

Joseph “Gene” Blastic Family Community Fund

Carol Blastic established this fund in 2019 to honor her family and late husband, Gene. Gene was born on November 30, 1936, in Valparaiso, IN. Later, his family moved to Winamac, IN where his father was an owner of Sidell and Blastic Furniture. Gene attended and graduated from Winamac High School and Rose Hulman Institute of Technology with a degree in mechanical engineering. He also proudly served in the U.S. army.

In 1958, Gene married Carol and together, they raised four children. He then accepted a position with Western Electric and received two patents for his designs of hand-held receivers for the telephone. Retirement led Gene to follow his dreams and pursue a whole new career of building custom homes. He was the CEO of both B. Joseph and Associates and Sunny Homes. Finally, Gene retired for a final time and spent the remainder of his life on earth with his beloved wife at their home on Bass Lake.

Beyond his successful careers, Gene was very active in the community. He was a 50-year member and a Lifetime Honorary Member of the Knights of Columbus and an active member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Knox. Gene also served the community in many capacities as an executive and holding long-term membership to organizations such as the Starke County Economic Development Foundation, Starke County United Way, Starke County Chamber of Commerce, Starke County Right to Life, Junior Achievement, Bass Lake Properties Association, Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch Group, and Bass Lake Festival Association. He was also the founder of Love Inc. and was recognized for his community involvement by receiving the “Henry F. Schricker Award for Service Before Self” in 2013.

He enjoyed his final years spending time with Carol, their family, and their 9 grandchildren. Now his legacy and the legacy of the Blastic family will continue forever through this fund that serves to support current needs in Starke County.