

## Dr. Louise Merrimon Perry Conservation Fund for Girls (LMP Fund for Girls)



Dr. Louise Perry retired to Sanibel, where she provided free eye exams for children.

This endowed fund honors the life of Dr. Louise Merrimon Perry, the first woman to donate land to the Refuge, protecting the coastal Perry Tract on Sanibel Island. The Dr. Louise Merrimon Perry Conservation Fund for Girls, known familiarly as the LMP Fund for Girls, honors the highly respected ophthalmologist and malacologist who retired to Sanibel Island.

Dr. Perry valued and appreciated the island's wildlife and understood the importance of protecting its habitat from future development. Upon her passing in 1962, she donated her 4-plus acre beachfront property to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to maintain as a safe haven for wildlife. The Perry Tract lies adjacent to Gulfside City Park, where DDWS and the Refuge installed a kiosk for beach visitors to learn more about Dr. Perry, the shells and wildlife they may find, and the importance of helping to protect and preserve the land.

Dr. Perry's family established the endowed conservation fund to support women in the field of conservation and those -- who as

teachers, program leaders, or in other such roles -- are impacting the lives of girls by inspiring future conservation stewards. The family hoped that others who believe in the impact of supporting women in conservation would also choose to lend support. The fund was unveiled in 2020 for International Women's Day, and many people since then have contributed to it.

Throughout history, women have made and continue to make a significant impact in conservation, but their contributions often go unrecognized. The LMP Fund for Girls will allow the Refuge and DDWS to recognize and support women making small and large differences in conservation and at the same time honor Dr. Louise Merrimon Perry.

"Ding" Darling will celebrate the LMP Fund each year during International Women's Day, which began in 1911 to pay tribute to the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women all over the world.

*Individuals, families, businesses, or foundations interested in making a gift to support the LMP Fund for Girls can visit [dingdarlingsociety.org](https://dingdarlingsociety.org) and click the donate button.*

*To learn more about establishing your own permanent endowed fund, call 239-472-1100 ext. 4. Donors can establish an endowment with a gift of \$10,000 or more. Proceeds earned by the investment go towards supporting the Refuge mission.*

Read about the Perry Tract's interpretive kiosk: <https://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/perry-tract>