

The Phil Daulton Memorial Youth Fund

Phil Daulton was a lifelong Fulton county resident and a proud Rochester High School Zebra. He was known for supporting athletics of all kinds. Every season, Phil would have some team to support: the Cubs, Hoosier basketball, Norte Dame football, and of course the famous Rochester Zebras.

Phil graduated from Rochester High School and went to Indiana University for a year. College was not Phil's calling, so Rochester was blessed that Phil came back to start his adult life. He was a beer distributor for many years before he bought the local liquor store. Many people knew him from his business, but he was also well-known for his passionate heart within the youth sports community. Phil was very active in little league for years and enjoyed all of the time and effort he put into it.

Unfortunately, Phil passed away in 2005 at the age of 65. Since Phil was self-employed, there was some concern that Phil did not have finances to cover costs. Friends and family kindly and generously held a fundraiser for Phil's family that raised \$10,000. The Daulton family was overwhelmed by all of the support that they received from the community. The generous contribution represented the importance and the impact that Phil brought to this community. He was well-loved and dearly missed.

Ultimately, Phil did have finances to cover all costs and the \$10,000 was left to Ben Daulton, Phil's son. In honor of Phil, Ben and the family decided to create a fund with the Northern Indiana Community Foundation to provide support for youth sports. This fund is a tribute to Phil for his big heart and the work he did with youth athletics. Before his passing, Phil expressed to Ben that coaching youth leagues was one of the most rewarding things he had done in his life. When Ben was younger, he didn't understand how working with youth sports could be so rewarding, but he can now proudly say that he finally understands what his father meant. Ben is a youth coach for various sports within the community and says it is so rewarding because, as a coach, he gets to see the progress of each athlete on his team from the beginning to the end.

Ben Daulton, a Purdue graduate, works at First Saving Bank. He married his high school sweetheart, Sarah, and has three lovely children. He is a Kiwanis member and works with youth sports of all kinds. Ben's hobbies are coaching baseball, fishing, mushroom hunting, and spending time with his children. Ben has fond memories of his father's sense of humor and the laughs that they shared together.

The Phil Daulton Memorial Youth Fund is dedicated to improving youth sports in honor of Ben's father, Phil Daulton. The fund has helped many sports within the community including youth baseball, football, basketball and softball, and it also supported the batting cages that were created in Rochester. This fund will continue to contribute to Fulton County youth sports for years to come.