon Eta/Linda Cronin Memorial Scholarship was established in honor of their sister Linda Cronin who died of cancer. Linda Cronin was the wife of Joseph and mother of James and David. Linda worked for the State Department of Transportation before having her family. At the onset of her illness, she was secretary for her church, AChrist, the King@. Linda was a very giving person, open to change and always willing to serve. She was very active in Epsilon Sigma Alpha International on both the state and local level. However, her course was shortened. She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and died within ninety days.

When the Expo Center opened in the Topeka area, the Epsilon Eta Chapter worked in food services for numerous years. Over the course of accumulation of these monies, and through interest in the ESA Foundation, Linda=s dream was to create a scholarship.

Linda had set the wheels in motion; the Chapter got information about the ESA Foundation Endowment Fund, and through love and determination to their deceased sister, funds were accrued for the \$500 scholarship to be given in her name each year. Her Epsilon Eta sisters kept this funded until recent years, when District A Council of ESA in Kansas took up the responsibility for keeping the endowment funded.

During Linda=s sorority years, she worked the Marian Clinic, ERC (Every Woman=s Research Center), Sheltered Living, Families Together, TARC (Topeka Assn. of Retarded Children), Goodwill Industries, and Let=s Help.

The friends and members of the Kansas State Council of ESA International have established and/or

support several ESA Foundation endowments for students. Endowments established by Kansas members are: **Kansas State Council Endowment, Lamplighter Memorial Endowment – Kansas, Epsilon Eta/Linda Cronin Memorial Endowment, and the Jack & Lucille Crossno Memorial Endowment.**

(ESA International is a Women's organization founded in 1929. Epsilon Sigma Alpha International (ESA) is a premier leadership and service organization that brings volunteers together to pursue programs and projects that make a positive difference locally, nationally and internationally. It is dedicated to developing confidence, competence, and career opportunity for each and every member; ESA promotes education, service, and association through programs that focus on personal development and leadership training. The ESA Foundation is a 501 C 3 public foundation established in 1970 and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as an organization exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. It is a non-profit and tax-exempt organization pledged to develop philanthropic activities of volunteers, provide assistance to established programs that serve human need, and produce new programs that improve the quality of life. A major source of the ESA Foundation's membership comes from the ESA membership but anyone can join.)