

The Donald W. Ferrara Unrestricted Fund

Donald "Don" Ferrara practiced medicine in the Peru area for over fifty years. Beginning in 1934, he served as the Head Surgeon and Chief of Staff at the Wabash Railroad Hospital. He later worked at a private practice alongside his brother, Dr. Samuel Ferrara. They specialized in surgery and family practice. Don was known for being one of the nicest and hardest working doctors in the area and for always going above and beyond to help patients.



"It didn't matter if it was in the middle of the night, Dad would make the house call," Judy, Don's daughter, said.

Don was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1904 and began his career in the medical world after graduating from the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1928. After he obtained his medical degree, he received post-graduate training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, before moving to Peru in 1929.



Don was very active outside of his practice as well. He was a charter member of the Indiana Chapter of the American Surgeons, the former President of the Miami County Medical Associations, and the former President of the C & O Hospitals Surgeons' Association. He was also involved in the Peru Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Murat Shrine, Elks, Eagles, K of P's, Kentucky Colonel, IU Alumnus and Varsity Club, and the St. John's Lutheran Church. He enjoyed gardening, which he passed on to his children.

He married his wife, Martha, in 1939 and was blessed with two daughters, Judy and Jane. Don and Martha also had four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

After Don passed away in 2001, Judy was approached by a nurse who thought very highly of Don. The nurse encouraged Judy to start a fund with the Miami County Community Foundation. Judy decided it would be the perfect way to honor her father, and she established the Donald W. Ferrara Unrestricted Fund in 2002 with the help of the Community Foundation.

"It is a good way to honor him, and it benefits the community he served," Judy said.

The fund is designed to support charitable purposes in Miami County, the community that Don loved so much.