The Mitzie Holliday Memorial Fund was established to honor Hermina "Mitzie" Holliday, a hardworking single mother whose legacy of sacrifice and generosity will benefit women for generations to come.

Born to Polish immigrants in 1932, Mitzie grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When her father passed away in 1945, Mitzie left the 9th grade to take care of her mother. She'd never finish her formal education—a fact that proved problematic many years later, when Mitzie escaped a bad marriage and was left to raise her son, Jim, with minimal support.

She struggled to make ends meet. "She held honorable jobs," says Jim—the Kaufmann's bake department and the Heinz production floor among them—but she never made much money. "She survived, and I don't know how," Jim says. "She may have only had a 9th-grade education, but she was the smartest person I ever knew."

Despite a meager income, Mitzie managed to help her son through college. Higher education changed their lives: Jim majored in engineering, and his subsequent job at Westinghouse gave both he and his mother the comfort and security they'd lacked for so long.

If Mitzie had had a better education, Jim realized, life might have been easier for her. "That's the motivation for the fund," he says.