

A QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER FOR OUR
DONORS AND FRIENDS
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.mccf-in.org

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 16

MCCF Board of Directors
Meeting

October 18

MCCF Board of Directors
Meeting

October 23

Denim & Diamonds Dinner Tour
Details coming soon!

The 2009 Annual Report is now available and may be picked up at our office. It is also posted on our website, www.mccf-in.org

MCCF Board of Directors

Mr. Roy Kaser, President
Mr. John Tidd, Vice President
Ms. Susan Smith, Secretary
Mr. Dale Petrie, Treasurer
Ms. Amy Cooper
Mr. Tony Cosenza
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Two Lives - One Legacy

Summer 2010

by Cheryl Keim

As parents and teachers, John and Ruth Isaacs devoted their lives to the educational development of young people. John taught high school science and vocational agriculture until his retirement from Southmont in 1976. He was active in Future Farmers of America and loved coaching both livestock and crops teams, as well as 4-H. Upon retirement, he began farming full-time in southern Montgomery County and in Parke County. His career in agriculture has spanned from the days of farming with horses to the sophisticated high tech combines of today. He was ten years old when he drove the family's first tractor, a John Deere general purpose on steel wheels. Son of a farmer and a school teacher, he is a 1946 graduate of Purdue University, a family tradition it seems. His brother was the head of the Agricultural Engineering Department. Sons Allen and Carl, now both deceased, were also Purdue graduates. Alan majored in Agricultural Engineering and Carl in Agricultural Economics. Land that John has farmed has included property that his grandfather Isaacs purchased in 1883, making "the home place" on S.R. 47S a Centennial Award winner through the Hoosier Homestead Award Program.



*John and Ruth Isaacs
50th Wedding Anniversary
1997*

John and Ruth met while teaching at Tangier High School in Parke County and were married December 28, 1947. Sadly, Ruth passed away suddenly in May of this year at the age of 91. Born in Russiaville, she graduated from West Middleton High School in 1936 and from Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan) in 1941. She later earned a Master's Degree from Indiana State University in 1964. Throughout her career Ruth taught both elementary school and high school and even found time to serve as a part-time minister at the Tangier and Rush Creek Churches. At the high school level she taught Latin and English. During a visit last fall she shared this advice for prospective teachers. "Teaching is a great career, but consider it only if you have a real love and passion for it. Few careers require so much of yourself outside of work hours and you must accept that in order to be a good teacher; you certainly don't do it for the money." A very humble woman, she added that "to be successful, a teacher is

dependent upon the talent and commitment of everyone in the school, the janitors, the aides, the office personnel, and the school administrators." A 2007 inductee of South Montgomery School Corporation's Hall of Fame, she shared that when she announced her upcoming retirement to her Waveland Elementary first grade class in 1983, one little boy said, "You can't retire; you're the only one who loves me." That really touched her heart and underscored the reason that she chose the career.

After losing both of their sons, the Isaacs wanted to find somewhere to place their help and interests. Fittingly, they chose to establish a scholarship fund in memory of their sons to carry out their legacy of service to children through education. In 1999 they established the John and Ruth Isaacs Scholarship Fund, now known as the John and Ruth Isaacs Family Scholarship Fund. This scholarship provides a four year renewable scholarship for a college bound student. Criteria include both high academic achievement and financial need. To date, three young people have experienced their benevolence, Brian Wilhite, Crawfordsville High School, Adam Fike, North Montgomery High School, and named this year was Shane Brown, Crawfordsville High School. Adam has met and corresponded with the Isaacs' and has a special connection since he attended and has now graduated from Indiana Wesleyan, Ruth's Alma mater.

Coming out of the Great Depression, Ruth had to borrow the money needed for college. Conversely, John earned a state scholarship which covered his tuition for four years - tuition that in the 1940's was \$30.00 per semester. Through his grief, John can take great comfort in knowing that he and Ruth, with servants hearts and philanthropic spirit, have successfully left the legacy that they set out to leave in 1999..."a good name, and a life that showed a strong belief in God and a great love for people."

*"What cannot be achieved in one lifetime will happen when one lifetime is joined by another."
Harold Kushner*

2010 Grant Awards

Each year, MCCF conducts at least one competitive grant cycle. Eligible agencies are invited to apply for funds to help them accomplish their missions. On July 7th, the following awards totalling \$345,175.00 were made:

Arts & Culture

Community Chorus - \$2,500.00 (Max K. Tannenbaum Fund– Unrestricted) to provide funding for instrumentalists, director, accompanist and advertising related to the 2010 Christmas Choral Concert.

Crawfordsville Art League - \$2,500.00 (Walter Hulet Fund, Thomas and Mary Beth Harmon Fund, Carl F. and Margaret Henthorn Fund) for the 9th Annual art League Fall Downtown Juried Art Exhibit

Cultural Foundation (Old Jail Museum) \$32,083.00 (James G. and Susan Smith Fund, Florence Schultz Trust Fund, Irwin Lee Detchon Fund, Damon C. and Bernice Seaman Wray Fund) for the renovation of the steam plant to be used as a community arts and cultural center.

Carnegie Museum - \$5,240.00 (Community Fund) for exhibit gallery items which includes museum rails, reading rail materials and supplies.

Community Development

Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County- \$11,845.08 (Community Fund) to purchase, plumb and install a commercial washer and dryer, and a computer and software to manage pet adoptions.

Crawfordsville Main Street Program \$44,000.00 (Walter Hulet Fund) for the renovation and operation of the Athens of Indiana Arts Studios & Gallery.

Darlington Forever, Inc. - \$33,350.00 (Community Fund) insulation to improve energy efficiency and the acoustics of the Darlington Community Center, formerly known as the Darlington National Guard Armory.

Education

Montgomery County Leadership Academy - \$4,300.00 (William and Amy Roth Fund, Directors Fund and Walter Hulet Fund). This will provide funding for the orientation, presenters, etiquette dinner, graduation ceremony and operating expenses.

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation - \$10,110.00 (Community Fund) to purchase 12 computers for the Even Start Family Literacy Program.

Educational Foundation - \$15,000.00 (Samuel L. and Fern Boots Fund, Max K. Tannenbaum Fund – Unrestricted, Beverley J. Turner Fund in Memory of John C. White) for teacher grants of up to \$1,000.00 each.

Health

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation - \$10,000.00 (Faye O. and Anna Winter Schenck Fund) for the school's health and welfare fund which assists students in need with health related concerns.

South Montgomery Community School Corporation - \$8,000.00 (Faye O. and Anna Winter Schenck Fund) for the school's health and welfare fund which assists students in need with health related concerns.

Historical

General Lew Wallace Study and Museum \$8,900.00 (Irwin Lee Detchon Fund, Chase Fund, Max W. Johnson Fund, Michael D. and Sally A. Hinkle Fund, Montgomery County Physicians Fund) for interior painting of the Study to return the space to its original 1898 presentation and digitization of collections.

Historic Ladoga, Inc. - \$10,490.00 (Hubert and Martha Massing Fund) to replace the roof on the Old Normal building.

Linden-Madison Township Historical Society - \$5,220.00 (Hubert and Martha Massing Fund) to restore the building's exterior, replace model train control system and erect two semaphores.

Human Services

Women's Resource Center - \$3,500.00 (Faye O. and Anna Winter Schenck Fund, Max K. Tannenbaum Fund - Unrestricted) for baby items, pregnancy tests, and prenatal vitamins.

Abilities Services - \$28,590.00 (Maude Dockins Trust Fund, Irwin Lee Detchon Fund) to update and furnish a kitchen classroom and operating funds to provide assistance and education with daily living skills to disabled individuals.

HUB Ministries - \$10,490.00 (A.F. Ramsey Trust Fund, Walter Hulet Fund) to provide food for the hungry and assist with emergency needs.

Montgomery United Fund for You - \$16,100.00 (Community Fund) for 2010 and 2011 campaign materials which includes pledge forms, brochures, posters, banner displays, video and advertising.

Red Cross - \$9,982.00 (Dr. Fred and Elizabeth Daugherty Trust Fund) to replace two heating and cooling units.

Sunshine Vans - \$8,000.00 (Faye O. and Anna Winter Schenck Fund, Herman Dicks Fund) to provide the 20% matching funds needed to receive a federal grant through IN-DOT for a new wheelchair accessible vehicle.

Youth

Parks and Recreation Department - \$3,800.00 (The Libby Whitecotton Fund, The Amy C. Robinson Trust Fund, and Director's Fund) to fund "Camp Things with Wings", an outdoor nature study for both special needs and typically developing children which includes an overnight stay at Camp Rotary.

Parks and Recreation Department - \$7,200 (Community Fund, Dr. William and Ms. Nancy Doemel Fund) to provide fencing and signage for the skate park.

Boys and Girls Club - \$20,000.00 (Irwin Lee Detchon Fund) to support the operation of the After School Program. After School attendance has increased 50% to about 200 kids daily and because of the economy, more families are struggling to pay for the service.

Youth Service Bureau - \$12,115.00 (Irwin Lee Detchon Fund, First Merchants Charitable Foundation Fund) to provide operating funds for the JUMP (Juvenile Mentoring Program) and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) programs, both which have received cuts in funding from government grants.

For more information about grants or the Foundation in general, please call us at 765-362-1267 or visit www.mccf-in.org.



Our ongoing mission is to enrich the quality of life in Montgomery County by creating a comfortable, convenient and cost effective means for donors to achieve their goals of charitable giving while fulfilling a variety of current and future community needs.

2010 Volunteer of the Year

Recognizing the value of volunteerism to the health of a community, each year MCCF seeks to honor one individual as the Volunteer of the Year.

Nominees included: Bud Arnold, Montgomery County Cultural Foundation; Deanna Durrett, League of Women Voters; the late Kurt Glancy, Celebrate Recovery at Rock Point Church; Lindzy Griggs, Youth Service Bureau; Josh Gross, Red Cross; Robyn Henderson, Women's Resource Center, Joann Spragg, Eleanor Timmons, Wesley Thrift Shop; Bob Snyder, Bob and Martha Parsons, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

After careful consideration, Deanna Durrett was selected for her contributions to the community through the League of Women Voters. Deanna has taken her background and skills (a professional background that included serving as a policy analyst for the Indiana General Assembly and conducting performance audits of various state departments and judicial agencies) and in her retirement, has directed significant studies her in Montgomery County. Her first work with the League of Women Voters was as the chair of the Healthcare Committee that produced "Health Indicators of Montgomery County" which provided data and ammunition for those who were working to reduce these problems in our county.

Then when a League Observer of Montgomery County Commissioners identified that there were problems with drainage, Deanna offered to chair a LWV Study of Drainage. The fifteen month study resulted in a ten page report "Drainage in Montgomery County." This study, estimated to have saved the county \$60,000, in partnership with the Soil and Water Conservation District Board (SWCD), resulted in the Montgomery County Drainage Board being enlarged and reconfigured to include land-owner members; the surveyor resigned; and drainage accounts were reconciled."

With her strategic planning skills, the League hosted a City/County Public Forum in April of 2005 at CHS on areas in which the city and county might cooperate and that fall a second "Planning for the Future" Public Forum was held at the 4H Building. These forums led to the "Build a Better Community" initiatives that have been

held in Waynetown, Darlington, Wingate, Waveland and Ladoga since 2006. From this, a Small Community Network has been created, an effort that earned the LWV of Montgomery County the LWV National Citizen Engagement Award.

Following Governor Mitch Daniels' creation of the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform (a bi-partisan group of Indiana leaders) to recommend actions that might improve services and efficiency in light of reduced resources. Deanna once again led a LWV committee to interview scores of knowledgeable people and analysis the financial reports of all eleven townships, producing accurate data that supported the relevance in our county of the concerns of the Commission. The Montgomery County LWV study was cited in the State Legislature, Indianapolis Star and other state media, and has become the template for studies in counties throughout Indiana. MCCF President, Roy Kaser presented a \$1,000.00 check to the League in honor of Deanna's volunteer accomplishments.



MCCF Pres., Roy Kaser, presents Deanna Durrett with the Volunteer of the Year Award, including a \$1,000 check in her honor to the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County.

The Inside Scoop

It has been over a year now since we launched our weekly e-Newsletter and we hope that you are finding it both useful and enjoyable. One problem that we are aware of, but have not been able to resolve yet, is the fact that for those with accelplus email accounts, the letter comes across entirely in text which is nearly illegible. One solution is to move the letter from your accelplus account into Microsoft Outlook where it will become legible. Until the problem can be resolved, we hope that you'll be willing to make that effort. We feel that the e-Newsletter provides readers with current news related to personal finances, philanthropy as well as articles of general interest and hope that you are enjoying it. If you are not currently receiving it and would like to receive it, please email your request to cheryl@mccf-in.org or call 362-1267.

The Board Spotlight Shines on....



Photo by John Zimmerman



Nancy Doemel

MCCF is fortunate to have individuals in our community who are willing to share their time and talents serving on our Board of Directors. Our Board members are loyal to our mission and supportive of our goals and objectives and we are so grateful for their diligence. Because of their vital role at the Foundation, we'd like to give you a closer look at our Board by profiling a member in each of our newsletters. In this edition our Board spotlight shines on Nancy Doemel.

Nancy and her husband, Bill, moved to Montgomery County years ago when Bill was offered a position at Wabash College. The similarities between Crawfordsville and their hometown of Tiffin, Ohio, were a huge factor in their decision. It wasn't just one particular thing, but rather the mix of industries, the college, and the friendly feel and small town atmosphere that led them to their choice.

As a founding member of MCCF Nancy has always believed in our mission of building bridges. She adheres to the wisdom, shown by donors past and present, of establishing endowed funds so that gifts can have a greater impact in our county. Through the Foundation's prudent management of these gifts, the recipient non-profit agencies have greater assurance that their vital services will continue, thus strengthening our community.

Nancy's vision of an enduring legacy for our community would be energized leadership in our non-profit organizations and the ability to attract necessary financial and volunteer resources needed to achieve their missions. She thinks our greatest asset in Montgomery County is the "let's roll up our sleeves and get it done" attitude found in the caring and committed people who live here.

Nancy is *currently* the Senior Advancement Officer for Wabash College. I stress the word "currently" as she plans to retire in December! She eagerly anticipates having more time to devote to some of her favorite activities, such as, quilting, perennial gardening, and reading. We're certainly glad she's not quite ready to retire from the Board and wish her all the best as she prepares to leave Wabash College and start a new journey in her life. Nancy and her husband have a son, Christopher, who lives in Michigan.

- Paula Reed

MCCF Trivia

1. Who is this cute little girl watering the flowers outside the MCCF office?



1. Mackenzie Douglas, Development Coordinator, Cheryl Keim's granddaughter.

L. Ann Malott
Executive Director



Director's Notes

There are some people you meet in life that leave such an indelible impression that you know your life is richer just by knowing them. Ruth Isaacs was one such person. A devoted wife, mother, teacher and friend – she was someone who epitomized humility and compassion as she walked through life. Shortly after my mother passed away, Ruth and John stopped by my office for a visit. Even though my pain was still raw, I instinctively knew that Ruth would understand. She offered me much more than kind words of condolence – she graciously understood my grief and somehow absorbed some of my sorrow that day with her kindness.

Ruth was not someone who enjoyed the spotlight nor did she want to be the focus of conversation. I had the privilege of meeting with Ruth and her husband, John, on several occasions and each time I savored learning some little nugget about their life. They traveled extensively and Ruth shared a favorite memory of being on the Concord during a trip to Paris. Not surprisingly, I discovered that Ruth made teddy bears for children in the hospital and was active in her community and church.

Faith was much more than a concept in Ruth's life – it was intertwined in everything she did. Her faith shone through her charitable spirit as she opened her home to elderly relatives and took care of them in their time of need. One such relative Ruth credited with teaching her and John how to be successful in the stock market and they put those lessons to work making wise investments with their teacher salaries. And as is fitting with the Isaacs, they chose to make a bigger investment in people and generously gave of their earnings by starting a scholarship fund as well as other philanthropic endeavors.

Her faith sustained her when they buried two sons. For some, that would be reason enough to become bitter, resentful, and even isolated. Not so with Ruth. While that sorrow was something she carried with her to the grave, it did not defeat her but rather widened her perspective as she viewed the world around her through a window of compassion. It can be said of Ruth that she lived, she loved, and she served. Ruth certainly left her footprint on this earth and she will be greatly missed by her beloved husband, John, and by all of us who knew her.



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