

DONOR STORIES

RICHARD AND JANICE HELGESON “Richard and Janice Helgeson Family Fund”

Richard (Dick) and Janice (Jan) Helgeson chose to create a fund with the Winneshiek County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa to benefit the beautiful park system in Decorah. “By donating to the Foundation,” said Jan, “we can give back to our community and receive the 25% state tax benefits.”

When Jan Helgeson joined the Winneshiek County Community Foundation Governing Committee in September of 2004, she didn’t know that one day, her experience with the organization would lead she and her husband to establish a family endowment fund with the Foundation.

“I was fortunate to be on the Committee for over 5 years,” said Jan. “I have witnessed the wonderful nonprofit organizations that have benefitted from grant dollars.”

Both Dick and Jan grew up in Winneshiek County and attended the Decorah Schools first through twelfth grades. “We were both born and raised in Winneshiek County and are proud of the beauty of the area,” said Jan. “We want to help preserve, share and support the maintenance of our wonderful park system.”

“We leased the land to the city for several years and they made it into a park. It seemed fitting to set up a benefit to allow them to maintain the park for years to come.”

For many years, Dick and Jan leased a piece of land to the city of Decorah at no cost, other than payment of the yearly real estate taxes. Dick and Jan sold the property to the city of Decorah in 2010 and established a fund with the Community Foundation to benefit the Decorah Parks.

“We leased the land to the city for several years and they made it into a park,” said Jan. “It seemed fitting to set up a benefit, to allow them to maintain the park for years to come.”

Both Dick and Jan have served in the community for many years. Dick has been a volunteer fireman for 28 years. Jan has served as a board member of the Winneshiek County Cancer Society for 10 years, Nordic Fest Board for 3 years and is a past President of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisor Organization. As a couple, Dick and Jan have given to the Winneshiek Medical Center, United Way, and Susan Komen Breast cancer fund. They have also attended many seminars on charitable giving.

Richard Helgeson, DOB 7/17/1941
Married 6/10/1961

Janice (Keck) Helgeson, DOB 9/8/1942

CHILDREN

Tim (and Cami) Helgeson, DOB 7/3/1962
Terry (and Carrie) Helgeson, DOB 7/3/1965

Todd Helgeson, DOB 10/12/1963
Traci (Helgeson) Schmitz, DOB 7/21/1967

GRANDCHILDREN

Samantha Flickinger, DOB 1/16/1992
Gannon Schmitz, DOB 10/21/1993
Jason Helgeson, DOB 4/24/1997
A.J. Novotny, 8/25/1999
Brice Novotny, DOB 4/5/2001

Richard T. Helgeson, DOB 9/6/1993
Easton Schmitz, DOB 5/1/1996
Peyton Helgeson, DOB 6/14/1198
Grace and Emma Helgeson, DOB 9/7/2001



THE HELGESON FAMILY