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**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
STARKE FULTON MIAMI

WHERE GIVING GROWS

Our Donor's Stories

The E. Paul and Annabelle Baker and Harold and Mildred Turk Unrestricted Fund

Dean P. and Suzanne Baker are two individuals who have greatly appreciated being part of their community. They have had many opportunities to benefit from and in return give back to their community.

Dean was born in 1937 to E. Paul and Annabelle Baker in Canton, South Dakota, where the Bakers were grocers. E. Paul passed away at age 53 in 1958, and Annabelle passed away at age 89 in 1994.

Suzanne was born in 1939 to Harold and Mildred Turk in Clarion, Iowa. Harold was a railroader, and Mildred was a homemaker. Harold passed away at age 93 in 1999, and Mildred passed away at age 96 in 2004. Harold and Mildred were married for 70 years and 11 months.



Both sets of parents taught Dean and Suzanne the importance of community and giving. "My dad would have given his shirt off his back and my mom was the person who took pie and soup to neighbors," said Suzanne. "They were kind and generous people. They didn't have wealth, but they were interested in education, took good care of their family, and worked hard," said Dean.

Dean and Suzanne were married in 1959, just after Dean graduated from Iowa State College with a degree in Forestry. Their two children, Christopher and Sarah, were born in Iowa. They moved to Akron, Indiana in 1964 when Dean was offered a job at Pike Lumber Company. Dean started out in timber purchasing and then moved on to management, eventually becoming the president of the company. He retired from this position in 1999. Suzanne is a homemaker and has volunteered for the United Methodist Church in Akron, Boy Scouts, and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) program.

Involvement in community groups has consistently been important to the Bakers. Dean is a 48-year member of the Akron Lions Club. He has also served on the Fulton County Community Foundation Board as well as the Grants Committee. Suzanne was the head of Cub Scouts on multiple occasions and has been involved with projects with the Akron Community Relations Task Force. Both Dean and Suzanne are active members of the Akron United Methodist Church.

In 2002 Dean and Suzanne created the E. Paul and Annabelle Baker and Harold and Mildred Turk Unrestricted Endowment Fund. "We wish to honor our parent's dedication to our loving and caring upbringing, including attention to responsibility, setting a positive example,

family-oriented recreation, and most of all, education." Dean's sister, Lois M. Baker of Edina, Minnesota, has also contributed significantly to the Baker/Turk Endowment Fund.

The fund was created as an unrestricted fund with the intention of supporting a variety of projects in the community. In the first decade of the fund's existence, it has been used to support organizations such as Nickel Plate Trail, Inc. in paving parts of the trail, Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation toward the funding of the Reality Spanish Program for students, and Habitat for Humanity of Fulton County in the completion of building a house.

Through Dean's involvement with the Grants Committee, they were able to see how certain funds functioned. "As a committee member, I came to value unrestricted funds. The needs of the community can be met as they develop," said Dean. Through the establishment of this fund with the Fulton County Community Foundation, Dean and Suzanne are able to endlessly serve the community they love.