

Looking Forward,  
Giving Back

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# Scott County Community Foundation Community Connection

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## New Fund to Benefit Student Golfers



A new endowment fund at the Scott County Community Foundation will support young golfers in their "A" Game thanks to the generosity of a local couple who has enjoyed the sport over the years. The Stan and Sandy

Stoner Golf Fund for Students will provide support to Scott County School District 2's golf teams, with preference to those in financial need.

Stanley Stoner joined the Army National Guard after high school graduation, eventually becoming the company commander of the Seymour and North Vernon units. He served for 12 years. He then worked in the tire business for 20 years before taking a job at Scott Memorial Hospital, where he retired as Director of Building Services.

After high school graduation, Sandy attended the University of Louisville, where she earned her bachelor of science degree. She later attained her master's degree at Indiana University. She retired from Scott County School District 2 after teaching for 37 years.

After retirement, the couple purchased a home near the golf course and started golfing for enjoyment. "We thoroughly enjoyed the sport plus we had the opportunity to meet new people," shared Sandy. "It was interesting to watch students become involved in the schools' golf leagues and after graduation some enjoyed

golfing in college."

The couple was always active in First Baptist Church until Stan passed away Dec. 21, 2016. Sandy remains an active member. Their son and three grandsons enjoy golfing after work and on the weekends, so golf has remained a passion for the family.

Because golf is an expensive sport, Sandy wanted to provide financial assistance for students so that it wouldn't be an obstacle to participation. She created an endowment fund at the Scott County Community Foundation to provide a permanent source of support for students at Scott County School District 2.

"Stan and Sandy Stoner are two incredible individuals," said Scottsburg High School Athletic Director Jamie Lowry. "Their generosity and support will have a long lasting impact on not only our golf program but also on our community!"



# Cowles Family Fund Created to Award Scholarships



A new scholarship fund at the Scott County Community Foundation was created in honor of longtime teacher Lillian Cowles. As a permanent endowment fund, scholarships will be awarded to Scott County students for generations to come.

Lillian taught language arts at Scottsburg High School from 1968 until her passing in 1991, following in the footsteps of her valued friend and mentor, Thelma Hogue.

In addition to teaching, Lillian taught music lessons on organ, piano, guitar and banjo. She played banjo and sang with the AC Spark Plug bluegrass band, played the organ at First Christian Church of Scottsburg from the age of 13 throughout her life, and along with her family found the time to operate an ice cream truck for a few summers.

She taught in memorable ways, found the gift in each student, and made a lasting impression on those who knew her. She had a special place in her heart for children and friends who faced challenges, and her family hopes to honor her legacy by helping fund secondary expenses for Scott County students who work hard to succeed while facing challenging circumstances.

The Cowles Family Fund will award the Lillian Cowles Memorial Scholarship, worth \$4,000, this spring. The scholarship is open to any Scott County student, and they must submit an essay on how they've overcome challenging circumstances.

"We're excited to have another scholarship opportunity for deserving Scott County students," said Community Foundation Executive Director Jaime Toppe. "Many of us were impacted greatly by our teachers, and this is a wonderful way to honor the legacy of a woman who made a difference for so many students."

## Scott County Heritage Center & Museum Fund Created 25 Years Ago



Twenty-five years ago, an endowment fund was created to support the operations of the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum. Development of the historical structure was made a reality through the efforts of the Preservation Alliance Inc., a nonprofit that preserves, celebrates, and promotes the history of Scott County. Formerly known as the Scott County Home, the Museum was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in May 2000, one month after the permanent endowment fund was created. Because of the generosity of our community, almost \$93,000 in grants from the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum Endowment Fund have been awarded back to the nonprofit to support its mission. Grants will continue to provide support for generations to come. Historic preservation is an important part of our community, and we are honored to be a partner.

Many years ago, when there was no public assistance, Scott County had a place where mentally, physically, and financially

handicapped people could live and care for themselves. The "county home" was built in the late 1880s after Indiana legislation passed a law requiring each county in Indiana to establish a home for the disadvantaged. As of 20 years ago, the Scott County facility was only one of 31 remaining county homes still left standing in Indiana.

The people that lived there cared for themselves by planting a garden for fruits and vegetables, milking cows for their dairy products, raising hogs for their meat, and by tending to the fire and stove in the house to keep them warm and cook. They were largely self-sufficient and took care of themselves and others.

As the economy developed, so did public assistance programs. In the 1960s office buildings were located in some of the rooms of the county home, while a few people still lived there.

In 1995, when the courthouse was finished, the county offices moved in, leaving the old farm vacant. The Scott County Community Foundation then acquired this historical structure. Plans were developed to turn it into a museum that would reflect on the history of Scott County.

You may donate to the Museum's fund online at our website. To stay updated on their events, follow their Facebook page. Barn sales will begin April 12 and the first history dinner of the year is May 30.



# New Fund Created in Memory of Kameron Draper



Fla.

"From the very beginning, Kameron was full of energy," shared his mom, Laura. "He loved to do all things active! Kameron had a love for sports at an early age. He loved Barney, and he loved to read books." At the age of two, Kameron became an older brother to his sister, Kayleigh.

"Kameron was full of life, laughter, and so much love for his family. But, if things became dull, he had a mischievous side to add some life to any situation," remembered Laura.

When Kameron was five, he became big brother again to Caroline. His heart grew with so much love and protection for the girls.

Soon after Caroline was born the family returned to Indiana. Kameron enrolled in Austin Elementary School in third grade. He made friends quickly and again excelled in his schoolwork. His love for basketball began on the playground. Kameron loved all sports. While attending Austin, Kameron played basketball, ran track, cross country, and played tennis. All the while becoming an honor student and a member of the National Honor Society.

It was during the end of his days in high school, Kameron began his experimentation with marijuana, which led to experimenting with pain pills.

Kameron graduated from Austin High School in 2012. After graduation Kameron enlisted with the National Guard. Kameron attended basic training at Fort Sills in Oklahoma. He graduated at the top of his class as private first class. He attended Advanced Individual Training in Oklahoma as well. Upon graduation, Kameron attended Western Kentucky University (WKU) in Bowling Green, Ky.

Kameron attended three semesters at WKU. While in attendance, Kameron's curiosity with pain pills again began. He soon was no longer able to attend WKU due to poor academic performance. Kameron soon would be discharged from his commitment to the National Guard. The dreams of majoring in psychology and assisting people struggling with mental health and substance use soon became a dream of the past for Kameron. His curiosity took on a whole new name, addiction.

Addiction took hold of Kameron quickly. He lost everything. He was a shell of the sweet, smart, fun-loving young boy he once

A new fund created will bring awareness to overdose and addiction challenges to those in our community. The Kameron Draper Memorial Foundation was established by his family in the hopes that it will assist others in the early stages of their recovery.

Rodney "Kameron" Draper was the first child and only son born to Bart Draper and Laura (Draper) Deaton, on April 14, 1993, in Orlando,

was, shared his mom. Pain pills quickly turned to heroin. Heroin was easily accessible and cheaper. Pills during this time became hard to come by and were expensive. Kameron was soon homeless, living in his car, and at the mercy of his addiction. He spent a brief time incarcerated. He would work on and off, just long enough to get a paycheck.

In 2016 Kameron reached out, saying he'd had enough. He attended Appalachian Teen Challenge (ATC) in West Virginia. Kam spent nearly one year in West Virginia and excelled in the program. Kameron developed a relationship with Jesus Christ and came to know Him. Kameron studied the Word of God while at ATC and strived to share the Word and the power of God helping him through his darkness. Kameron shared his story at many Rotary Clubs and spoke often for fundraisers for ATC. Kameron applied to Johnson Bible College in Tennessee to continue his education and put himself back on track for the major in psychology and biblical studies. Due to Kameron's final semester at WKU and his poor academic performance, he was not accepted to enroll at Johnson Bible College. At this time, Kameron returned to Indiana.

It wasn't long Kameron soon found himself in the grips of the addiction he fought so hard to overcome. After another brief period of homelessness and unemployment, Kameron decided he needed to try recovery again. This time was in Toledo, Ohio. Kameron again excelled in treatment and graduated from Midwest Recovery Center. He decided to stay in Toledo because he felt that is where his support was. He obtained a good job laying fiber optic pipeline, made new friends and was genuinely happy where he was in life.

On July 21, 2019, Kameron asked a friend to borrow his car to run to the store. When Kameron returned his friend shared that Kameron was not acting right. They went on with their evening plans with Kameron included. By the end of the evening Kameron's friends confronted him. Kameron admitted he had purchased heroin earlier that evening when he borrowed the car. His friends stated it was late, and they would all talk about it in the morning. The morning never came for Kameron. Kameron laid down to go to sleep and would not awaken. Kameron passed away from a lethal fentanyl dose in the early hours of July 22, 2019.

The lives of Kameron's family and friends were forever changed that morning when they received the news of Kameron's death.

"The pain of grief has been unimaginable for all of us. Something we'd never wish on another family," said Laura.

Five years after Kameron's passing, his mother and sisters decided it was time to establish the Kameron Draper Memorial Foundation through the Scott County Community Foundation. The fund is established to bring awareness to overdose and addiction challenges to those in our community.

"Addiction does not discriminate and bringing awareness to this and the rise in overdoses is what this fund will strive to do as well as assisting efforts for those in the early stages seeking recovery," shared Laura.

Donations can be made to the Kameron Draper Memorial Foundation through our website.



## Scott County Community Foundation

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*Looking Forward, Giving Back.*

## Founding Board Member Mary Ellen Buchanan Passes



We are saddened to share the passing of one of our founding board members, Mary Ellen Buchanan. She served as a board member from 1997 through 2001, and then again from 2008-2011. She was an important part of creating the groundwork to build a permanent source of income for our community. Mary Ellen was an active board member, promoting the Community Foundation throughout Scott County and encouraging others to create funds

and donate. Setting the example for others, she also established the Austin High School Academic Team Endowment Fund to provide support for competition expenses every year.

Mary Ellen was a devoted English teacher at Austin High School, where she taught Latin, speech, and composition until her retirement in 1994. Countless people remembered her as a favorite teacher who inspired a love of learning through her classes.

A graduate of Indiana University, she was an avid fan of IU basketball. She was a long-standing member of American Martyrs Catho-

lic Church and had spent 18 years with the Sisters of St. Benedict Convent in Ferdinand. She also had a successful career as a real estate agent, and was a member of the Indiana State Retired Teachers Association.

Mary Ellen was a kind person who always had a smile on her face. She will be greatly missed, but we are forever grateful for the lasting contributions she made in our community.



**Mary Ellen visited with former Executive Director**

**L.L. Lowry at his retirement reception.**