

### The Christi Grossnickle Memorial Fund for the Nickel Plate Trail

Christi Grossnickle was a woman who sincerely enjoyed many areas of life. She lived a very active life, pursuing her love for exercise, teaching, community, and family.

Born and raised in Wabash, Indiana, Christi graduated from Wabash High School. It was in Wabash where she met her husband, Dennis Grossnickle, and they were married in 1971.

In 1973 Christi graduated from Indiana State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. She began her teaching career in North Carolina and earned her Master's degree from Appalachian State University.

Later, Christi and Dennis moved to Rochester after living in North Carolina for nine years. There, they raised their two children, Clint and Jessica, who both went on to graduate from Indiana University in Bloomington.

Christi taught in the Rochester Community School Corporation for more than 25 years, and her husband taught in the Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation. "She really never got tired of teaching," said Dennis.

Outside of her job, Christi was an active member of the St. John Lutheran Church. She served as a trustee, was a part of the alter guild, and acted as a devout Sunday school teacher. She also was involved in the Psi Iota Xi Sorority of Fulton County and the Manitou Lake Association.

Christi enjoyed many different forms of exercise. She particularly enjoyed biking, hiking, running, and participating in the Fulton County Wellness Center classes. Christi and Dennis went on several weekend and occasional week-long biking trips in the Midwest. They switched their biking focus from weekend trips to excursions on the Nickel Plate Trail.

The Grossnickles, along with many others, have enjoyed using the Nickel Plate Trail to exercise and be outdoors. "Now that it is finished, you can't beat the trail," said Dennis.

When Christi was diagnosed with cancer, she and her husband discussed creating a fund through the Northern Indiana Community Foundation. Christi wanted the fund to benefit something she loved and cared about. She decided she wanted the fund to go toward the support and upkeep of the Nickel Plate Trail.

When Christi passed away from cancer on July 29, 2013, Dennis Grossnickle and Nickel Plate Trail, Inc. established the Christi Grossnickle Memorial Fund for the Nickel Plate Trail through the Fulton County Community Foundation. This fund helps provide support for the maintenance and beautification of the Fulton County portion of the Nickel Plate Trail.

Dennis also carries on his and Christi's love for bicycling through his own bike shop, Channel Cycle Service. He said, "I will continue to supporting the Nickel Plate Trail, and I hope that this fund serves as a way for others to become involved with the trail."

