

Consider the End: Taking the Long View of Life

One of mankind's earliest directives was to tend to and exercise great care for the earth. For Jeff and Sue Lucas, this is a life verse and a decree they take seriously. From garden plots to flower pots, they are passionate about creating and cultivating a beautiful environment. So much so that they have established a unique fund at the MCCF - The Longview Tree & Greenspace Pathway Fund. This fund will support the creation and preservation of attractive public forestry and greenspace within the city of Crawfordsville.

Though the fund is new, the idea of planet stewardship and sustainability is nothing new to Jeff and Sue. As they raised four children, they taught them respect for the environment by recycling rather than discarding, and by filling rain barrels rather than hoses. And much like raising kids is an exercise in cultivation, so is the concept of creating and maintaining a beautiful footprint in our community. It doesn't just happen; it takes support, an investment of time and energy, and purpose.



Jeff & Sue at the Community Garden

This is something that Sue does quietly and unassumingly through her many hours of volunteer work. She is currently the president of Sustainable Initiatives and one of the efforts of which Sue is especially proud is the online local food guide, which connects area producers and consumers. This initiative

promotes a stronger local economy and more engaged community. Another effort from this organization is the community garden, now in its 9th year. This is an extraordinary amount of work that is more fun and exciting in the early stages. Then the weeds come along and it becomes harder to maintain. But if one considers the end result, the perseverance will pay off in a bountiful harvest.

Sue is serving her second year as Crawfordsville Main Street board president. This organization is responsible for many downtown beautification efforts, such as the new Courthouse flower pots and benches, landscape beds, and the colorful hanging flower baskets. The flower baskets, as an example, may be a small touch but can have a big impact as it shows the passerby that someone cares. That in turn creates a good

feeling about our town and can change perceptions about many things. Demonstrating that the people who live here care about their surroundings is a key to understanding what makes a community vital and vibrant.

Jeff and Sue understand that the context of beauty is important. They realize that people don't want to sit in sterile environments but tend to congregate where there is green space. For example, mature trees soften the harsh lines of brick and concrete and the green margins attract people, which only serves to enhance and strengthen the downtown footprint. However, planting the trees and creating the green spaces is only part of the solution – it also requires the long view of maintenance and education, much like a garden.

This "long view" is quite meaningful to the Lucas family and embodies many personal things. They adopted the motto, "Respite Finem", which means "look to the end" or "consider the end" as a way to mutually encourage each other in the approach toward life, work and relationships.

This motto certainly played a role in the Longview fund name; however, perhaps the most influential reason came in 2015 when Sue was diagnosed with cancer and underwent surgeries and chemo treatment. This journey heightened their awareness of the brevity of life, and compelled them to consider the end and the type of legacy they wanted to leave behind. We are grateful for Jeff and Sue Lucas and for the investment they have made in our community now and for the future. They have persevered and taken the long view of life - and in the scope of eternity, that's a beautiful thing.

"We entrust this fund to the MCCF. The impact will far out live us so we can hand this over to someone who will care for it as we do and we have seen that happen here through our involvement with MCCF."
– Jeff Lucas



Anyone can make a contribution to the Longview Fund, or any MCCF fund, at any time. For a complete list of our funds, please visit our website at www.mccf-in.org.



Make the most of **Your Options**

Did you know that you can name a charitable organization such as ours as a beneficiary and benefit from a tax deduction? A gift of life insurance is a wonderful way to support our work at a significant level, but at a fraction of the cost of other gifts.

Options for gifts of life insurance

There is a variety of charitable gift plans.

Option	Benefit	Option	Benefit
Gift of existing policy	Income tax deduction	Life insurance beneficiary designation	Estate tax deduction
Annual gifts to cover premiums	Annual income tax deductions	Gift of new policy	Income tax deduction



We are grateful for the service of our board members. Here are some fun facts about MCCF Board Member **Sam Hildebrand**.

Background Information:

Sam grew up in Ohio but made his way to Indiana to attend Wabash College, where he graduated in 1961. He and his wife, Susie, have three children and five grandchildren and Sam’s number one favorite pastime is spending time with his family, and number two, enjoying the Colorado mountains in winter and summer. Sam worked in various management roles at RR Donnelley and Crawford Industries until 1995, at which time he and Susie established Village Traditions, Inc. With this company, they engaged in new home construction, Victorian home restoration, rain gutter installation and apartment ownership. In spite of a busy schedule, Sam has made time over the years to serve on various nonprofit boards in our community.

Fun Fact about Sam:

He doesn’t play golf! Instead, he mows their pasture and tends to their woodland.

In Sam’s words:

What is the greatest thing about living in Montgomery County?

Small and vibrant communities across our country where, by and large, most people are eager to help one another. I have found that to be the case in our community.

Why did you choose to serve on the MCCF Board?

I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself and to promote its worth in our community.

What did you want to be when you were growing up and did that happen?

A Forest Ranger or a Paleontologist. Neither happened.

What book are you currently reading?

Three Days in January by Bret Baier. Subtitled *Dwight Eisenhower’s Final Mission*, this book captures the drama of January 1961 when Eisenhower passed the torch to John F. Kennedy.

What animal best describes your personality?

Beaver - always busy, focused and energetic.

2017 Scholarship Scrapbook

C
H
S



Crawfordsville High School
MCCF Scholarship recipients

Mike McCord Scholarship



Matt, Shari and Kevin McCord,
scholarship recipient Kaile Wendelin,
and Sarah and Mitch McCord

Jim and Bev Harpel Basketball Scholarship



Amber Kennedy-Miller
and Devin Guard,
scholarship recipient

N
M
H
S



North Montgomery High School
MCCF Scholarship recipients

Hoosier Heartland State Bank Scholarship



Jennifer Stanfield, scholarship
recipient Gregory Pietsch, and
Jamie McCumber

Scholarship Stats

- \$420,168 in total scholarship awards
- 154 scholarship renewals
- 106 new scholarships
- MCCF scholarship committee reviewed over 900 applications
- THANK YOU to the five board members and ten community members who serve on the MCCF scholarship committee!

S
H
S



Southmont High School MCCF
Scholarship recipients

Bob J. Tandy Scholarship



Sue Tandy, scholarship recipient
Marlowe McVay, and Pam
Isenberg

James Patton Instrumental Music Scholarship



Marilyn Patton, scholarship
recipient Kasey Burton, and Sue
Keller



Announcing the MCCF Community Scholarship Fund

As the cost of college continues to rise, so does the financial need of many students. The MCCF board recently established the **MCCF Community Scholarship Fund**. This fund is a special collective fund that will allow many donors to make gifts of any size. We have donors who wish to start named scholarship funds to memorialize loved ones but sometimes the fund minimum makes it a challenge to establish the fund.

The Community Scholarship Fund will allow families to direct memorial gifts to a fund that will carry a loved ones name for the following year as the scholarship is awarded

to a high school senior attending one of the three Montgomery County high schools.

Making a gift to this fund is a great way to support the educational dreams of youth in our community. If you are interested in supporting our scholarship program but don't want to open a named scholarship fund with an initial gift requirement of at least \$25,000, the Community Scholarship Fund may be an option for you to consider. Please contact me to learn more about this fund.

