Behind nearly every named scholarship lies a personal story, few of which illustrate the principle more clearly than the Jeffrey Ralston Foundation Scholarship, established in the late 1990s to support students interested in careers. It was her goal to have the foundation in his memory to help students majoring in law and justice come from all over the state and had diverse interests in that broad field.

The first recipient was Lori Granato ’98 of Waterford Works in South Jersey, who 11 years later still vividly recalls meeting Mrs. Brooks over lunch. Granato says she never did really understand why she was selected, for she was headed for law school and was prepared to borrow money for college.

But Mrs. Brooks was willing to accept that shift and, by supporting Granato’s undergraduate years, enabled her to afford law school.

“I did meet her after I was told about the scholarship,” Granato said, “and found her to be an absolutely wonderful lady. When she told me about her son, that really impressed me, and I worked very hard all the way through school because of what she did for me and because it all was done in her memory.”

Granato did go on to law school and then went to work for a Philadelphia firm (now Pattern Analysis, Inc.) that investigates medical provider fraud, largely by physicians accused of defrauding insurance companies. She also is pursuing a master’s in business administration at Rowan University. She and her husband, Shawn Smith, live in Sicklerville with their nine-month-old boy, Tyler.

By 1999, Mrs. Brooks was again thinking of graduate school, but now works as a public records researcher for a private firm, County House Research, doing security records checks for private clients in the Philadelphia area.

Berenotto, an active alumnus, was on campus recently and met a parent of a current Ralston scholarship recipient. A single mother, she told Berenotto how much the scholarship had meant to her and her son.

“I think it’s working out well,” he said. “We’re trying to do it exactly as Betsy wanted, and the scholarships are really making a difference.”

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