

THE SWINFORD FAMILY CHARITABLE FUND

A DONOR ADVISED FUND

By Marilyn Metzger

Troy Swinford was born in Havana, Illinois. After graduating from the University of Illinois in 1976 he came to Decatur and worked for Murphy, Jenne, and Jones, which later went through several mergers.



Now Troy is a CPA at BKD, LLP.

On August 29, 1989 Troy married Patti Rath, who had also worked at Murphy, Jenne, and Jones. They have four children. Patti was PTA treasurer at Stevenson Elementary School; now the children attend Parsons School. She is a seamstress and makes some of the children's clothing.

When Troy came to Decatur he found nothing but good things here. He said he could have chosen to go to a large metropolitan area, but said, "No, that's not for me." Though this community, like any other, has its problems, he enjoys it here. He has a great job and highly recommends Decatur to others. He says, "Decatur is not St. Louis, Chicago, or Minneapolis, but large enough for good opportunities."

Troy and Patti are both active in the community. Patti helps with dinner downtown for the homeless. The family has supported Northwest Baseball and many building projects such as the YMCA, Easter Seals, Decatur Arts Council and The Little Theatre. Troy is a member of the Board of Directors of The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County. They have also supported the American Cancer Society where Troy has served on the board, and the Boys and Girls Club, where he has served as treasurer. They are active in the First United Methodist Church where Troy serves as a member of the Pastor Parish Committee. The Swinfords actively support the University of Illinois, as Troy wants to give back to his alma mater.

The Swinfords feel that their children should learn philanthropy at an early age, and they have made this a family affair by setting up the Swinford Family Fund at The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County. Each year in the late fall they take one evening, go out for a special dinner, and as a family discuss local organizations they want to make a donation to. They talk about the homeless, elderly, medical facilities, and agencies supporting kids.

The two older children decided last year that a donation should be made to Oasis. The Boys and Girls Club is their choice for 2006. Troy says they have the concept of giving down pat, and he has been surprised and pleased at their understanding and their choices.

Marilyn Metzger is writing a history of the 97 funds held by The Community Foundation to be published late in 2006. Marilyn has worked at The Community Foundation in the business office since 2002.

