

Community Connection

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Community Mourns Mayor Bill Graham’s Passing



Shown at left are Mayor Bill Graham and Mayor Dill Bush proclaiming Dec. 12, 2016 “Community Foundation Day” in honor of our 20th anniversary.

about Robin’s estate distribution, he recommended an endowment fund to benefit the Scottsburg city parks that Robin enjoyed so much.

“So much good has come out of the Community Foundation other than just money—the leadership that has come out of the Foundation has been fantastic,” shared Bill at the time. “Investing in the Community Foundation has proven the best choice over and over again through how much the money has grown, the excellent stewardship of the funds, and the Board making good decisions on how to expend those funds.”

Bill was very supportive of our YGC program as well. “Our youth get to see firsthand how some of the decisions are made in the community,” he said. “They are developing leadership and a strong financial understanding. I don’t know how else they’ll get those experiences, and it helps build a passion in our community.”

Bill will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Scott County lost a great man on March 25 when Mayor William H. “Bill” Graham passed away. Mayor Graham was a great friend to the Community Foundation and loved his community with all of his heart.

When we celebrated our 20th anniversary, we asked for stories from people who had made an impact on the Community Foundation, and we knew Bill had to be a part of sharing his story. In the late 1990s, he and about 40-plus other residents met in the basement of the Scottsburg United Methodist Church to discuss their vision for Scott County, and that is how the Community Foundation came to be.

“The original Board of the Scott County Community Foundation was very diligent and did a lot of things to be successful and make sure they were very good stewards of the money, and to make the right choices for the community,” shared Bill. “This Board started with the same tone that we had in the basement of the Methodist Church—there were no self-serving attitudes. The Community Foundation continued to grow and has proven to be a very, very key part of our community growth and community planning.”

Bill was instrumental in facilitating gifts to the Community Foundation over the years. When the Scottsburg Beautification Committee received an estate gift from Otis Collier, he set up an endowment fund to help with the upkeep of the Otis Collier Gardens at Lake Iola. He was a dear friend to Robin and Mary Eve, and when her family asked for suggestions



The YGC had been nominated for the Mayor’s Good Neighbor Award four times, and had been named a recipient twice. Bill loved the youth of our county!

Devonnia Tscheulin Memorial Fund to Benefit Community



A new endowment fund will benefit the community for generations to come, in memory of a person who gave so much to the community herself. The Devonnia Tscheulin Memorial Fund honors the legacy of a mother, wife, daughter, and friend.

Devonnia Kate Sears grew up in Salem with her two older brothers, Jared and Jonathan. She was very

close to her parents, Joe and Shirley, talking to them every single day even as an adult. She liked adventure from a young age, even learning to ride her bike with no training wheels at just over two years old. She enjoyed playing her fiddle growing up, and had a strong work ethic even as a child, throwing hay and hanging tobacco. She enjoyed attending concerts with Jared, breaking horses for her dad and going on family vacations. She graduated from Salem High School in 2007.

Devonnia was introduced to the public servant world when her brother Jonathan asked her to take an EMT class when she was 19. She successfully became a nationally-registered EMT and several years later, an Intermediate EMT. She then attended The Pelham Training Institute in Bloomington and became a paramedic.

Devonnia met her husband, Mike Tscheulin, in the back of an ambulance while treating a patient. Mike had served as a police officer at the time. They were married Aug. 7, 2010. Devonnia enjoyed Civil War reenactments, riding horses, Ford Mustangs and Chevy Camaros. Most of all, Devonnia loved being a mother to Chase Michael and Katie Jo. She passed away one day after giving birth to their third child, Maverick Edward, on Aug. 15, 2023.



Devonnia had worked at Stat Ambulance, Washington County Ambulance Service, King's Daughters' Hospital Ambulance Service, and Scott County EMS. She helped rebuild EMS services as Deputy Director and Deputy Chief, serving

as a leader and mentor to many young EMTs and paramedics across the state. She saved hundreds of lives and had numerous awards for her service. "Her heart and soul was

with EMS and helping students and future EMTs live their dreams in emergency services," shared her husband Mike.



She even helped secure grant funding for the Scott County EMS, appearing before the Scott County Community Foundation's Grants Committee last year. The efforts of Devonnia and her colleagues resulted in a grant to purchase blood analyzers. This allows EMS to shorten the time needed to identify issues on the scene and transport directly to necessary facilities. Through the Devonnia Tscheulin Memorial

Fund, funding to nonprofit organizations, schools, and government entities will be made possible every year during the Community Foundation's Community Grants Program, starting in 2026.

"Her death has left an unimaginable hole in the community and her family. I want her legacy to live on forever through the Foundation," said Mike. "I want the citizens of Scott County to remember the sacrifices she made for her community and state for years to come. Devonnia's legacy of helping Scott County is forever, not temporary, forever cementing her work as a public servant and in EMS."

"When Devonnia passed away last summer, our community was devastated," said Community Foundation Executive Director Jaime Toppe. "We hope that this memorial fund offers some comfort to her loved ones, knowing that the community will continue to benefit every year in her memory."

Donations to the Devonnia Tscheulin Memorial Fund are currently being matched \$2 for every \$1 donated, through a grant opportunity from Lilly Endowment. You may donate online at the Community Foundation's website, www.scottcountyfoundation.org, or mail to SCCF, PO Box 25; Scottsburg, IN 47170.



NWSB Creates Unrestricted Fund



The Board of Directors posing in front of THE NEW WASHINGTON STATE BANK building in March, 1908. Pictured left to right: Sanford Peck, Thomas Stevens, Henry Schow, J. L. Magreder, A. M. Fisher, J. C. Ewer, H. Linthicum, A. L. Miles, T. N. Monaghan, Dr. R. S. Taggart, Louise Taggart, Allie Mae Hooker, and Opal Wells.

The commitment of New Washington State Bank (NWSB) to our community has been made permanent through a new endowment fund created at the Scott County Community Foundation. The NWSB Community Fund will provide grants to nonprofit organizations and schools each

year during the Foundation's Community Grants Program.

The very first The New Washington State Bank (NWSB) opened its doors on March 6, 1908 in New Washington, Ind. It was founded by a group of ten prominent business leaders and farmers who felt New Washington and the surrounding farming communities would be better served with a bank of their own. Since their humble beginnings 116 years ago, NWSB has since added branches in the surrounding communities of Henryville, Charlestown, Borden, Jeffersonville, Sellersburg, Scottsburg, River Ridge, New Albany, and most recently, downtown Jeffersonville on Spring Street.

"As a local bank, all decisions are made here in Southern Indiana and customers enjoy the personal banking relationships," NWSB states on its website.

Because of their growth into the various communities, they modified their brand in 2015 to the initials NWSB. With their new look came the addition of more services involving the areas of technology and accessibility. All banks offer a myriad of services, but at NWSB they desire to create relationships with their customers and the community. Their tagline, "Banking the Way You Want," demonstrates this desire. They offer online banking and a mobile app with check capture, yet still offer the personal face-to-face services that local residents appreciate.

In 2007, the Scottsburg branch of NWSB opened its doors and now has seven employees. Their dedication to the community and the Scott County Community Foundation started immediately with their first donation to SCCF's unrestricted Community Enrichment Fund. NWSB has been a faithful donor ever since, supporting the Foundation's mission and now through the creation of a permanently invested fund to support the community.

"NWSB always strives to support the communities that we do business in," shared Kerriann Webb, NWSB Assistant Vice President/Executive Assistant. "The creation of the endowment fund was one way for NWSB to show the community that we plan to be here and help the community not only today but well into the future."



The culture of giving back to the community is strong at NWSB. "NWSB realizes that culture is made up of life experiences that each and every employee brings to the organization," said Webb. "We encourage community involvement which fosters relationships and allows the development of strong community partners. Nearly everything NWSB believes in is focused around the communities we serve. We try to be very creative in the ways we give back. Although monetary donations are important, we feel time, resources, and experiences are just as important."

"NWSB maintains a local management team and staff which provides local decision making," continued Webb. "We are proud to live, work, play and support Southern Indiana."

When you see employees participating in blue jean Fridays to support local nonprofits selected by employees, or staff at the "fun truck" serving ice cream at community events, you can be assured that NWSB is giving back to Scott County and our region.

"We are very thankful for this partnership with NWSB," shared Scott County Community Foundation Executive Director Jaime Toppe. "They have been a wonderful asset to Scott County, and now through this fund, we can provide more dollars back to the community every year!"

As an unrestricted fund, any gifts to the NWSB Community Fund qualify for a matching grant opportunity from Lilly Endowment. Donations may be made online at www.scottcountyfoundation.org or mailed to SCCF; PO Box 25; Scottsburg, IN 47170.



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Looking Forward, Giving Back.

YGC Busy With Activities

Scott County Youth Grantmaking Council members have had a busy spring! All members have been volunteering at community service projects, to include playing bingo with residents at Beehive Assisted Living, delivering Valentines to residents at local nursing homes, helping at school spring festivals, assembling boxes for Bree's Blessings, and picking up trash.

Board members recently met for four hours on a Friday night to conduct grant interviews and make difficult decisions on which youth projects to fund. As is the case every year, they have much more in requests for funding than dollars available. They will host their annual celebration May 13 and will announce grant recipients at that time.

There are two ways you can support the YGC through upcoming fundraisers:

- May 6 from 5-7 p.m. they will have a restaurant night fundraiser at The Square Bistro. YGC board members will work for tips!
- May 23 is Chillers Day! Just mention the YGC when getting your favorite treat, and Chillers will donate 20%



of sales to the YGC!

If you would like to donate to the YGC, you can do so online at the Community Foundation's website, www.scottcountyfoundation.org, and just mention in the note that it's for the YGC.

Applications for new members on the YGC's Community Service Committee are due Aug. 1 and also available on the Community Foundation's website.