

## Nancy and Chris Doemel: Two Generations of Philanthropy



Chris and Nancy Doemel

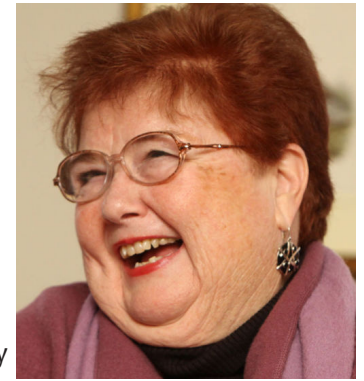
Meaningful words are difficult to find when writing about the death of someone who contributed so much to their community through hard work, dynamic leadership and selfless volunteerism; someone like Nancy Doemel. One grasps even harder for

words when faced with also writing about the untimely death of Bill and Nancy's son, Christopher Doemel, at the age of 45. This becomes unthinkable when you consider these deaths occurred within a short span of three months, both due to different, but aggressive, illnesses.

What is easier to do, and most assuredly what they would prefer, is to focus on their lives and their legacy. Nancy personified the meaning of philanthropy, which is defined as "an active effort to promote human welfare." For more than three decades she worked at Wabash College as director of corporate and foundation relations, and raised more than \$30 million for everything from pianos to research labs, as well as funding for lectures, programs and renovations. Her work with Wabash students as part-time director of an abroad study program also brought her immense satisfaction. At her retirement reception in 2010, Nancy said, "you can sit in an office and write grants, but unless you see those wonderful, screwy 18-year-olds in their shorts and sandals when it's 20 degrees out, you sort of forget who is at the heart of all this. And I've never forgotten because I'm always in touch with them." Clearly Nancy did not let her passion for progress cloud her vision for what truly mattered.

This vision carried over into many facets of Nancy's life through her volunteer efforts. She chaired committees, served as a consultant, and provided grant writing assistance for local nonprofits. Nancy was instrumental in the establishment and development of the Women's Legacy – a group of women who fund grants through the MCCF that benefit women and children in our community. A scant three weeks before her death, Nancy was awarded the prestigious 2016 Hazelett Award in Grantmaking by the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance.

What is perhaps hardest to convey is the tremendous impact Nancy had on our community. It was her foresight and determination that spearheaded efforts to establish the Montgomery County Community Foundation. In 1991, she read an article about Lilly Endowment offering startup money to create community foundations in Indiana. Barely containing her excitement, she gathered up community leaders and met with an executive from Lilly and the rest, as they say, is history. A twenty-five-year history with over \$17 million invested in our community through grants and scholarships. That kind of investment would make it nearly impossible to adequately measure Nancy's influence in our community. But let it be said that hundreds of lives have been touched through her active efforts to promote human welfare – once again defining the very essence of philanthropy.



Nancy Doemel 1944-2016

That same philanthropic spirit was passed along to Christopher. Raised in Crawfordsville and later graduating from Grinnell College in 1994, Chris was a lover of music and a computer expert. His technical expertise was recruited by Apple, where he worked in educational sales for several years, and then later enabled him to work as a self-employed consultant. In 2015, Chris joined Dynatrace, a firm that measures and informs corporate customers about the strengths and weaknesses of their websites.



Chris Doemel 1971-2016

Chris was a very active member of the Presbyterian Church of Okemos, Michigan where he sang in the choir, served as elder, managed their website and served on committees. Along with the organist at the church, Chris created annual musical festivals and even established a fund at the church to support bringing in musical artists to enrich the worship experience. Chris's

musical talents were varied and his musical appreciation ranged from rap to opera. *(Story continues on page 2)*

*(Doemel article)*

Chris was also passionate about his Old English Sheepdog, Baxter, who now lives with his dad, Bill. While we at the Foundation did not have the privilege of knowing Chris personally, we do have insights from his parents, written before Nancy's death. They said, "Chris had a wicked, wonderful sense of humor, laughed easily, and was a great impersonator of characters. We are very proud of the man he became, of his kindness and compassion, and of the philanthropy that characterized him, both alive, and now, in death."



Chris with Baxter and friend, Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

While this article is focused on Nancy and Chris, it cannot be overlooked that philanthropy is just as prevalent in all of the Doemel family. Bill was the catalyst behind the establishment of the Montgomery County Free Clinic – a nonprofit agency serving the medical needs of lower income

families and individuals. In 2013, Bill was awarded the MCCF Volunteer of the Year for his work with the free clinic. Nancy was very proud of her husband's work at the clinic and said that he "jumps into work head first without dallying in the shadows and swims off almost out of sight" as is stated in the poem, "To Be of Use" by Marge Piercy.



Bill and Nancy Doemel prior to Bill receiving the VOY award

Bill and Nancy established the Dr. William and Nancy Doemel unrestricted fund several years ago and upon Nancy's death, Bill established the William, Nancy and Christopher Doemel Organ Maintenance Fund for Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church. In a bequest from Christopher, two significant gifts were made to the MCCF: The Montgomery County Free Clinic fund in honor of his dad, and the Women's Legacy Fund in honor of his mom.

Undeniably, the philanthropic spirit that motivated Nancy and Christopher Doemel to action, will remain and continue to have effect both now, and well into the future.

2016 MCCF Board Members

Larry Griffith, President	Sheridan Hadley
Jessica Bokhart, Vice President	Sam Hildebrand
Heather Dennison, Secretary	Tom Mellish
Tony Cosenza, Treasurer	Sharon O'Dell-Keedy
Keith Blaydes	Torey Rauch
Peggy Burkett	Mike Reidy
Scott Feller	Tom Utley
Joyce Grimble	



We are grateful for the service of our board members. Here are some fun facts about **Joyce Grimble** who has been on our board since 2015.

**Background Information:**

As a freshman at Purdue, Joyce met an "attention-grabbing guy named Jack" and 44 years later, he still has her attention. While living on a farm wasn't the life she envisioned then, Joyce says you couldn't drag her away from it now as it was the ideal place to raise their two children. They also have two grandchildren who are the joy of their lives. Now retired, Joyce built a career in education as a high school guidance counselor.

**Fun Fact about Joyce:**

Cooking is an obsession for Joyce and her motto is that one cannot have too many cookbooks. She enjoys reading food publications, as well as researching kitchen equipment and the functions of various materials used in cookware.

**In Joyce's words:**



**What is the greatest thing about living in Montgomery County?**

Living in this community means knowing people by name and identifying faces with needs. What's great about Montgomery County is people helping people, sharing a meal, or providing

equipment or able bodies to assist after a storm. Sometimes it is lending a shoulder to cry on while other times we laugh and celebrate the accomplishments of neighbors and friends.

**Why did you choose to serve on the MCCF Board?**

Our children received MCCF scholarships and I knew what a financial blessing that had been. I was first asked to serve on the MCCF scholarship committee and loved using the skills I had gathered in my career to benefit the Foundation. When asked to serve on the board, it was the perfect opportunity to become reacquainted with my community while filling the void of missing students. Serving on the board feels like an opportunity to help a plethora of people all at once.

**Current travel and/or retirement plans:**

Retiring does mean traveling more - next stop is Alaska. We will soon host a gal who was a foreign exchange student here in the early 90s. We visited she and her husband in Holland last year. Her husband has never been to the states and it will be a joy to watch his reaction to so much space and supply his desire to have a Corn Dog!

## Half Way Home Offers a Chance at Recovery

Half Way Home is a 180-day residential facility for women. It offers a healthy environment and a holistic, comprehensive program to develop in each woman, a drug-free, sober, and self-sufficient lifestyle. While the facility relies heavily on volunteers, a recent MCCF grant of \$20,000 to Half Way Home is helping to fund some part-time salaries to ease the burden.

Since opening on January 4th this year, 31 women have been admitted. Of those, some have been evicted and others have left voluntarily, leaving 15 currently living there; capacity is 18. According to Founder and Board President Sarah Houston Dicks, three graduated in July and two of those are “continuing with their sobriety, have housing, and appear to be doing well.” The third has struggled, but at last contact had resumed her counseling.

Employment is a requirement of the women while living in the home and the staff works aggressively to help the women secure jobs. Employment is considered an important part of the recovery process as women strive for independence in all areas of their lives, from incarceration, from their past, from dependent relationships, etc. Employment also makes it possible for them to pay the nominal fee to live at the home, to have “skin in the game,” and provides them with real life budgeting experience.

At a recent Summit on Opioid & Tobacco Addiction, our staff learned that the use of Opioid drugs in Indiana has increased 500% since 1999.\* And drug overdoses have risen so sharply that they overtook the number of motor vehicle deaths in 2008.\*\* Sarah noted that Montgomery County is 5th in the state on drug overdoses. We are grateful for this new agency which strives to assist women in their recovery from addiction. Not only do the women get their lives back, but in many cases, children get their mommies back.

For additional information about the facility, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, contact Sarah at 765-366-2844, or visit their website, <http://www.halfwayhome.info>



Half Way Home creates a supportive environment in which the women can learn together and support one another on the road to recovery from addiction.

\* Indiana University Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health at IUPUI in Indianapolis

\*\* Report on the Toll of Opioid Use in Indiana and Marian County. September 2016 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Fatality Analysis Reporting System 2014

### Grants Awarded in cycles #1 and #2

### October 10, 2016 - Due date for Grant Cycle #3

Organization	Amount	Purpose
<i>Cycle #1</i>		
Crawfordsville Community Schools	\$9,000.00	Health & Welfare Funds
Crawfordsville Community Schools	\$2,500.00	School-year license for Minecraft for Education for all Nicholson students to enhance learning in technology, math, science, history, and literature
Half Way Home, Inc.	\$20,000.00	Part-time Salaries for staffing
Historical Society	\$3,662.00	Video equipment for recording veteran interviews conducted while the traveling Vietnam Wall was in town this summer
Mountie Mission	\$5,000.00	Backpacks, school supplies, clothing for children with need throughout the county
Trinity Horizons	\$7,735.00	Security monitoring system; handicapped accessibility at the Icoal Trinity Life Ministry facility
Parks & Recreation Dept.	\$3,300.00	Support for Camp Things with Wings, an inclusive day camp held at Camp Rotary
<i>Cycle #2</i>		
Carnegie Museum	\$1,019.37	Banners for the 2017 Exhibit, Schools & Schooling
Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry	\$3,500.00	Processing fees for donated game/livestock given to food pantries
HUB Ministries	\$6,750.00	Support for Friendship Kitchen; emergency financial assistance to those in need
League of Women Voters	\$6,382.00	Printing of the Focus on Montgomery County directory
North Montgomery Community Schools	\$8,239.00	Health & Welfare Funds
Pam's Promise Transitional Housing	\$13,115.00	New roof on Vance Street house and garage
Women's Resource Center	\$3,500.00	Medical supplies and assistance to expectant families
Youth Service Bureau	\$32,167.00	CASA, Child Abuse Prevention, Teen Court, and new part-time support position
Total:	\$125,869.37	

These grants were made possible by the following funds: Faye O. and Anna Winter Schenck Fund, Nucor Steel Fund, Kathy and John Steele Unrestricted Fund, Dr. Fred and Elizabeth Daugherty Trust Fund, Florence Shultz Trust Fund, Max Tannenbaum - Unrestricted Fund, Leonard and Louise Winchell Fund, Community Fund, Roland Brooks and Helen Johnson Wynne Fund, Physicians Fund, Maude Dockins Trust Fund, Amy C. Robinson Trust Fund, Women of Wisdom Fund: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: honoring Rev. Chris Hotopp-Zachary, Mary Vi Leaming RN, and Meda Lorton, Beverley J. Turner in memory of John C. White, Irwin Lee Detchon Fund, AF Ramsey Fund, the Dr. William and Nancy Doemel Fund, Damon C. and Bernice Seaman Wray Fund, William and Amy Roth Fund, Thomas and Mary Beth Harmon, and the Max W. Johnson Fund to honor Mary Francis “Fran” Johnson.

## An Easy Way to Help our Cause

If you are 70½ or older, rather than simply take your withdrawal this year, you can direct your IRA administrator to distribute a gift from your IRA to our organization. Any amount you transfer counts against your required minimum distribution (RMD), and you can direct **up to \$100,000** to your favorite causes this year.

### Making an IRA Rollover Gift is Easier Than Ever

- Contact your IRA administrator. Because of the popularity of the rollover, most administrators provide forms and a procedure to help you make a rollover gift.
- You can direct a transfer of up to \$100,000 to be made this year from your IRA to a qualified charity.
- You will pay no income taxes on the amount transferred.  
*Note: Because you are not claiming the transferred amount as income, you will not receive an income tax deduction for your gift.*
- Please contact us to let us know how you would like your gift to be used.



# Rollover...

## YOUR IRA FOR GOOD

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