

LOCAL SCHOOL TEACHERS GIVE BACK FOREVER

By Janet Haley
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Two humble, loving and dedicated public school teachers, Dr. Ray and Carolyn Saxman, have made contributions to the Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) and Ball State University (BSU) that will benefit countless public school students in Hendricks County and Honors College students at Ball State for generations to come.



Longtime contributors and supporters of both HCCF and BSU, late last year the Saxmans set up charitable gift annuities with both nonprofit organizations. From each gift annuity the Saxmans will receive annual income for the rest of their lives. Upon their deaths, the remainder will be added to the Saxman Family Fund, a special interest fund administered by HCCF, that provides grants to Plainfield Community School students in need. At Ball State the Saxman legacy will benefit the Honors College program for gifted and talented college students. Both organizations will be able to increase their ability to enhance students' ability to learn with these generous contributions from Dr. Ray and Carolyn Saxman.

Why HCCF and BSU?

Raised in Blackford County by loving, hard-working parents, Dr. Saxman grew up "doing without." He remembers as a boy of ten or eleven riding through Muncie with his dad near the then Ball State Teachers College campus when they had to stop the car so students in their caps and gowns could cross the street near the student center on their way to graduation. "I thought the professor hoodings were the most beautiful things that I had ever seen and those people surely were geniuses," said Dr. Saxman. "I never dreamed I could be one of them someday.

His dream became a reality through encouragement of several mentors that included a high school teacher, an employer and a college professor. He also benefitted from scholarships, anonymous gifts of tuition and work-study programs that allowed him to graduate from BSU with an undergraduate degree in science and doctorate in education. "I got to be in a couple of those processions and wore a hooding. The best part was that I found out those were just normal people who worked hard to earn the right to be in that ceremony," said Dr. Saxman.

After a distinguished career in public school classrooms Dr. Saxman continues to mentor and counsel new teachers as a student teacher supervisor for Indiana University, Indiana State University and Marian University.

The Saxmans met in an undergraduate educational psychology class and fell in love at BSU. In the early 1970s they moved their young family to Plainfield. Both Saxmans taught in Hendricks County schools for many years. Ray was at Cascade for three years and then over 20 years at Plainfield High School where he taught physics, chemistry, physical and earth sciences and chaired the science department. Carolyn taught elementary school at Mill Creek East Elementary for a short time and then primarily taught second grade at Plainfield's Brentwood Elementary until she retired.

Their three sons--Scott, Ron and Brad--are all proud graduates of Plainfield High School and Ball State. They have gone on to earn advanced degrees and have professional careers in medicine, technology and engineering. Scott is a doctor of medicine with a specialty in oncology and a director of research on

cancer drugs at Eli Lilly and Company. Brad is an engineer at the General Motors Providing Grounds in Michigan. Ron is a systems analyst for Duke Energy and lives with his family in Plainfield, making his children the second generation of Saxmans to attend Plainfield Community Schools and the third to call Hendricks County home.

The Saxmans believe in the importance of education and that students cannot focus on learning when they enter the classroom if they don't have their basic needs met or their families cannot afford for them to take advantage of extra-curricula activities. "We have been so blessed to live long and productive lives and these two school teachers want to continue helping students in need so they can learn, become successful adults and then give back in their communities," said Dr. Saxman.

To find out how you can make contributions that fund your passion, support your community and invest in your family's financial future at the same time contact the Hendricks County Community Foundation at www.hendrickscountycf.org.