



Christmas Notes

Estate gift provides a lasting legacy

You never know how the seeds of a friendship will blossom. For the Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County (CCC), a friendship that began nearly a half century ago blossomed into a generous gift that will help ensure CCC's financial stability long into the future.

NancyLee Chatfield was already teaching at General Mitchell Elementary School in West Allis when Mary Lou Arnston joined the staff in 1970. Mary Lou was a single mom with a young son, just beginning her teaching career. The two were the only second-grade teachers at the school and quickly became friends. That friendship, which grew to be treasured and lasting, didn't end until NancyLee's death at age 85 in July 2014.

Shortly after that, Mary Lou contacted the Christmas Clearing Council. NancyLee had named Mary Lou trustee of her estate and Mary Lou called to inform CCC that NancyLee had left a substantial estate gift to CCC. At the time, no one involved with CCC had heard of NancyLee and we quickly learned that made sense, because NancyLee had no direct contact with CCC.

It was Mary Lou who volunteered for many

years in the CCC office and her enthusiastic stories of what she did for CCC – and what CCC was doing in the community – so affected NancyLee that she decided to honor her friend by making the gift to an organization that meant so much to Mary Lou.

After much thought and discussion, the CCC Board of Directors voted in early 2015 to use NancyLee's gift to create an endowment fund within the Waukesha County Community Foundation. At that time, the board also added to the endowment fund several gifts given to CCC in memory of Diane Lynn Haehle, a former CCC board president who died in 1997 at just 49.

An endowment fund is a permanent fund, often created by nonprofits to provide financial stability. The principal is invested and a portion of the earnings can be used to fund the organization's mission.

Mary Lou said she's sure NancyLee would be proud to know her gift will have such a long-lasting and positive effect.

"She was an interesting person," Mary Lou said. "Her friends affectionately called her



a cream puff – a bit crusty on the outside, but soft and sweet on the inside." NancyLee was an only child and never married. Her only family was a cousin – and the cousin's children. She lived most of her adult life in the house where she was born, and took care of her elderly mother. She loved to read, bowl, play golf, travel and sing in her church choir.

"You could always tell where NancyLee was because of her strong soprano voice," Mary Lou said.

NancyLee struggled with a chronic respiratory condition and, for the last six years of her life, was on oxygen. That didn't stop her, Mary Lou, said. She continued to travel and even play golf. "She didn't miss a beat."

To make a gift to CCC's endowment fund or to learn more about establishing a legacy gift, contact the CCC office at 262-896-3390.

Still time to be a Christmas angel

Thank you to those who have already joined us to volunteer, donate toys or money, and sponsor Waukesha County children in need. There are still many opportunities to be a Christmas angel. Consider helping in one of these ways:

Sponsor a Child

With a commitment of \$75 and a bit of your time, you will help keep a child's faith in the magic of Christmas and embrace the spirit of giving with your family, organization or company. Sponsoring a family is simple to do:

- * Call our office now through December 8 to be matched with a family.
- * Contact the family to receive the child's wish/need list.
- * Shop and deliver the gifts to the family by December 13.

Donate Toys

Drop off new, unwrapped toys to any of the CCC toy dropoff locations throughout the county now through December 13. These toys are collected by volunteers and distributed at CCC's one-day Toy Shop in

December. See christmasclearingcouncil.org/givetoys for a full list of dropoff locations.

Donate Money

Send your tax-deductible contribution to:

Christmas Clearing Council
P.O. Box 34, Waukesha, WI 53187-0034

You can also donate online with a major credit card via PayPal at christmasclearingcouncil.org/donate.



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Congratulations to our 2016 Angel Award Recipients

CCC established the annual Angel Awards in 2006 to recognize those in the community who, through special acts of generosity, further the CCC mission of helping families celebrate a more joyful Christmas. Each year, the CCC board of directors selects an outstanding individual, youth group, community organization and business to receive the award.

The Krahn Family – Individual Award

Mark and Beth Krahn and their four sons – Jacob, Nicholas, Christopher and Benjamin – have been involved in CCC for many years. Several years ago, they began sponsoring children from families in need in memory of their infant daughter Allison, the triplet sister of Christopher and Benjamin, who passed away shortly after birth. The whole family has consistently volunteered at Toy Shop. Mark and Beth are personal examples of philanthropy and their spirit of volunteerism and community service has inspired their young sons to offer their own time and energy to a cause dear to all of us.

River Glen Christian Church – Community Group Award

This inspiring and engaged congregation is a valued partner of CCC. The church community has held toy drives since 2009, resulting in nearly two dozen boxes of toys each year. Church members have always been receptive to donating items specifically requested by CCC, including infant toys, books, items for hard-to-serve pre-teens, riding toys, and waterproof mittens and gloves. In the last two years, members also have generously donated 350-400 blankets, a welcome gift for struggling families in Wisconsin's frigid winters. Members have donated bikes, gift cards and cash, and have sponsored children as part of River Glen's Love Waukesha initiative.

Poplar Creek Elementary School Student Council – Youth Group Award

Members of the Poplar Creek Student Council in New Berlin have volunteered to help sort toys the Thursday night before Toy Shop for several years. In addition, the students held a toy drive in 2009 and sponsored 12 children in 2011. The school enrolls students up to grade six. Because the students cycle out of the school after sixth grade, the membership of the Student Council changes every year. The Council's teacher advisers are to be congratulated for continuing the volunteering tradition year to year.

Won-A-Go Biking – Business Award

Andy Fix, owner of this Mukwonago business, has volunteered his experience and expertise over the years to make sure the bikes we are able to give away at Toy Shop are in peak condition. The generous donations of many loyal CCC supporters allows us to buy about 100 bikes each year. These bikes are assembled by a dedicated group of volunteers, most of them amateurs with big hearts. Having a professional like Andy check over each bike and get them ready for eager kids is a true blessing. Andy has also encouraged colleagues from other bike shops to help.



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Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at smile.amazon.com and select Waukesha County Christmas Clearing Council as your charitable organization of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible AmazonSmile purchases to CCC.