

WINTER 2010/2011

ROBERT SAMANAS



LIVES ON IN GIFTS THROUGH FOUNDATION

A decade has passed since Robert Samanas died suddenly of a heart attack. Many remember him as a Paramedic and the invaluable Assistant Director of Emergency Medical Services at Porter Hospital. Others may know him as a dedicated Emergency Medical Services instructor. But to Lenore Samanas he was a loving husband of 29 years and father to the couple's three children, son Ryan and twin daughters, Chrissy and Jill.

Yet 10 years after his death, Robert Samanas continues to help the people of Porter County through gifts in his name. At his death, the family established a fund using proceeds from a memorial dinner. This year, with the help of the Porter County Community Foundation, they've put the fund to work. Most of the funds were given to the Porter Health and Wellness fund, which makes grants to organizations to improve the health of Porter County. It's fitting that the man who worked tirelessly to save lives in emergency services continues to improve lives through community healthcare.



The family's gifts in Bob's name also included \$1,000 to Thomas Jefferson Elementary School (where daughter Chrissy is a teacher) to help purchase coats, hats, and other necessities for needy students and \$1,000 to the Porter County Fire Association to help county departments to serve the community.

"It's significant to me and my family that 10 years after he passed, the funds gathered in his name are still helping others," said Lenore Samanas. "It was important to us to mark this anniversary in a positive way," she said. The Samanas name also lives on in the couple's children. All three graduated from college, though Chrissy and Jill had just begun their freshman year when Robert died. Chrissy became a teacher and remains in Porter County. Jill is a Certified Nursing Assistant in Oregon. Son Ryan has chosen to follow in his father's footsteps and is an EMT-A and Firefighter at US Steel.

Bob Samanas made such an impact on the community that his funeral was held at the Porter County Expo Center. He was also memorialized at the National Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD. For more information about making a contribution in the name of Robert Samanas or establishing a fund of your own, contact the Foundation at 219-465-0294.

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Grace IN A COMPETITIVE WORLD!

Annual Tea Empowers Women to Compete

"Grace in a Competitive World" was the topic of guest speaker Dr. Carolyn Woo's talk at the annual Women's Tea. "Competition is everywhere, in our careers, our communities, even our parking lots and freeways," said Woo, Dean of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. "Competition should not define us, but give us a context for setting goals," she said.



Lila Cagen Cohen talks with Dr. Carolyn Woo at the Women's Tea.

There was plenty of grace at the tenth annual Women's Tea, gathering 280 women and motivating them to empower others. Beginning in 2007, the ladies have gone beyond simply meeting for tea by launching Impact Porter County, a giving circle dedicated to helping Porter County women. Members of the circle commit \$1,000 each year and gather annually to decide on an organization to receive an Impact grant. The remaining funds are endowed to continue helping Porter County women forever.

There are currently 50 members of Impact Porter County, plus many others who contribute to the cause. Since 2008, Impact Porter County has awarded \$115,000 in grants to expand education options for women, improve their life skills, and support their families.



Pictured left to right: Pat Bodenstener (Impact member), Dr. Carolyn Woo and Barb Young (Foundation President).

To learn how you can make a positive impact for women in Porter County, contact the Foundation at 219-465-0294 or visit the web site at www.portercountyfoundation.org.

6 REASONS

to Get into the Spirit of Giving



The nation's rough economy has put some humbug in the holiday, but here are six reasons to light the spirit of giving:

1. The need is greater today

As the economy struggles and incomes shrink, more people are seeking help at the same time that nonprofit organizations are seeing shortages.

2. The future of tax benefits is uncertain

Because of the uncertainties of tax legislation for 2011, it may be to your advantage to complete previously planned gifts in 2010.

3. You won't be alone

Despite the economy, American donors gave more than \$300 billion to their favorite charities last year. Now more than ever, those who are able to share can make a tremendous difference to others.

4. A love for Porter County

So many who have seen success in Porter County want to share these same opportunities and comforts with others. When you factor in the tax advantages, most prefer to see their gifts at work in their community rather than leave their hands in the form of taxes.

5. Giving today can make the most impact

By sharing your gift now, your contribution can have the maximum impact on Porter County. Your gift can be combined with others and begin drawing returns which can be put to work in your community.

6. Planning today can maximize your gift tomorrow

Choosing the best property and timing for your gifts may even allow you to make a larger gift to the Porter County Community Foundation at the same after-tax cost to you! Also, saving taxes now may even have a "multiplier" effect as the money you save continues to grow for the future.



THE *Perfect* GIFT

HELPFUL GIFT IDEAS

For maximum returns (the good kind)



No one likes to give a holiday gift that's returned. Yet when you're talking *charitable* gifts, you actually look for a maximum return in the form of tax benefits for the giver. In this case, consider the type of gift. While there is no single "best property" for everyone to give to charity, many people find that highly appreciated property (owned for more than a year) can be the most effective way to make a gift that also delivers tax benefits to the giver. These gifts are deductible at their full *fair market value*, which means that a charitable gift to the Foundation in the form of stock or other property can cost considerably less than a similar cash gift.

There is often a big difference between gifts of post-tax dollars and gifts of pre-tax property! Gifts of highly appreciated property can be great ways to leverage your gift - to make a larger gift to the Porter County Community Foundation at a smaller cost to you.

For those investments that have decreased in value, you may want to consider selling the depreciated property and donating the proceeds so that you don't forfeit the benefit of a capital loss deduction for your taxes.

Call the Porter County Community Foundation at 219-465-0294 to discuss your giving options and strategies for making the biggest difference to your community and your tax statement.

NONPROFIT EXPO

Promotes Connections

What looked like a party was actually the second ever Nonprofit Expo in October co sponsored by the Porter County Community Foundation and the United Way of Porter County. All the fun paid off as more than 400 staff members and volunteers from 70 different nonprofit organizations got to know each other and learn how they might work together.

"It was a terrific networking opportunity as well as a chance for all of us to learn more about the many wonderful nonprofit organizations serving our community," said Barb Young, Foundation President. To make it interesting, each participant was encouraged to meet at least 10 different organizations to fill an entry card for hourly drawings, which rewarded participants with grants. The Foundation and United Way of Porter County awarded a total of \$10,000 in unrestricted grants during these drawings. Recipients include Dunes Learning Center, Every Child Ministries, Frontline Foundations, Gabriel's Horn, HealthLinc, and Prevent Child Abuse Porter County.



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