Keeping alive the spirit of Glen Oak School and its philosophy of “Person, Service and Love” prompted the school’s alumnae to establish an endowment fund when Gilmour Academy and Glen Oak merged in the early 1980s.

Each year a junior girl from the Academy is selected to receive the Glen Oak Scholarship Award to apply toward her senior year at Gilmour. Juniors are invited to write an essay on how Glen Oak’s motto is relevant to them. Leadership, extracurricular activities and service to school and community are considered, according to Mary Alexander Ray ’75, Glen Oak Scholarship Committee Chairwoman.

“The scholarship was established to empower young women with an opportunity to fulfill their dreams,” explains Ray, a 1999 recipient of Gilmour’s Alumni of the Year Award. A former Gilmour parent, Ray’s daughters, Genevieve ’04 and Mary Madeleine ’09, and son, Colin ’05, all graduated from the Academy.

Faculty and junior instructors nominate students with a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher. Members of the Glen Oak Scholarship Committee, consisting of alumnae and the school’s former faculty, conduct blind reviews of the essays and interview semifinalists.

Holly Rapp ’12, the 2011 scholarship recipient, is considering a career in international relations and already is a global ambassador. She spent her summer studying the Turkish language in Istanbul after she was awarded a U.S. State Department National Security Language Initiative for Youth Scholarship. Last spring Rapp participated in a State Department exchange program in Serbia and an International Partners in Mission trip to El Salvador.

The Gilmour senior is active with the Cleveland Council on World Affairs and Look Up to Cleveland. As a Gilmour Catalyst student, she was immersed in ongoing, long-term research to discover how science works, and worked on microbiology research at Case Western Reserve University. She is on the Honor Council, is treasurer of the National Honor Society and is co-captain of the Girls Cross Country team.

In her scholarship essay, Rapp wrote, “...the most important outcome of my Gilmour education is not actualized within the confines of the classroom...” but rather “how to be a person for others who serves with love and compassion.”