

# DONOR STORIES

## EUGENE HAGEMAN

### “Eugene Hageman Family Fund”

Eugene Hageman chose to create a fund with the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa because he wanted to continue to support the faith institutions that helped shape his life. The Eugene Hageman Family Fund was created to provide assistance to the Parishes of St. Francis De Sales in Ossian, Ia and St. Benedict’s in Decorah, Ia.

Eugene A. Hageman was born January 23, 1931 to August and Theresa (Schmitt) Hageman in Southern Winneshiek County. The sixth of nine children, he was baptized at Our Lady of Seven Dolors in Festina, Ia. Eugene has many fond memories of farming and hunting with his six brothers, among them trapping gophers, fox and skunks and selling their pelts for spending money. In their spare time, Eugene and his brothers enjoyed playing ball on the farm or catching a ride into town to play on a “real baseball diamond.”

As a devout Catholic, Eugene’s mother instilled Christian values on a daily basis in Eugene and his siblings. He remembers spending time helping his mother with household chores and feeding the chickens, because his only two sisters were the oldest in the family.

Eugene’s father was a quiet man who kept him and his brothers out of trouble with work on the farm. Farming was in Eugene’s blood; he knew from a small boy that he would follow in his father’s footsteps.



JEANNE AND EUGENE HAGEMAN



PATRICIA AND EUGENE HAGEMAN

*“Eugene wanted to establish this fund to continue to have a positive effect on his children and grandchildren’s lives.”*

Dedicated to raising their children to be respectful, hardworking and faith filled members of the community, Eugene’s parents enrolled him in St. Aloysius Catholic Elementary School through 8th grade. During that time, it was normal that only half of his 32 fellow students would go on to attend high school. Following his 8th grade graduation in May of 1945, Eugene began farming full time with his father.

In 1951, Eugene was drafted for the Korean War. However, due to pronounced stuttering he developed as a child; he did not pass his health physical. At 22 years of age, his mother sent him to a program in Indianapolis, IN that would help him overcome this challenge. Eugene stayed there for three months where he worked six days a week to improve his speech. The first two weeks he was not allowed to speak at all. Slowly, he began speaking one word at a time. After three months, Eugene returned home with only a slight stutter that appeared during nervous moments. Looking back, he can remember the kindness his mother and classmates had shown him, even on days when he could not read at all because of this speech problem.

Eugene met Patricia (Pat) Walz in 1955 at a dance in the Dreamland Ballroom in Postville, IA. After dating for eleven months, he asked for her hand in marriage. He purchased a ring with the money he earned trapping skunks and on April 30th, 1957 they were wed in St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Monona, IA. Soon, they were blessed with four children; Sandra Marie, Larry Eugene, Dean Arthur and Alan Francis. They farmed and raised their family near Ossian, IA. In 1991, Eugene and Pat moved to another parcel of the family farmland, which allowed their son, Alan and his wife, to take over the family farm. At the height of his farming career, Eugene farmed 1000 acres. Eugene and Pat stayed active in the family farm operation but now had time to travel. Throughout their time together, they traveled to every state except Hawaii and visited their daughter Sandra twice in Europe, while she was serving in the United State Army. In 1998, after forty-one years of marriage, Patricia passed away after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Imogene (Jeanne) Bohr was born April 3, 1940 to Anton and Mathilda Bohr. On August 5th, 1959 she married Duane Joseph Lechtenberg. On April 6, 1988, after 28 years of marriage Duane died of a sudden heart attack.

In 1999, in the presence of their combined family of children and grandchildren, Eugene and Jeanne married at St. Francis DeSales Church in Ossian. They built their home in Decorah, IA and continued to be active in the farming industry as well as the lives of their children and grandchildren. Eugene and Jeanne enjoy traveling. Some of their most memorable trips were driving twice to Alaska and meeting many people from around the world. Gardening, quilting, volunteer work and attending grandchildren's activities fill their days.

Eugene inherited his quiet leadership qualities and strong faith from his parents. He wishes to continue this legacy by establishing this fund to continue to have a positive effect on his children and grandchildren's lives.

#### **EUGENE'S CHILDREN**

Sandra Hageman, DOB April 3, 1958  
Larry Hageman, DOB July 2, 1959  
Dean Hageman, DOB October 30 1960  
Alan Hageman, DOB December 11, 1964

#### **EUGENE'S GRANDCHILDREN**

Cory Hageman – 1984-2002, adopted from El Salvador  
Allison Clough – 1985-1986  
Amanda Hageman – 1985  
Michael Hageman – 1986  
Alyssa Hageman – 1986  
Heather Hageman – 1988  
Krista Hageman – 1989  
Scott Hageman – 1993  
Karla Hageman – 1995  
Kyle Hageman - 1995

#### **JEANNE'S CHILDREN**

Linda Lechtenberg Hemesath, DOB November 17, 1960  
David Lechtenberg, DOB April 11, 1963  
Lori Lechtenberg Shindelar, DOB June 14, 1965  
Julie Lechtenberg Kipp, DOB July 31, 1967  
Sarah Lechtenberg Groux, DOB June 8, 1973

## JEANNE'S GRANDCHILDREN

Mitchel Hemesath – 1986  
Adam Hemesath – 1988  
Duane Lechtenberg – 1990  
Karissa Shindelar – 1991  
Ryan Hemesath – 1991  
Karah Shindelar – 1992  
Kilah Hemesath – 1994  
Katrina Shindelar – 1994  
Ethan Kipp – 1997  
Garret Hemesath – 1997  
Lee Kipp – 1998  
Shawn Shindelar – 1999  
Gabriel Kipp – 2000  
Allison Groux – 2000  
Seth Shindelar – 2001  
James Groux – 2003  
Isabelle Kipp – 2004  
Gavin Eugene Groux – 2006