

The Phil McCarter Family Community Fund

Phil and Katie McCarter have been residents of several towns in Fulton County. In each community, they have warmly offered friendship and philanthropy to fellow community members, as well as excellent teaching and coaching to Fulton County students. They have both been retired for years, but they continue to give back to the community they have grown to love.

Phil was born in Rochester and went to Fulton School. He then studied at Ball State, and upon graduation, began teaching at Akron. He coached softball, baseball, and track, but he mostly concentrated on basketball.

“My first love was coaching basketball,” he said. Phil played both baseball and basketball in high school and at Ball State University. He was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. People say he was the first person from the Fulton County area to be able to dribble behind his back. In 1953, while he was teaching at Akron, Phil met Katie, who was in her junior year at Purdue University. Katie was born and raised in Rochester on the North side of Lake Manitou. The house in which she grew up is still standing!

Phil was a few years older than Katie, so it took a bit of persuading for her to finally go on a date with him. “I chased her ‘till she caught me,” Phil said with a laugh. They were married in 1956, sixty years ago, and they still sweetly tease and joke with one another. “Sixty years of bliss,” Phil said, and then Katie added with a laugh, “He says that in front of me.”

Soon after getting married, the two moved from Akron to Converse. They lived there for three years before Converse schools consolidated with Oak Hill. Phil became the head coach of the basketball team there. He was also Assistant Principal for five years and then Principal for another five years.

In 1970, they bought the B & B Store in Rochester, which Katie’s parents had managed for years. After buying it, her parents continued to run it for them. Phil and Katie moved to Rochester in 1971, and Phil taught accounting and business at Rochester Schools. When he came home from the job interview, he informed Katie that they also had a job for her teaching kindergarten!

Katie had taught home economics at Wabash High School for two years before starting a family, and she then stayed home to raise their children. She also earned her master’s degree from Ball State University.

Phil and Katie have four children. The eldest, Anne, was born in 1958 and now lives in Anderson. She taught special education for thirty-two years and is now retired. She is married to Doug Hubble and has three step-daughters and six step-grandsons.

David was born in 1960. Sadly, he passed away in 2011 while living in Arizona. He worked for IBM for five years and was working as an X-Ray Technician when he passed away.

John was born in 1961 and managed the B & B store for thirty-five years until the store closed. He now keeps busy by working as a valet at the Woodlawn Hospital in Rochester.

Joe, the youngest of the four children, was born in 1966. He worked for IBM for a few years and is now President of RTC Communications. He is married, and his wife, Mandie, teaches first grade. They have three children, Abby, Grant, and Ella.

All of Phil and Katie's children and grandchildren have been involved in sports. Phil and Katie have passed along more than their love of sports to the next generation. They have striven to pass on their values, including their faith, love, generosity, and involvement in the community.

They are members of the local First Baptist Church, in which Katie was baptized. Phil and Katie have sung in the church choir since 1971. Katie also teaches Sunday school, and they have served on various church-related boards and committees. Phil has been a Lions Club member for over fifty-five years, and Katie is also a Lions Club member. The Club has a Santa Claus house downtown each year, and both Phil and Katie have also been very instrumental in getting new Christmas lights and decorations to decorate the town light poles around Christmastime.

Phil and Katie are additionally involved in the Retired Teachers Association, and Katie often goes into the schools to read to classes. Katie belongs to Tri Kappa, and both Phil and Katie are active in the adult chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), an organization which helps young people learn more about God and about strengthening their faith. The two also made "service" the theme of their B & B Store. Their customer and community service were very important to them.

"You just grow to love a community," Katie said. Phil added, "I think when you grow up in a community, a small community especially, you have that closeness of people. And the community has always been good to us."

Katie feels that her parents were great influences on her and have been part of her inspiration to give back to the community. Their families are both very tied to the community. Katie's granddad, William Ewing, was a realtor and Justice of the Peace in town. He owned much real estate around the lake, and Ewing Road in Rochester is named after him. Phil's dad drove through the country on a Huckster Wagon and sold groceries. His business was called "Harry's Country Service." Phil remembers riding through the country on the wagon with his dad. Phil's parents later bought their own store in Fulton.

"It's been a good life. It really has," Katie said. Phil said that he hasn't lost his love for basketball, and he hardly ever misses a Rochester High School basketball game. He also likes to play golf and spend time with his grandchildren. Katie also enjoys her grandchildren, as well as gardening and reading. She does most of her reading during seven weeks in winter when they go to Florida and gather with other couples who taught at Oak Hill.

Before they had grandchildren, they traveled quite a bit. They took a cruise on the Danube River and visited Hungary, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. They also took a cruise to Alaska and made several trips to Hawaii.

When their son, David, passed away, they became involved with the Fulton County Community Foundation by establishing the David Ewing McCarter Memorial Fund in his memory. They later established the Joan Ruth Ewing Scholarship Fund in memory of Katie's sister. Both funds provide scholarships for Rochester High School graduating seniors. In 2015, they decided to create an additional fund, the Phil McCarter Family Community Fund, which would support charitable purposes in Fulton County. Through these funds, their generosity and love for the communities of Fulton County will live on forever.