Gail C. and Joseph J. Parnicky of Columbus, Ohio, have made a gift of $25,000 to establish the Dr. Joseph John Parnicky Scholarship for MRDD or Mental Health. The scholarships are available for undergraduate or graduate students with financial need who are focusing their studies on the area of mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Joseph has had a long and distinguished career as a psychologist specializing in childhood adjustment issues. He came to Ohio State in 1968 as a full-time professor and held a joint appointment with what was then known as the School of Social Work of the College of Administrative Science and the College of Medicine. He served as the program coordinator and chief of social services at the Herschel W. Nisonger Center. Parnicky became a full-time faculty member in the College of Social Work in 1978 and retired in 1988.

As a professor, he witnessed the financial struggles that many students faced. He wanted to give back and help alleviate some of the pressures for future Buckeyes. “Ohio State is a commendable institution,” he said, “and I hope that our gift will help to make a difference for many students for the future.”

William Meezan, dean of the College of Social Work, expressed his gratitude to the Parnickys for their generosity. “Scholarship support is of utmost importance to the college, and when an emeritus faculty shows such loyalty and dedication to our current students, it shows recognition for the excellence of our educational programs,” he said. “It also shows that our emeritus faculty can appreciate the need to reduce the debt load of our students, particularly given the low starting salaries in the field.”

The Parnickys continue to give annually to a number of organizations that focus on humanitarian issues.