

GL and MK Leininger Family Community Fund

Megihann Leininger grew up in Kosciusko County where she rode her bike, enjoyed her grandparents farm, and lived life to the fullest. As an adult, she works for Purdue University's Nutrition Education Program assisting low resource audiences in nutritional decisions as well as helping improve community resources. Greg Leininger grew up in Fulton county on a farm and then entered the Navy. He has been welding since the age of 14 and continues to do so as a career. Through mutual friends, the two met for dinner in Mentone, Indiana. Sparks flew and they were married in 2003.

Together, they have 8 children, Aaron, Seth, Mattie, Mariah, Ashlee, Michael, Gavin, and Grady. Megihann says the family spends at least 80% of their time outdoors enjoying all it has to offer. In the summer, you can find them at their lake cottage or with their livestock, and they love to sled all winter long. It's not surprising, then, to hear they live on a farm here in Fulton County where they have plenty of room to enjoy the outdoors. The Leininger children enjoy 4-H and Mariah, especially, loves caring for the sheep. When they have the time, Greg and Megihann enjoy going to antique stores and working on home projects.

The Leiningers have always been passionate about giving back to the community they love so dearly. The children each have philanthropic passions as well which their family assists them in fulfilling. For example, Michael and Gavin gave up birthday money to help build a well for people without clean water. Mariah always makes sure people feel included and invites individuals to holiday gatherings who may not have anywhere else to go. The Leininger's compassion shines bright in each family member!

Megihann was introduced to the Community Foundation in high school when she joined a youth philanthropy program called KEYS. Ever since, she has stayed involved by donating, volunteering, and advocating for Community Foundation projects. Just this past year, Megihann decided to become a Fulton County Community Foundation board member.

The family had always discussed starting their own fund so when the Lilly Endowment matching opportunity presented itself, they had to take advantage of it. They started the GL and MK Leininger Family Community Fund in order to leave a legacy in the community long after they are gone. They love how community funds are able to serve a wide variety of areas in Fulton County and help maintain a community they can be proud of. Megihann says, "Start small; you don't need to be 'rich' or have a lot of money to give back."

Passion for service, family, and others runs deep in the Leiningers. Their legacy will continue forever through their fund and inspire others to cherish and give back to Fulton County just like they do.