

# DONOR STORIES

## JOHN COWIN AND SHARON HACKENMILLER COWIN

“John Cowin and Sharon Hackenmiller Cowin  
Charitable Fund”



OLIVIA, SHARON AND JOHN COWIN

John Cowin and Sharon Hackenmiller Cowin chose to create a fund with the Kossuth County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, because they believe in supporting strong community and economic development. They established the John Cowin and Sharon Hackenmiller Cowin Charitable Fund to help carry out the educational and charitable purposes of the Kossuth County Community Foundation.

John Cowin was born to Jeane and Earl Cowin. He grew up in Ledyard, Iowa and was one of three children.

Sharon Hackenmiller Cowin was born to Janice and Mel Hackenmiller and grew up in the small, northeast Iowa town of Stacyville. Sharon was the second oldest of seven children.

Many influences throughout their lives have motivated John and Sharon to give back to their community. “Our families were always active in their communities and involved in activities to improve them,” said the Cowins. “We wanted to continue this important work.”

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~ The Cowins

In February 2005, John’s sister Cyndi, a former nurse practitioner and instructor at an area community college, lost her courageous battle with cancer. The importance of education in both of their families, John’s mom as former teacher of the year, as well as Cyndi and Sharon’s experiences as educators at area community colleges have furthered their interest in providing medical education scholarships and has allowed them to honor Cyndi in a lasting way.

As the Mayor of Ledyard, Sharon has attended presentations by the Community Foundation and is impressed with, “the wide range of projects they oversee and the good things being done in Kossuth County,” said Sharon. “I’ve seen first-hand the impressive impact the foundation grants have had in Ledyard. The Community Foundation has a direct and positive impact on our small towns.”

### CHILDREN

Olivia Ottie Cowin, sophomore at North Central Kossuth High School ~ Swea City, Iowa