

Wozniak Family Fund

The Wozniak Family Fund was created in 2016 by Dave and Lusia Wozniak. Dave had previously established a scholarship fund in 2012, recognizing his parents, Carl and Josephine Wozniak. After a few years, Dave began to realize that this scholarship had a narrow focus and he wanted to do something in addition to it, to help a wider span of people throughout Starke County. Dave said, "After thinking about the economic conditions in the county, I realized that I wanted to create this fund, so that there would be more opportunities down the road that will go beyond just Oregon Davis and help the county as a whole."

Dave and Lusia emphasize the importance of philanthropy within the community and agreed that it was important to name their fund, "The Wozniak Family Fund," because they hope that one day, their whole family, including their children, will recognize its value to Starke County and donate in the future. Dave states, "I learned about philanthropy through my career, after I was named to the board for the hospital that I worked for. After witnessing everything the foundation did for the Morris Hospital, I then realized that some things are bigger than yourself." Dave hopes that if anything, his children and grandchildren will see the importance of reaching out and helping others.

Dave was born and raised in Hamlet, Indiana and was one of the first babies born at the Starke County Hospital in 1952. Dave grew up on his family's farm in Hamlet, Indiana and frequently farmed the land on his own, due to his father's health issues. Dave states, "It really taught me a lot about hard work and made me appreciate the county that I grew up in. After graduating from Oregon Davis High School, Dave attended Purdue University for 4 years and graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering. After graduation he began working for a nuclear company called, Exelon Corporation. He continued to work for this company for 35 years. He began by doing substation and transmission and later started nuclear power plants. Dave is currently semi-retired from his full-time job but continues to do personal consultations and safety review boards for eight different nuclear power plants around the United States.

Lusia graduated from Hobart High School in 1965 and later attended Purdue University. It was here that she studied Agriculture with a focus on Food Science. Dave recalls meeting Lusia on December 21, 1968. Although Lusia was from Hobart, her family had a cottage at Koontz Lake. The couple had met some mutual friends and were ultimately introduced by them. On May 10th 1975, Dave and Lusia were married.

Lusia worked for about 5 years in the food industry doing quality control, before she and Dave welcomed their first daughter, Catherine. After the birth of their child, Lusia stopped working and became a full-time stay at home mother. Dave and Lusia then welcomed their second daughter, Lisa.

Catherine and Lisa attended and graduated from St. Anne's Central Catholic High School in Eldon, Illinois. They both followed their parent's footsteps and attended Purdue University. Catherine graduated with a degree in Technology and Computer Sciences and Lisa graduated from the Purdue School of Management with a degree in business management.

Dave and Lusia have three grandchildren; Lincoln, Penelope, and Charlotte. In addition to this, their daughter, Lisa, is expecting another child in February 2017.

Overall, the Wozniaks stated that their main goal is to build the family fund over time so that they can do something substantive for Starke County. Dave states, "I grew up with a lot of really neat people and I appreciate all that they taught me growing up. I just hope to do some good things for Starke County in return."