



## **Harold Vickrey Memorial Scholarship** *Administered by the Greater Kent Historical Society*

Before preparing this application, review the criteria outlined below. The application must be received by **March 31, 2024**. Please address your application to the GKHS Scholarship Committee. You can submit your application [on our website](#) or send your application via email or mail to:

Email: [admin@kenthistoricalmuseum.org](mailto:admin@kenthistoricalmuseum.org)

Mailing address: Greater Kent Historical Society  
855 E. Smith St.  
Kent, WA 98030

### **Background and Information**

This scholarship was created through the generosity of Jamie and Svetlana Vickrey and community members of Kent. The purpose is to provide students the opportunity to pursue general studies at any accredited post high school institution.

The scholarship will be awarded to a student who believes in the value of family-owned businesses and who demonstrates a commitment to community service. The scholarship is a one-time payment of \$2,000 and will be paid directly to the institution.

Applicants must be a graduating senior attending any Kent high school, public and private, OR graduating seniors who have a Kent mailing address. We are looking for applicants with passion, drive, and curiosity.

### **Required Application Materials**

The following items must be included with the application:

1. Applicant Background form.
2. Unofficial transcript (or latest report card).
3. Two letters of recommendation: one school-based and one community-based.
4. *Essay:* Please tell us how small and family-owned businesses contribute value to the City of Kent, and how community service helps build connections for all residents.  
*300 words recommended; maximum 500 words.*

## About Harold Vickrey

Harold was the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of his mother's family to call Kent home. He told his family to the end, he never wanted to live anywhere else but his hometown.

As a teenager, Harold worked in the crop fields of the Kent Valley, delivered newspapers, worked as an usher in the local theater, helped log old-growth stumps, and even worked on the ferry, Kalakala. After his mother died, he quit school to work for Safeway. Once his boss learned he had quit school, he told Harold he had to go back to school but could keep his job at the store, and later became the store's assistant manager. Shortly thereafter, he also began driving a school bus for the Kent School District.



Harold opened Kent's first drive-in restaurant called "Harold's Royal Freeze" in 1954, with a second location called "Harold's Drive-In." On the first day of business, it snowed, and the drive-in took in less than \$3. The drive-in's first cash register was a muffin tin. Harold always produced a quality product, including the Royal Burger, hand cutting his own French Fries daily, using fresh ingredients, and was one of the first in the Seattle area to sell halibut fish and chips, filleting the whole fish himself into a finished product.

Four generations of Harold's family worked at the business, and he employed generations of Kent teenagers, supported local sports teams, and created a gathering place for the community.

In 1992, Harold retired from the drive-in business, and once again worked for the Kent School District, eventually as Head Custodian at Kentridge High School, retiring in 2016, shortly before his 86th birthday. Harold volunteered in his community, and on two different occasions, the city named a day in his honor.

He was blessed to be loved by so many in his community. He was a good, decent, honest person; always optimistic, with a friendly smile. As so many people witnessed over the years, he had an incredible work ethic.

"I was one of those teenagers employed at Harold's Drive-In the early 1960's. This was the local teens gathering spot. A place to get a good hamburger, flirt with girls, show off your car or hang out. Harold brought out the best in young people. He expected hard work and we never let him down."

-Nancy Simpson

Former GKHS president

*Harold was a role model to students and adults in demonstrating the value of hard work and service to others.*