

BRIDGES



Building bridges to support the future of Montgomery County

Winter 2017

One Fund, Multiple Benefits The DeVon W. and Mary Jane Flaningam Fund

In July of 1919, a young farm couple, Odna and Burl Lilly, walked to the barn to feed the animals and milk the cows. Odna, seven months pregnant, was kicked by one of the cows causing her to go into labor prematurely. Mary Jane Lilly entered the world at an estimated two pounds and was so small that her foot was the size of her mother's thumbnail. For that era, it is somewhat of a miracle that she survived.

But survive she did, and as an only child she was loved and doted on by her parents and an uncle who lived with the family. Her early years were spent on the farm, but after her father was elected Tipton County Sheriff, the family moved to the jail house. Mary Jane said that her mother cooked not just for the family, but also for the inmates. She had lots of vivid memories and colorful stories about life at the jail house. Later, the family moved to their own home and Mary Jane lived there until her marriage to DeVon Flaningam.

Education was important to Mary Jane; she earned a BA as well as a master's degree and spent her career as a teacher. Her first teaching assignment was a Physical Education class, and in her own words, "that didn't go so well." However, she thoroughly enjoyed teaching business classes, which suited her very detailed and organized character.



Mary Jane Flaningam

Mary Jane possessed an insatiable curiosity, which might have led to her passion for genealogy. She thoroughly enjoyed doing extensive research on her family history and amassed several notebooks with her discoveries. One day she called her cousin, Sylvia, to tell her that she had a "new toy." When asked what that might be, Mary Jane said it was a computer. She learned how to use it and how to do her research through web sites - an impressive feat for someone who at that time was 91 years old.

Sylvia wrote a loving memoir as a tribute to Mary Jane that was read at her funeral. In it, she described Mary Jane as having a sharp mind and delightful sense of humor. She could converse about current events, basketball or even Peyton Manning. Mary Jane loved sweet rolls, muffins and all things chocolate and was prone to wander at the grocery store, irresistibly drawn to the bakery items. She was often heard to exclaim, "Oh my" as she perused the tempting treats.

DeVon Flaningam was born and raised in Montgomery County. He served in the Air Force and became a Lt. Colonel. A Wabash graduate, DeVon spent his career as an attorney. He and Mary Jane met through a mutual friend and were married in December 1963. "My parents spoiled me, and DeVon took over where they left off," Mary Jane once confessed.

They were devoted to one another, and later in life when DeVon battled cancer, she was by his side when he didn't want to take any treatments. They had a conversation about where he would like to be buried, and his reply was, "Next to you." Mary Jane said those three words summarized their marriage.

DeVon passed away in 2002 and Mary Jane quietly continued on with her life until her death in 2015. Through a bequest, they established the DeVon W. and Mary Jane Flaningam Fund, which will provide support to a diverse group of nonprofit agencies in our community. We are so grateful for the Flaningam's generosity, which will continue to make an impact far into the future.

Parts of this article are from Sylvia's memoir and we appreciate the opportunity to get to know more about this soft-spoken, unpretentious woman. After Mary Jane passed away, she was laid to rest next to her beloved DeVon. In death, as in life, side by side.

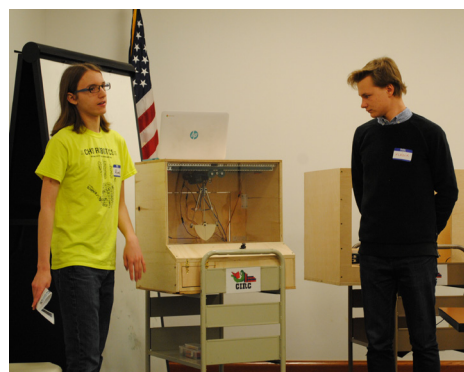


DeVon and Mary Jane on their wedding day

GRANT CYCLE #3 AWARDS

We just wrapped up the last of three grant cycles for 2017. Seventeen applications were considered and twelve awards were made totaling \$130,161.00. This year, we awarded a total of \$367,443 in unrestricted grants in our community spanning a wide range of interests and making a broad impact. We are so thankful for our donors and their desire to give back so generously to this community - they truly make all of this possible.

Below is a list of the most recent grant awards.



Students talking about their project at the Montgomery County Educational Foundation breakfast earlier this year.

| Category | Organization | Description | Amount |
|-----------------------|---|--|------------------|
| Arts & Culture | Athens Arts | Purchase of a computer and software | \$1,500 |
| Arts & Culture | Carnegie Museum | Support for the NISE "Frankenstein Footlocker" activities | \$900 |
| Arts & Culture | Sugar Creek Players | Support to update the fire alarm/sprinkler system | \$30,750 |
| Community Development | Animal Welfare League | Support for much needed building repairs | \$21,107 |
| Education | Educational Foundation | Support for teacher grants | \$20,000 |
| Education | Nicholson Elementary | Support to create a Sensory Room (a quiet, calming space) for children to use as needed | \$1,600 |
| Health | Crawfordsville Community School Corporation | Support for the health & welfare fund, which helps students with eye exams, doctor appointments, etc | \$10,000 |
| Health | South Montgomery School Corporation | Support for the health & welfare fund, which helps students with eye exams, doctor appointments, etc | \$9,000 |
| Historical | Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society | Support for the conservation of artwork | \$4,900 |
| Human Services | Abilities Services | Support for the continuation of the Creative Abundance Arts program | \$15,262 |
| Human Services | HUB Ministries | Support for supplies for the Friendship Kitchen | \$3,300 |
| Human Services | Pam's Promise Transitional Housing | Support for electrical and plumbing needs at one of the locations | \$11,842 |
| | | Total | \$130,161 |

These grants were made possible by the generosity of the donors who established the following funds: Samuel L. and Eva Fern Boots Fund, Irwin Lee Detchon Fund, First Merchants Charitable Foundation Fund/Lafayette Bank & Trust Fund, Carl F. and Margaret Henthorn Fund, Hubert and Martha Massing Fund, Herbert, Genevieve and Marian Morrison Fund, Gloria and Marvin Oliver Fund, Faye O. and Anna Winter Schenck Fund, and the John and Sandy Tidd Fund in memory of Ernest and Anna Tidd.

MCCF News and Recent Events



The theme for this years Bras for a Cause event was "Toy Story: Kick Breast Cancer To Infinity and Beyond." And if the fun and laughter was any indication, the event was a rousing success. Decorated bras created by local residents were modeled by Wabash students from Lambda Chi Fraternity and then auctioned. As you can see from the photos, the guys got a "kick" from participating.

Missie Bickel has worked tirelessly for five years, not only in her personal fight against breast cancer, but also to raise awareness and funds for all those in this battle. Held in conjunction with FAITH Alliance, proceeds from the fundraiser go to the Faith Alliance Fund at MCCF, which provides support for patients with breast cancer in our community. Over \$16,000 was raised from this event.

A Great Clips fundraiser was recently held in honor and memory of Scott Lowe and it was a huge success. On behalf of the wishes of the Lowe family, all donations were placed in the Mike McCord Scholarship Fund.

We are grateful to the stylists for donating their time and talents for an entire Saturday. This fundraiser would not have been possible, let alone successful, without them. It is also a tribute to Scott that he made such an impression on them during his many visits that prompted their willingness to do this. To date, over \$6,000 has been raised and we appreciate our local Great Clips and their desire to give back to the community.



The recent Amsoil Ironman Grand National Cross Country Series Race was about more than just racing. Deemed a "Pink Race" to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Yamaha Motor Corporation, Zakowski Motorsports and HBD MotoGrafx contributed a combined \$7,174 to the Faith Alliance Fund at MCCF. This very generous gift will help continue to provide mammography and health related breast care services right here in Montgomery County.

Kelly Taylor was on hand to accept the check from Tim Cotter, GNCC Race Director, and Nick Koester, Marketing Manager for MX Sports."

SCIENCE SHOWS THAT
DONATING MAKES US

HAPPIER
HEALTHIER
PEOPLE

It's True: giving has been proven to help you live longer, and makes you feel good too!

An article from UC Berkeley summarizes dozens of studies that show how donating time or money improves your health, your mental well being, and your connection to others.

Here's How: →

5 WAYS
*Giving is
Good for You!*

#1

Giving makes us feel happy.

Activate the "helper's high" by releasing endorphins and oxytocin.

#5

Giving is contagious.

Jump start a cascade of generosity through the community.

#2

Giving is good for our health.

Decrease stress, lower blood pressure, and live longer.

#4

Giving evokes gratitude.

Cultivate gratitude to increase happiness, positivity, and social bonds.

#3

Giving promotes cooperation and social connection.

Strengthen your ties to those around you.

