

The Community Foundation focus

Winter 2013

The Community Foundation
OF MACON COUNTY

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“Happy Days . . .” McCoys’ Scholarships Reflect Fond Memories and Financial Generosity

Longtime local philanthropist and retired pharmacist Jack McCoy carries many fond memories of attending high school at St. Teresa. Proud to be a member of the St. T. Class of 1955, McCoy also has a delightful knack for telling senior year tales as if they happened yesterday.

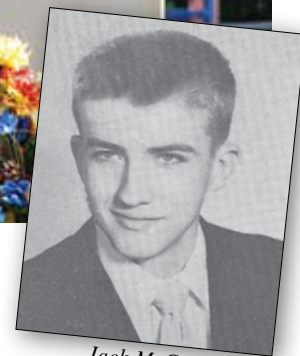
“I remember when about eleven of the guys ducked out of a field trip to the Courthouse and went over to Decatur High Senior Day,” McCoy says. “As punishment, we had to miss our senior day. Sister Terese put us in the typing room, but while she walked the hall, some of us snuck out the window and headed to Crows Super Market. We decided to cool it, though, before we got into more trouble.”

Following high school graduation and throughout his years at Millikin University and Purdue University, McCoy’s ties to St. Teresa stayed tight. And, in time, his loyalty segued into a generous financial commitment: The John E. (“Jack”) McCoy and Barbara A. Witzeman McCoy Scholarships. Established and held through The Community Foundation, \$50,000 from this \$1 million fund is awarded annually to St. Teresa for forty \$1,250 scholarships or fifty \$1,000 scholarships. It is perpetually dedicated to funding tuition for St. Teresa incoming freshman Catholic students, based on need, who may re-

apply throughout their high school years. The scholarships not only honor the sisters and priests and family members, but also honor all the graduates from the 1950s.

“My vision was to support students in need of assistance, and I was determined to do that,” McCoy says. “But it wouldn’t have happened without The Community Foundation. They became part of what I wanted to do.”

The scholarships also will connect to naming opportunities throughout the school — specifically, to family, classmates, and special instructors that McCoy wished to honor. The St. Teresa gymnasium will be named for longtime coach and athletic director Joe Venturi, whose 1953 varsity basketball team went to the State Tournament. The high school’s football field commemorates the eras of Ed Boehm, Scott Davis, and Dick Munn, and is now named the Boehm-Davis-Munn Field.



*Jack McCoy
1955 yearbook photo*

— Continued on next



The Joy Of Giving

My mother always said that people give gifts they would like to receive themselves.

Our Winter issue of Focus highlights several examples of this truism. Giving what you love is fun, satisfying, and makes you want to do it again.

Jack McCoy loved his time at St. Teresa High School, and vividly recalls minute details about his classmates, teachers, and special High School events. He and his wife Barbara recently gave a generous gift that Jack would have loved to receive as a young high school student – financial support to attend what he considers the greatest high school around.

Johnnie Hanson loves motorcycles! That’s why he had such a great time helping Macon County Sheriff Tom Schneider buy the Sheriff’s Department a new Harley Davidson to beef up their patrol capacity.

The Decatur Gamers love playing board games, and they know there are active U.S. military personnel that love games, too. Raising funds to buy and ship games to troops around the world shows the passion these volunteers have for their hobby. And giving games to others is the perfect way to share the love.

As we enter this busy, hectic season of giving, think about what you would love to receive as a gift — and then relish the joy of giving it to someone else.

Merry, merry!

Wegi Stewart
President



St. Teresa’s football field was named for Ed Boehm, Scott Davis, and Dick Munn, who are pictured left to right.

McCoy *continued from front page*

And throughout the hallways of St. Teresa — reflected in both its students and its structure — the McCoy’s faith and love of family will be evident. “I added my parents’ and sisters’ names to plaques across from the Alumni Office, and added our sons’ and daughters’ names to a second set of plaques in the same hallway,” says McCoy. “I also had great admiration for the Ursuline nuns, and included Mother Patricia Ryan and Mother Alice Shaughnessy.

“We were all middle class, Catholic, and loved any chance to compete with District 61,” says McCoy of the 72 students in the Class of 1955. “By senior year, we really gelled, and there was a lot of camaraderie among us.”

Game On!

Since establishing a fund through The Community Foundation in May, Decatur Gamers’ “Games For Troops,” a local all-volunteer initiative, has raised around \$1,200 — a generous total that translates to twenty games shipped to troops overseas.

“Our most popular titles are Settlers of Catan, 7 Wonders, Carcassonne, and Ticket To Ride,” says organizer and Decatur Gamer Matt Williams. “But we’ll also happily fill a request for Clue if that’s what someone wants!”

Thanks to a game design company’s recent donation of 100 games, Decatur Gamers will team with Operation Enduring Support this holiday season to ship games with soldiers’ Christmas care packages.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, donations, or submitting names of troops to receive games, visit: www.gamesfortroops.org.





Education Coalition Reception Links Community Leaders and Elected Officials

More than fifty area “stakeholders,” all invested in fostering the best educational system in Illinois, gathered for the Education Coalition (EdCo) of Macon County’s VIP Reception, held Thursday evening, October 10, at the Madden Arts Center Anne Lloyd Gallery. Reception sponsors included Caterpillar Inc., The Brechnitz Group of Raymond James, The Decatur Area Arts Council, and The Community Foundation of Macon County.

The purpose of the inaugural event was to begin building a “community” of Macon County school board members and superintendents in order to address dynamics in public education. Attendees

were challenged to practice transformational leadership in order to meet educational goals.

“Coming from a small school district, I found it very valuable to network with professionals from a wide variety of educational backgrounds,” said attendee Vicki Carr, president of the Meridian School District Board of Education. “This group gets together because they really care about students and their communities.”

Decatur native and Caterpillar Inc. Supply Chain Manager Ron Ingram shared insights based on his experience as a team leader of the EdCo Grade-to-Grade Readiness team. “We delved

into the connections between poverty, mobility, and the educational outcomes for Decatur schoolchildren,” Ingram recalled. “There is no doubt in my mind that educational and economic outcomes are tied together in either a virtual cycle or, ultimately, a death spiral.”

Keynote speaker Illinois State Senator Andy Manar, who co-chairs the Advisory Committee on Education Funding, offered a progress report from Springfield. Legislators at the state capital have given themselves a February 1, 2014, deadline to draft a new funding formula bill.

“The problem isn’t that the funding formula has changed — it’s doing exactly what it was supported to do as prescribed by law,” said Manar of legislation that was adopted in 1998. “But in course of fifteen years, the world and the state *have* changed.”



CHANGE GROW

“Coming from a small school district, I found it very valuable to network with professionals from a wide variety of educational backgrounds. This group gets together because they really care about students and their communities.”

Vicki Carr, president
Meridian School District Board of Education

Re-vamping the education funding formula is a daunting challenge, Manar admitted, but he’s encouraged by what he sees.

“(The committee) has a very above-board bipartisan approach,” he said. “In recent months in the Senate, members have literally shed their party affiliations when they walk in the door because they know they have a job to do.

“The role of the state government is to provide a funding formula that is as equal as possible,” Manar added. “It must be sustainable — one that people can believe in and trust.”

Those in attendance appreciated the event and the discussion it facilitated.

“I understand accountability, but sometimes we ‘teach to the tests,’” said Carr. “As teachers, our job is to prepare students for what they want next in life, and that’s a wide range. How will

students know their options if we don’t show them through the educational system?”

“The best thing we can do is open up the conversation about education and provide opportunities for community collaboration, and that’s what happened at this event,” added District 61 School Board member and EdCo member Alida Graham.

“The connection to Springfield is also valuable. I had a great conversation with Senator Manar, and I know others did as well. It’s a win-win for him and for us.”

Supported and sustained through the generosity of donors to The Community Foundation, the mission of the Education Coalition is to “mobilize the community to improve Macon County through education.”



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Beginning September 30, 2013

- Charles Bell
- Dwayne Boone
- Roy P. Carruthers
- Paula J. Coate
- Mark A. Davis
- Judith I. Denton
- Elizabeth “Beth” Frederick
- Orville Franklin Frederick
- Mary Ann Harris
- Norma Gaffron-Holcomb
- Elsie James
- Tracy S. Logue
- Judy Mason
- Alice McLaughlin
- Lorraine R. Neal
- Neil “Speedy” Noland
- Sarah A. Patton
- Susan Piatt
- Dorothy A. Pittenger
- Connie R. Prawl
- Bernard E. Proeschl
- Lindsay Marie Sparks
- Sister Lucy Spinner, OSU
- Norman Lee Stewart
- Kathleen Zahner

HONOR GIFTS

Beginning September 30, 2013

- Carter H. Brantner
- Mary Galbreath
- Senator Andy Manar
- Carole Kindermann
- L. JoAnn Kindermann

You can make donations to any of these funds held by The Community Foundation, or start a fund of your own.

Arts/Culture

- Anne Lloyd Endowment for the Decatur Arts Center
- Blue Connection
- Blues in Central Park
- Children's Museum of Illinois Endowment
- Decatur Chess Club
- Louise A. Fathauer Memorial Scholarship for DAAC
- Theatre 7 Endowment

Community Development

- Beautify Decatur
- Clokey Park Neighborhood Association
- Communityworks Endowment
- Community Foundation Operating Endowment
- Decatur Earthmover Communityworks
- Decatur Plugged In
- Downtown Decatur Beautification
- Fall in Love with Maroa
- Greenwood Cemetery
- Governor Oglesby Mansion Endowment
- Grow Decatur
- Habitat for Humanity Endowment
- Homeward Bound Animal Shelter
- Judy Mason Thanksgiving Basket Project
- Let's Keep Decatur Bee-utiful Contest
- Lucy Lloyd Murphy Operating Endowment
- Macon County Animal Shelter Endowment
- Macon County Conservation Endowment

- Mt. Zion's Fletcher Park
- Rock Springs Endowment
- Stephen Decatur Lake Front Attraction
- Sun-Star Botanical Garden Endowment
- World War II Memorial
- Young Philanthropist Giving Circle

Education

- Altrusa of Decatur
- Black Family Scholarship
- Charles William Turner Award
- Decatur Christian Education Foundation
- Decatur High School Class of 1927 Scholarship
- Decatur Public Library Foundation Endowment
- Decatur SCORE Chapter
- Dell and Evelyn Carroll Scholarship
- Education Coalition of Macon County
- Gerald Demirjian Scholarship for Webster Cantrell Hall
- Howard Brown Endowment
- Ivens Memorial Scholarship
- Harry S. Johnston – Early Bird Kiwanis Scholarship for RCC
- Jack and Barbara McCoy Scholarships for St. Teresa
 - Brian Chelsea & Daniel Everett McCoy
 - Chelsea Eugene "Mac" & Dorothy Mae Clemens McCoy
 - Donald Joseph "Don" McCoy
 - Eugene Davis and John Lee St. Thomas Grade School
 - Jane Bernadette McCoy Hirshinger
 - Priests who taught at St. Teresa High School
 - Religious Vocations Decatur Catholic Parishes/St. Teresa
 - Shirley Mae McCoy Suni
 - St. James Grade School Class of 1951

- St. Patrick Grade School Class of 1951
- St. Teresa Families Class of 1950, 1951, and 1959
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1952
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1953
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1954
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1955
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1956
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1957
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1958
- St. Thomas Grade School Class of 1951
- Ursuline Sisters Scholarship Award
- John Eugene McCoy Scholarship for RCC
- James W. Thomas Scholarship
- John Leman Memorial Scholarship
- Kiwanis Golden K Scholarship
- L. Mark Hanover Scholarship
- MacArthur High School Class of 2010 Scholarship
- MacArthur Lady Generals Award
- Mac McPherson Scholarship
- Matthew and Tony Memorial for SADD
- Matt Laverty Memorial Scholarship
- MCSWCD Scholarship
- Michael E. Shampine Scholarship
- Lou Miglio Endowment for Retired Teachers in Macon County
- Mt. Zion Schools Foundation
- Noon Kiwanis Builders Scholarship
- Norman Lee Stewart Education Scholarship
- Curtis R. and Georgia Ann Pelz Scholarship

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Philanthropy On Wheels

The Community Foundation served as the “vehicle of philanthropy” that connected retired businessman and Forsyth resident Johnnie Hanson, the Macon County Sheriff’s Office, and a charitable hog donation — specifically, a 2014 Harley Electra-Glide model in gleaming black and cream paintwork, complete with siren and lights.

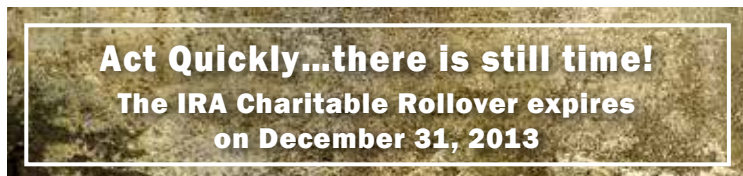
An avid motorcyclist who owns four bikes, Hanson wanted to double the Sheriff’s Office’s fleet from one to two. “A single machine is *not* the way to go when you’re riding bikes,” he laughs.

Hanson also wanted to fund the \$20,000 cost by donating lucrative stocks — which is where The Community Foundation revved up. “The reason I chose The Community Foundation is because it provided the necessary provision for me to make the donation I wanted to make while also avoiding capital gains tax, which was a win-win,” he says. “The transfer was very easy for my financial advisor and was completed in a couple of days.”

Hopefully, this collaboration is just the first leg of a long ride. “I’d like to see the bike patrol grow and, hopefully, with the Sheriff’s Office’s cooperation, I can do this again in the future,” Hanson says. “I think it’s a neat idea!”



Wegi Stewart, Sheriff Tom Schneider and Johnnie Hanson



Education *continued*

- Prairie Flower Montessori School
- Robert G. Turner Scholarship
- Robert and Joy Witt Scholarship
- Harold and Rose Oyler Scholarship for St. Patrick School
- St. Teresa High School
- Sister Lucy Educational Scholarship for St. Patrick School
- Victory Pharmacy Scholarship
- Walter and Inabell Kirby Scholarship
- Susan Swanson Memorial Scholarship
- YMCA Soccer Scholarship
- Zahner Scholarship Endowment
- Zannie Rawls, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Health

- Amy Caldwell Memorial
- Cancer Care Specialists of Central Illinois Charitable Fund
- Care Trak/Delores P. Fleming
- Jack and Olive Langsdorf Endowment for Senior Services at St. Mary’s
- Rita Cornille Memorial for Cancer Care
- Teen Health

Social Services

- Central Christian Church Endowment
- Charter for Compassion of Decatur
- DMCOG Endowment
- Decatur Fire Local 505 & Auxiliary
- Decatur Metro Rotary
- Easter Seals of Central IL Endowment
- Games for Troops
- God’s Shelter of Love Endowment
- Macon County CASA
- NALC Food Drive

- Northeast Community Fund
- Rotary 180
- Sertoma Club of Decatur
- Summit of Hope
- United Way of Decatur and Mid-Illinois Endowment
- Vietnam Era Vets
- Warm Neighbors
- We Are One Community Fund

Youth

- Big Brothers Big Sisters Endowment
- Boys and Girls Club of Decatur Endowment
- Champions for Children
- Decatur Family YMCA
- Lee J. Robinson Award
- Lincoln Trails Boys Scouts
- Girl Scouts of Central IL
- Rodney T. Miller Triathlon
- Webster Cantrell Endowment
- Sean and Lee Robinson Foundation



Bill in 1963



Summer 1963



1969 Our Wedding Day



Child in Lake Decatur



Our New York Trip 1984



Chad at 7 months (1977)



Michelle around 1 year old (1977)



Snappey (1978)



Michelle's Senior Picture



Chad's Graduation - EHS 1996



Chad's 5th Birthday



Michelle's Ballet Recital 1982 at the Civic Center



Last Year's Family Reunion at Kiwanis Park



Us and the Grandkids 2000

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Decatur Legacy member organizations include

American Red Cross
Baby TALK
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois
Boys and Girls Club of Decatur
Catholic Charities, Inc.
Children's Museum of Illinois
Community Foundation of Macon County
Community Health Improvement Center
Decatur Area Arts Council
Decatur Area Education Coalition
Decatur Christian School
Decatur Day Care Center
Decatur Family YMCA
Decatur Memorial Foundation
Decatur Parks Foundation
Decatur Public Library
Decatur Public Schools Foundation
DMCOC
Dove, Inc.
Easter Seats of Central Illinois
Friends of St. Mary's Hospital
Futures Unlimited
Girl Scouts of Central Illinois
God's Shelter of Love, Inc.
Good Samaritan Inn
Governor Oglesby Mansion, Inc.
Heritage Behavioral Health Center
James Millikin Homestead
Lincoln Trails Boy Scout Council
Lutheran School Association
Macon County CASA
Macon County Conservation Foundation

Millikin University
Northeast Community Fund
Partners In Education
Project Read
Richland Community College Foundation
Rock Springs Endowment Fund
SCORE Chapter 296
St. Teresa Foundation
Theatre 7
United Way of Decatur and Mid-Illinois
Webster Cantrell Hall

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for health, happiness,
and peace for
you in the New Year.*

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