

# DONOR STORIES

## JAY & KATHY AGNESS

### “Jay & Kathy Agness Education Fund”

Jay Byron and Kathryn (Kathy) Louise Agness have both lived a life rich with education. Jay, born and raised near Peru, Indiana, received both a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science in Agricultural Engineering from Purdue University in the early 1960s. After graduation, Jay worked for John Deere as a research and design engineer for 37 years in Moline, Illinois, and Waterloo, Iowa.

Kathy, born and raised in Rolfe, Iowa, received a Bachelor of Science in education from Morningside College in 1960 and a Masters of Science in Special Education from Drake University in 1975. In the classroom, she taught high school business courses, Head Start, and special education. She also worked as a special education consultant for Area 7.



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Jay and Kathy have been married since October 1993, and have four children and eight grandchildren. They are thankful for all of the opportunities that they and their family members have received from the local community over the years. Together, they decided that they wanted to pay it forward while helping the community needs and leaving a legacy in Northeast Iowa.

One way Jay and Kathy give back is by volunteering within the community. Jay participates in Habitat for Humanity construction and Kathy volunteers in various classrooms as well as for Cedar Valley Hospice. Both are involved in leadership and service roles at St. Timothys united Methodist Church in Cedar Falls.

“Jay and Kathy believe that the value of education should be recognized in all phases of life. ”

Additionally, Jay and Kathy established a charitable fund with the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. They believe the Foundation has a continuous and positive effect on the local community as well as an excellent reputation for meeting pertinent and appropriate needs.

The Jay and Kathy Agness Education Fund will support education in a variety of ways. Grants from the fund will be used as seed money for innovative and educational programs, to reward excellence in teaching and scholarship and for student scholarships. The couple believes that the value of education should be recognized in all phases of life. Now, Jay and Kathy’s legacy of valuing education will live on forever through their Fund.

*\*Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.*