

FALL 2010



Reshkin Celebrates Wife with Scholarship

Mark Reshkin of Valparaiso has established the Bettimae Reshkin Memorial Scholarship in the name of his late wife. "You see, I met this girl and I married her and spent 46 years with her. She was the love of my life and she was from Valpo and that's what motivated me to start this scholarship," he said.

He designed the scholarship fund to benefit a female resident of Porter County who is entering her junior or senior year of college, pursuing a degree in social services, psychology, or another field related to mental health. Bettimae was active in mental health services, serving as a counselor at Porter-Starke Services and as admissions coordinator for the psychiatric unit at Northlake Methodist Hospitals for nine years.

A scholarship is a fitting way to celebrate a love story that began at school. The Reshkins met at Indiana University in Bloomington where they were both in graduate school. Mark proposed to Bettimae just a week after their first date. They were married at IU's Beck Chapel in 1961. Mark earned his doctorate in geology and had many options, but chose to establish a geology program at Indiana University Northwest in Gary because it was close to Bettimae's hometown. "I had a marvelous career with lots of accolades, but I feel I could never have accomplished anything without her," said Reshkin. "She was the strength of my life."

The scholarship is part of a bequest Reshkin has made and will begin upon his death. The Foundation's scholarship committee will select one student each year, based on Reshkin's criteria. Bettimae Reshkin passed away in 2008. "The first year after her death was about grieving. Then I began coping and then a friend asked me how I was going to celebrate Bettimae. This scholarship is about her, celebrating Bettimae," he said.

For more information about the Bettimae Reshkin Memorial Scholarship, or establishing a fund of your own, contact the Foundation at 219-465-0294.



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Home Sweet Home

*How to give your home to charity
 without giving up the keys*

Since his birth here in 1920, John Remster's roots were firmly planted in Porter County. He graduated from Morgan Township High School and, along with wife Margaret, went on to build a family here. He was first and foremost a farmer and also served as Vice President of First National Bank. After turning the farm over to their son, John built a house in Valparaiso.



When he decided he wanted to give back to the community he called home, he gave... his home. In 2004,

Remster donated his home to the Porter County Community Foundation, yet continued to live there up until his death earlier this year.

By making the gift prior to his death, Remster was able to benefit from a sizable income tax deduction while still enjoying his home. Giving the gift during his lifetime rather than as a bequest also reduced the taxes due upon his death. Plus, the place he called home would join a pool of gifts at the Porter County Community Foundation so that it would continue to grow forever.

"Together we realized that donating the home would help John accomplish his goals of giving back to the community, making sure his gift stayed where he lived, and making sure his gift continued to grow," said Emily Remster, John's daughter-in-law. "We realized that a single donation can't make a big difference, but when pooled with other Foundation funds, John's gift can do a lot to benefit Porter County," she said. As a former farmer and banker, John Remster had a lot of experience in growing things and maximizing returns. By including the Foundation in his estate plan, his gift is a lasting legacy; continuing to grow, season after season.

For information about this type of planned gift or other giving possibilities, contact the Foundation at 219-465-0294 or visit us at portercountyfoundation.org.

Above and Beyond

Recognizing those who exceed all expectations

Outstanding Achievement Awards

Each year the Foundation acknowledges extraordinary contributions and awards each recipient \$1,000 to direct toward the nonprofit endowment of their choice. This year, we're pleased to recognize the following extraordinary contributions.



Bill Wagner, Outstanding Professional Advisor

As partner with the law firm of Hoepfner, Wagner & Evans, Bill Wagner has helped his clients explore charitable giving options so they can accomplish their own philanthropic goals. Wagner and his wife, Betty, are generous with their own giving, but Bill's gift of knowledge and guidance has helped countless others to share their own gifts. He has also conducted seminars on estate planning and charitable giving. By linking generous donors with worthwhile nonprofits, Wagner has been a tremendously positive link to Porter County's future.

John Craighead, Outstanding Volunteer

Craighead has been a volunteer with the Portage Township YMCA for more than 20 years, including two full terms on the Board of Directors and two terms as President. Craighead has shared his financial expertise with the Portage Y, saving the organization many dollars in legal fees and reduced interest costs. He also led several fundraising campaigns, including the most recent YMCA Capital Campaign, which resulted in the wonderful renovation and expansion of the current Portage Y.

Gary Mitchell, Outstanding Nonprofit Staff Member

Gary Mitchell is President and CEO of Opportunity Enterprises and has served the organization for 25 years. Under his guidance, OE has grown from a \$2 million budget serving around 250 individuals to a \$15 million budget serving over 1,000 individuals. Mitchell has been an innovative leader, creating enterprises such as Secure Shred Document Destruction, Simply Amazing Market and ServiceMaster by OE Janitorial Services – creating income for the organization while providing client consumers with meaningful work opportunities. Mitchell has also led the development of several group homes, which provide secure, independent housing opportunities for OE clients. For Mitchell, working at OE is more than a job; it's a calling.

Valparaiso YMCA, Outstanding Nonprofit Agency

The Valparaiso YMCA may have a shiny, new facility, but what's inside is just as extraordinary. The "Y" has more than doubled its membership since opening the new facility with more than 15,000 current members. To serve the community, the Y has provided more than \$280,000 in financial assistance to low income adults, children, families and individuals with special needs. The Y has also been astute in building endowments and planned giving as it continued with its capital campaign for the new facility. From its licensed day care through its Silver Sneakers seniors program, the Valparaiso Y is fulfilling its mission to "build strong kids, strong families, and a strong community."

Impact 2010

\$45,000 grant to help Porter County families

Porter County children will have a new place to learn, play, and grow, thanks to a \$45,000 grant from the Foundation's Women's Circle—Impact Porter County. The Impact grant will furnish and equip Walt's Place, a facility for youth and adult programming affiliated with Hilltop Neighborhood House.

"This grant means we can serve more children and families and we can do it better," said Debbie Lambert, Executive Director of Hilltop Neighborhood House. "Where we had one room, we'll have five, plus an outdoor space. The new facility means we can welcome new age groups; not just elementary school students. We can have students working on homework in one room while others learn computers or do crafts or just chill and play games in another," she said. The facility also offers SAT preparation assistance and homework help to enhance education performance.



Construction began as soon as the grant was presented and Walt's Place should be filled with children later this fall. "This project would not have been possible without the grant and it will help women and families for years. In order to have a successful life, women need a successful place for their children. Walt's Place will fill that need," said Lambert.

What is Impact Porter County?

Impact Porter County is a giving circle, introduced in 2007, with a simple and ambitious mission: Raise \$100,000, half of which would be given away immediately to causes that advance women, and half to be endowed at the Porter County Community Foundation to continue helping women forever.

The result was phenomenal as more than 52 women were members of Impact Porter County in 2010. To get involved, contact the Foundation at 219-465-0294.