

Community Connection

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Kelley Robbins loved to talk, sometimes about his business, sometimes about the business of the county, but most of all, about his family. He and his wife Jean had two children and two grandchildren, and he loved his family deeply.

Kelley also loved Scott County. He started Robbins' Landscaping and Nursery, building a couple of greenhouses and planting fields of young spruce that he trimmed into fine-looking Christmas trees. Dozens of families over the past 42 years have trekked across his fields, searching for the ideal tree to take home and decorate.

Kelley lost a short battle with cancer on February 9, surrounded by his family and several of his friends. He was 64.

Kelley loved serving his community and most enjoyed the conversations he'd have with others about wanting this county to move forward despite its problems.

Kelley always had a passion for public health. His

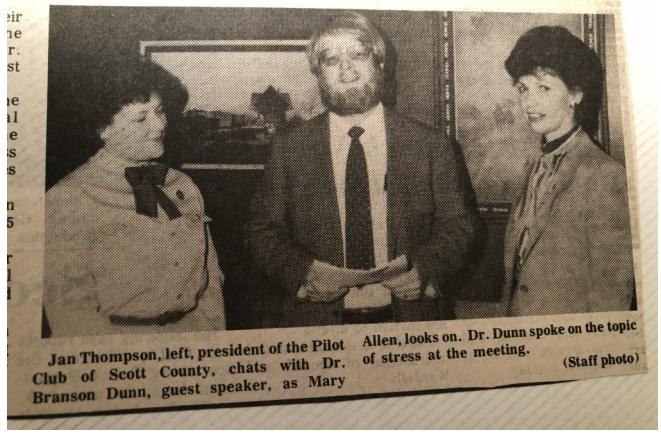
father, John Robbins, advocated for public health as a County Councilman in the 1960's, 70's, and 80's. His sister, Sharon Prall, served as both a school nurse for Scott County School District 2 and the Scott County Public Health Department's Health Nurse for over 30 years. His mother, Goldie Robbins, worked for the Scott County Health Department and Welfare Department in the 1970's and 80's, frequently assisting families in obtaining health care. His wife, Jean, has served as the Scott County WIC Director for 39 years.

In Kelley's 26 years as a Scott County Councilman and 3 years as a County Commissioner, public health has always been at the forefront of issues he identified as important. The HIV outbreak in 2015 strengthened his long term commitment to ensure the future of Scott County's health continue to remain a priority. He strongly supported moving the Scott County Health Department into a new building, and had remarked, "I think (improving local health services) is one of the best things we've done in a while for our residents. We need to concentrate more on living better lives, healthier lives."

After Kelley passed, his family decided to establish the Kelley Robbins Endowment for Public Health. As a donor-advised fund, the family can all take part in recommending grants that they feel would support Kelley's vision for a healthier community.

"The Community Foundation has provided a wonderful opportunity with the establishment of an endowment fund that will enable the continuation of Kelley's devotion to public health and Scott County for years to come," shared Jean.

Speaks On Stress To Pilot Club Members



Jan Thompson, left, president of the Pilot Club of Scott County, chats with Dr. Branson Dunn, guest speaker, as Mary

Allen, looks on. Dr. Dunn spoke on the topic of stress at the meeting.

(Staff photo)

Pilot Club Lifeline/Mary Allen and Jan Thompson Healthcare Scholarship Fund Established

Scholarship will assist adults who are continuing their education on the nursing pathway.



What started as a desire to assist elderly and disabled residents has turned into a long-lasting legacy for a service organization and the two women who had the dedication to implement the Lifeline program in Scott County.

Over 30 years ago, the Pilot Club of Scott County decided to offer a program that offered independence to the elderly and disabled, through purchasing the Lifeline personal emergency response system. Mary Allen and Jan Thompson served as the coordinators for the Pilot Club's program, and worked for almost three years to obtain this service for Scott County residents.

"We felt that this was something that is needed in our community," Mary Allen was quoted as saying in an article in the Scott County Journal in November 1985.

The Lifeline system allowed residents to remain in their homes and have 24-hour access to community medical and social services at the press of a button. The Pilot Club received donations from the community and a grant from the Pilot International Foundation to purchase these systems, which they then rented to residents.

"I consider myself so fortunate to have spent so many hours each month with Mary as we traveled the backroads of the county providing this service to elderly and disabled residents," said Jan. "I love that she never met a stranger, never forgot a face, and was truly interested in the people we helped."

Over the years, the Pilot Club's Lifeline program was able to assist many local residents. Mary and Jan discussed establishing a scholarship with the proceeds for quite some time. Throughout their work with the Lifeline program, they would see many nurses over the years make their way up through the nursing pathway, and wanted to find a way to assist those adults with their educational costs.

Mary contacted the Scott County Community Foundation in early August to share her desire to establish a scholarship. When she unexpectedly passed away on Aug. 20, the Pilot Club members decided to fulfill the wishes of Mary and Jan by establishing the Pilot Club Lifeline/Mary Allen and Jan Thompson Healthcare Scholarship. This

spring, the first scholarship worth \$1,500 will be awarded to an adult who is continuing their education in nursing, as well as those seeking to be a surgery tech, radiology tech or respiratory therapist.

Mary was very passionate about helping others and giving back to the community, so it is only befitting to have a scholarship in her memory to honor the service that she and Jan provided for so many in Scott County.

"We had many of the same interests and enjoyed sharing recipes, sewing techniques, and current educational issues," shared Jan. "We looked forward to our hours of service since we definitely mixed business with pleasure!"

Mary was also very involved in her children's and grandchildren's lives. She was a leader for Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, and went to countless sporting events. She taught all of her family how to play golf, as Mary was an avid golfer. She helped organize league events and scrambles at Westwood Golf Course, where she belonged to the ladies league.

Mary worked for the Houston, Thompson and Lewis law firm part-time for many years after she retired as the legal office manager for local lawyer John Dollens. After retiring from Houston, Thompson and Lewis, she enjoyed watching her great-grandson, Hayes Feder, a couple days a week. She even taught him to play golf.

"She didn't know a stranger and had so many friends and loved ones who cared for her dearly," shared her granddaughter, Jessica Allen Feder.

Mary is survived by her husband of 60 years, Melvin Allen; her son Terry Allen and his wife Debbie; her daughter, Karen Everett and her husband Dave; her grandchildren Jessica and her husband Kevin; Evan Allen; Ben Everett and his wife Chynelle; Jared Everett; Ryan Everett; and her great-grandson, Hayes.

"It is our hope that Mary's legacy for helping others and her belief in the community will live on through this scholarship," said Jessica on behalf of the family. "She was the rock and the light of our family and we hope her spirit shines through this scholarship."

Foundation Happenings



Board member Mike Everett always enjoys representing the Community Foundation at the annual Ag Day breakfast! We are honored to be a sponsor of this event, which supports the Scottsburg FFA and increases awareness of the importance of our agricultural community.

We want to give a big thanks to Scott County farmer John Hardin, who directed a \$2,500 gift to Scott County Community Foundation as part of the America's Farmers Grow Communities program, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund.

The donation will be invested in the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District Fund. This fund provides support for the conservation and protection of soil and water-related resources.



We celebrated our second annual casino night fundraiser with a Mardi Gras theme! Mid-America Science Park was transformed into New Orleans for a very fun night! Stay tuned for next year's theme...



Our Early Childhood Committee hosted a Family Literacy Night/Resource Fair that was attended by "Dolly Parton"! Providers shared information on resources, while children went through a Minds-in-Motion maze, worked on a quilt craft, listened to a story and heard Dolly sing "Coat of Many Colors."

At right, the Committee hosted a roundtable for early childhood providers. Mandy Petersen was our guest speaker and shared information on fine motor skills.





Scott County Community Foundation

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Looking Forward, Giving Back.

Allie LaMaster Joins Foundation as Counseling Intern

Please join us in welcoming Allie LaMaster to the Foundation team. Allie is the new Career and College Counselor intern under a program funded by the Lilly Endowment. The Community Foundation Internships (CFI) program is part of Lilly's goal to help build healthy Indiana community foundations and to provide college students with real-life work experiences.

Allie's duties involve counseling students at Austin and Scottsburg high schools with career and college choices, scholarship and financial aid opportunities, assisting students with the 21st Century Scholarship requirements, coordinating job shadowing/internship opportunities, coordinating college visits and more.

Allie has been a resident of Scottsburg for more than 17 years. She is the daughter of Mark and April LaMaster of Scottsburg. She graduated from Scottsburg High School in December 2017. Allie is attending Ivy Tech Sellersburg in pursuit of an associate's degree in nursing. From there, Allie will transfer to Indiana University Southeast to obtain her bachelor of science in nursing.

"I am very thankful to have been blessed with this opportunity through the Scott County Community Foundation," Allie said. "Preparing to go to college, trade school, or straight to a career can be a difficult decision and having a hand to hold through the whole process can put your mind at ease. I hope that I can be that helping hand to as many students as I possibly can. I can't wait to

collaborate with the faculty and staff at Scottsburg and Austin high schools to help better the student body."

"Scottsburg High School is so glad to have this internship partnership with the Scott County Community Foundation," shared Shannon Mount, K-12 College and Career Counselor for Scott County School District 2. "It gives a college student a way to give back plus helps our school and counseling department in return. I think it is safe to say that there is never a dull moment in a high school counseling office. Allie has a wonderful work ethic and great positive attitude. She will fit right in at Scottsburg High."

"Austin High School is very excited to have Allie assisting our 21st Century Scholar students as well as helping students with college applications and tutor students who are struggling," said AHS guidance counselor Cindy Watts. "Allie has been a tremendous asset to AHS. She has submerged herself into our student body and has rolled up her sleeves and went to work. She has fit right in and the students feel comfortable working with her. Thank you to the Scott County Community Foundation for making this assistance possible."

