

# Community Connection

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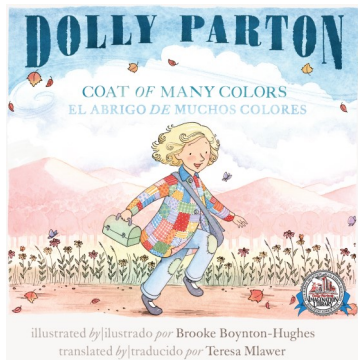
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## StoryWalk® Installed at Austin Community Park



Young children will now be able to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time through a new StoryWalk® installation at Austin Community Park. The Scott County Community Foundation’s Early Childhood Committee invites families to join the movement to combine literacy, exercise, nature, and family bonding.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in 2007. Her goal was to create something different, fun and interesting for adults to be active with children to help encourage healthy living. She came up with the idea to take pages from a children’s picture book, attach each one to a stake, and line them along a path. Since then, StoryWalk® has spread to all 50 states and 13 foreign countries.

The first installation is made possible through the generosity of a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. as well as the Jayce Ray Stallings Memorial Fund at the Scott County Community Foundation. It will be installed on the walking trail starting near the parking lot at Austin Community Park. There are 20 signs displayed in a loop, and each sign shares an activity that a child can do to be interactive with their surroundings. The first book featured is Dolly Parton’s *Coat of Many Colors*.

A second installation is being planned for the Scott County Courthouse lawn. It is funded through the generosity of Lilly Endowment and a grant from the Beverly Crowell Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Scott County Community Foundation. It will feature Dolly Parton’s *I Am a Rainbow* book.

The Community Foundation’s Early Childhood Com-

mittee plans to rotate the books at least quarterly or seasonally. The majority of the books will be used from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative, which is a program supported by the Community Foundation, United Way of Scott County, Friends of the Library, Scott County Kiwanis Club, Scott County School District 2 and numerous other donors. The Imagination Library provides free books for children from ages birth through five, mailed directly to their homes every month. In Scott County, there are currently 865 children receiving the age-appropriate books, and 1,904 children who “graduated” from the program when they turned five.

To celebrate this exciting new project, an opening reception will be held at Austin Community Park on Wednesday, April 26 at 5:30 p.m. The community is invited to attend. Visitors are encouraged to take photos and use the hashtag #ScottCountyStoryWalk to share with others.

“The Early Childhood Committee dreamed of bringing something to Scott County that would unite connections with the youngest learners and their caregivers,” said Committee Chairperson Emily Jordan. “By utilizing the Scott County StoryWalk®, families will create a deeper bond and understanding for one another, and will develop necessary developmental skills such as social communication, motor, language development and cognitive skills. While our books will be focused on ages three to five, the StoryWalk® project is for all ages and every ability level. We hope everyone enjoys this project the same way and as much as our committee has enjoyed working on it.”

For more information on sponsoring a book, please contact Jaime Toppe at the Community Foundation, 752-2057, email [info@scottcountyfoundation.org](mailto:info@scottcountyfoundation.org), or stop in the office at 60 N. Main St. The Early Childhood Committee hopes to have future installations in other locations throughout the county. You may visit [www.scottcountyfoundation.org](http://www.scottcountyfoundation.org) and visit the StoryWalk® page under the Community Initiatives menu for a current list of the StoryWalk® locations and books.

# Beverly Crowell Memorial Scholarship Fund Created



*"Best teacher I ever had." "Wonderful lady, never without a smile. She loved people and they loved her." "A very talented lady with a heart of gold! Her laugh was contagious! She loved life." "She was an amazing person and a gift to all who knew her." "She will be greatly missed." "She was more than a teacher to all of us."*

Hundreds of people shared these sentiments upon the passing of a wonderful teacher and friend, Ms. Beverly Crowell. The impact she made on students, their families, and countless others who knew her will be forever remembered. Now,

through a new permanent endowment fund established at the Scott County Community Foundation, her legacy will continue to live on through the Beverly Crowell Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Born November 20, 1947, to Glen and June Crowell, Beverly was the middle child to older sister Susan and younger sister Janet. She was born and raised in Eaton, Ohio, having attended schools there her entire life. She was very active in school activities, especially music and drama club. She took piano lessons all her life and played for many churches, music contests, and choruses. She and her family were faithful members of The Eaton Church of the Brethren. As an adult when she would come home for visits, she would attend church and present special music with the quartet of Glen, Susan, and Janet.

When Beverly graduated high school in 1965, she attended Manchester College in Indiana to major in music. She changed her major to teaching but participated in chorus. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in elementary education and later achieved her master's degree.

Scott County became Beverly's home when she was offered her first teaching job by Scott County School District 2 in August 1969. She started her calling briefly at Johnson Elementary but taught second grade at Vienna-Finley Elementary for the remainder of her career. Her career spanned just short of 43 years when she retired June 2012.

Beverly was a member of Scottsburg First Christian Church, where she shared her talents of being a gifted piano player and her beautiful soprano voice. She had a wide variety of "loves" in her life. She was known for her love of "bling" and all things shiny. She had many interests, to include scrapbooking, collecting rocks, having gatherings with friends and family, and most of all, her love for Jesus. While Beverly never had children of her own, she became very close to Brent and Pam Comer and their family, considering Grant, Kenley and Gabby Comer as her grandchildren. Christmas was one of her favorite things, according to Kenley. In fact, her video tribute played at her celebration of life was Christmas-themed.

"When you walked into her house you were greeted with an incredible amount of Christmas trees that had been collected over the many years of her life," shared Kenley. "She had the biggest love for Jesus and the kindest heart. She loved to help others and had the most infectious laugh I have ever heard. I will greatly miss our long talks and that beautiful smile that she so often had on her face."

The stack of letters from students whose lives Beverly touched give a glimpse of how much she meant to the children she taught and their families.

*"You are the best teacher I ever had because you are sweet and kind,"* wrote Melodie in a goodbye card as she left second grade. *"I love you and I will miss you dearly. Thank you for being you."*

*"Thank you for not only being a good teacher to my children, but for being the beautiful person you are,"* wrote one parent. *"Your ability as a teacher as well as your musical talent is what makes you the beautiful person you are. I know wherever you go and whatever you do, you will always have success and the people you meet will be left with an impression that they will never forget."*

Not only was she a favorite in the classroom, but her influence on the young minds that she taught would eventually come full circle. Many former students shared that they entered the education field after being inspired by her.

"She was always so kind and loved each of us in her class!" shared Emily Jordan, who is now the Early Learning Coordinator for Scott County School District 2. "Some of my favorite memories of loving school were from her classroom! Her smile and laugh were the best and would lift up anyone's day. Ms. Crowell was a lot of the reason I wanted to be in the education world!"

Beverly's niece, Amy, wrote a letter in 1996 to tell her aunt about the impact she made in her life. *"When I was younger, I remember you coming home to visit and telling me stories about the students in your second grade classroom. These stories along with your enthusiasm for teaching have impacted my life. You truly are my hero and my inspiration in wanting to spend my life in the teaching profession. I just hope that I can be as good a teacher,"* wrote Amy.

Bev was also Kenley Comer's second grade teacher, and impacted her decision to be a teacher. Kenley is currently majoring in elementary education at Ball State University. "Although I had many amazing teachers, Bev will always be one of my favorites," said Kenley. "She handled her position with such care and love for each student that walked into her classroom. She made sure that each student had all the necessities and knew that they were loved by her. Bev was an inspiring lady who devoted many years of her life to becoming a teacher and helping many students and I hope I can do the same."

Her fellow teacher, Sara Prince, remembered her laugh. "You could easily find her by following her laughter. Wherever she was there was laughter. She taught me so much and made teaching so much fun."

After Bev's passing on April 5, 2022, her family and close friends decided to memorialize her through the creation of the Beverly Crowell Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Scott County Community Foundation. Any graduating senior of a Scott County school who plans to major in education at a 4-year college or university will be eligible to apply. The first scholarship will be awarded this spring.

In addition, Beverly's fund will make it possible for a new StoryWalk project to be placed on the courthouse lawn this spring. The installation will consist of pages of a book placed in permanent signs along a path to encourage reading, movement, and interaction with a young child's surroundings.

Bev's love for her students was well-known by everyone who had the pleasure of calling her teacher. "The friendships she acquired throughout her life were dedicated teachers, musicians, crafters, and precious Scottsburg families that surrounded her and adopted her as their own," shared her sister, Janet. "Bev would be so honored to know that students in the future will be following in her footsteps."

# Adkins-Jones Family Fund Established



Two siblings who have dedicated their lives to serving our community have taken that one step further through the establishment of a permanent endowment fund at the Scott County Community Foundation. Created by Raymond Jones and Clara (Jones) Adkins, the Adkins-Jones Family Fund will provide support to the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum as well as the Scott County Community Foundation's operating and unrestricted funds.

Raymond graduated from Scottsburg High School in 1950 and married his high school sweetheart, Lola May Chanley, on June 1, 1952. They were blessed with two children, Marietta Mae and Gary Ray. Raymond and May gained additions to the family by marriage when their daughter Marietta married Wallace and son Gary married Sandy. They continued to grow their family with grandchildren and their spouses as well: Kathryn, who married Oscar; Sarah, Brian, and Bradley, who married Gabbi. Brad and Gabbi have given Raymond and Lola one great-granddaughter, Raya. "They all give me great pleasure," shared Raymond.

Raymond completed a long and faithful career to our country, serving 39 years and six months before retiring June 30, 1992 as a Chief Warrant Officer. This included two years in the Army, including a tour in Korea, and 38 years as a full-time Army National Guard soldier/technician. For all his service to the military and our country, Raymond was bestowed with the honor of Sagamore of the Wabash by Gov. Robert D. Orr on July 10, 1987.

Concurrently, Raymond served with the Scottsburg Volunteer Fire Department for 50 years, including the honor of being Chief for 15 years. In June 2020, the Scottsburg Fire Station Number One was dedicated to Raymond in recognition of his leadership and many years of dedicated service.

Raymond was instrumental in the formation of the Scott County Emergency Medical Service (EMS), which was formed from scratch upon direction of the Scott County Commissioners and opened for public service in 2005. A new EMS headquarters was dedicated June 4, 2016 as the "Raymond W. Jones Emergency Medical Services Complex" in honor of Raymond's service.

Raymond's service to Scott County also includes 18 years in the elected position of Scott County Council member. He shared that credit for any success he has achieved goes to three people: his mom and dad, who by example taught them how to live; and his wife, Lola May, now deceased, who made their house a home.

Clara married Charles "Charlie" Adkins after graduating high school in 1954. They have two children, Debbie Starr and Terri Nichols, as well as five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Clara, or "Nana" as she is affectionately called, also claims Heather White, her husband Jimmy and sons Tyler and Caleb as her own. "She's a daughter of my heart," said Clara.

Clara worked for the first clerk-treasurer in Austin, and then got appointed to that position in 1973 and then elected in 1975. She served 25 years in that capacity as Clerk-Treasurer and expressed a great love for politics and her work.

After Charlie passed away in 1999, Clara retired and mentored other clerk-treasurers for a few years. She became the first female to serve on the Austin Town Council in 2004, where she served for almost three years before having to vacate the position when she moved to Scottsburg in 2006. She then became involved in county government, running for Raymond's County Council seat when he decided not to run, serving a four-year term. She still serves as the county representative to the Scott County Regional Sewer District.

"I've always loved being involved, loved Austin and Scott County," shared Clara. "You need to have passion, a fire in your gut," she said about public service.

Clara met her beloved companion, Joe Tichenor, in 2001. They had a wonderful 21-year relationship until he passed away in September 2022. They enjoyed traveling and living life, and Clara shared that he was a good man whom she loved dearly.

Clara also served on the Board of Directors for the Scott County Partnership from 1998-2012, as well as the Board of the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum. While Clara jokes about not wanting to "toot her own horn," she paved the way for many women today who serve in Scott County. For her efforts, the Scott County Business and Professional Women's Club awarded her "Woman of the Year" in 1985, and Gov. Frank O'Bannon awarded her the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash in 1999 when she retired.

As a retiree, Clara now enjoys the time she spends with family and friends, including daily phone conversations with several of them.

While anyone who knows Raymond and Clara enjoys their playful sibling banter, they both speak highly about each other when reminiscing about their lives. Clara also echoed what Raymond had to say about the influence of their parents on their lives of service to the community.

"We are what we are because of Mother and Daddy's hard work and their beliefs: 'Your word is your honor' and 'don't forget where you came from,'" shared Clara. She has tried to maintain a "glass half full" attitude in everything she does.

Their kindness and dedication to Scott County is far-reaching and an important part of who they are. By creating a permanent endowment fund to benefit Scott County, they are ensuring that causes they care about will be financially supported long after they are gone.

"These are two people I've known my entire life and they have always served and given back to our community," shared Heather White, who was the former board chairperson for the Scott County Community Foundation and nurtured conversations with Clara and Raymond about creating their legacy. "They have set an excellent example of leadership for all to follow."

Raymond shared that he has always been interested in history and the preservation of it. He also became a board member for the Preservation Alliance Inc., which oversees the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum. "They are involved not only in the preservation of history, but also making it available for all to see and learn from," he said. "As a past board member I know how much time is spent by volunteers. These volunteers provide all manner of services in addition to fundraising; they need help from all of us. An excellent way to provide ongoing support is through an endowment fund."

Clara was an early board member for the Community Foundation, having served from 2001-2007. She was a dedicated volunteer and has often remarked that the Foundation is like any other charity and needs operating support so it would be here to serve the community.

"I have seen positive results from the Foundation's efforts," added Raymond. "I am grateful we have this organization providing this service to our community."

"I've always felt that the Community Foundation does such good work and helps so many different organizations, that I wanted to be a part of that. This is how we can do that," said Clara. "We're hoping that the legacy we leave will follow through to the next generation."

*Please visit our website for the full story.*





## Scott County Community Foundation

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### *Looking Forward, Giving Back.*

## Sco Co Connect Initiative Launched



In an effort to make new Scott County residents feel welcome, the Scott County Community Foundation has created a new initiative, Sco Co Connect. The purpose is to help new residents learn about community resources, engage those interested in volunteer opportunities, and connect

them with ambassadors to give a warm welcome to the community. Residents will receive a welcome bag thanks to the generosity of several sponsors. A coloring book featuring Scott County landmarks drawn by local high school art students will also be provided to new elementary school students who have recently moved here.

shared Al Riggle, a board member and welcoming committee chairman for the Scott County Community Foundation. “A strong sense of community is important to quality of place and quality of life.” An opening reception, Sco Co Connection Fest, will be held Sunday, April 30 from noon until 3 p.m. at Montgomery Farms, 1122 E. Radio Tower Road, Underwood. There will be a craft fair, a free bouncy house for kids, food trucks, and booths for nonprofits and other organizations who are interested in sharing information with our new neighbors.

You can stay connected with Sco Co Connect through [www.scococonnect.org](http://www.scococonnect.org) or the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ScoCoConnect](https://www.facebook.com/ScoCoConnect).

“We encourage you to find us on social media and help spread the word to any new residents who have moved here,” said Riggle. “We want 100% of our residents to feel that our community is welcoming to newcomers!”

The Scott County Community Foundation would like to thank the sponsors for making this initiative possible. The Gold sponsors are Scott County School District 1, Scott County School District 2, and Scott Memorial Health. The Silver sponsor is Schneck Family Care. The Bronze sponsors are City of Austin and City of Scottsburg.

The Community Foundation established Sco Co Connect after studying the results of *Forward Together*, a community needs assessment that was released in 2020 through a partnership with Indiana University Southeast. One of the questions asked residents to respond to the statement: “Our community is welcoming to newcomers” and less than half of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed with that statement.

“I’ve only lived here about 14 years, but I love this community!”