

Lawrence J. & Violet M. Seiwert Scholarship Fund

Lawrence and Violet (Vi) Seiwert, long-time residents of Fulton County, have been involved in the community for years and decided to give back to their home county through a scholarship fund with the Fulton County Community Foundation.

Although she was born and raised outside of the area, Vi joined the Fulton County community when she married Lawrence Seiwert. The two lived in the area for many years, and Vi continues to live in the area today.

Vi attended college in Milwaukee and received a degree in business. Lawrence received a bachelor's and master's degree from Purdue. Vi said that she could attest to how important college is for a person's future. During their 34 years together, Vi and Lawrence raised six wonderful children. All six children attended or are affiliated with Purdue University. With the rest of her family being a part of the Boilermaker tribe, Purdue University awarded Vi Seiwert with an honorary alumni award, so that she can officially call herself a Boilermaker as well. All of their children received scholarships and worked hard for their careers.

Sadly, Lawrence passed away in 2005 and is still dearly loved and missed. Kiwanis was a big part of Lawrence and Vi's life. It meant so much to Lawrence that he asked his wife to still go to the meetings even if he wasn't there to join her. He passed away the day of a meeting, and Vi respected his wishes and still went to the meeting that afternoon. She said that it was one of the hardest things she had to do, but she did it for Lawrence. Kiwanis is still a big part of Vi's life today, and she even allows the Kiwanis members to take part in the selection of the scholarship recipient.

Vi, at age 86, is not only the Secretary of Kiwanis, but is also involved in many other organizations around the community. Currently, she is an involved member of her church, the Treasurer of the Rochester Garden Club for over twenty years, an Advanced Master Gardener, a member of the Friends of the Library, a lifetime member of the Historical Society, and she also takes on work for the Literacy Coalition. In the past, she also was a Salvation Army Director, a Welcome Wagon lady, Den Mother, and a crucial part in saving the Round Barn Festival. Being "involved" is an understatement when it comes to describing Vi. Like she use to tell her cub scouts, "Work first, play later."

Vi and Lawrence started the Lawrence J. & Violet M. Seiwert Scholarship Fund in 2003 because of all the help they received throughout the years. As Vi said, "Investing in the Community Foundation assures there will always be money to give to the students." Through this fund, Vi and Lawrence ensured that they will continue to help the students of Fulton County for years to come.