

### The Bridge Family Operating Endowment Fund

Bob and Carol Bridge are often referred to as “The couple that knows everyone.” They are the epitome of friendly neighbors and have loved meeting and supporting the people of Fulton County through involvement with work, family, and organizations.

Both Bob and Carol are native to The Hoosier State. Bob was born in Monticello, and Carol was born and raised in Rochester. At age 18, Bob was drafted into the United States Military Glider Infantry to serve during WWII. He served for almost three years, and then he returned home and began working on cattle farms, breeding and raising cows. The last ten years of Bob’s business life were spent doing artificial cow breeding. Bob was married for thirty years and raised three children with his first wife, Martha. Sadly, Martha passed away in 1976.



In 1978 Bob remarried to a woman named Carol. Together they lived in Rochester, Indiana. Carol studied at an Indiana Business School before returning to Rochester to work for the Rochester Telephone Company (RTC). She was an RTC employee for forty-one years, starting out with payroll and eventually becoming the Secretarial Treasurer. “A lot of my background in being involved in the community has come from it being encouraged at work,” said Carol.

Bob and Carol have been presented with many opportunities to become involved with the community and get to know the people of Rochester throughout their many years of dedicated work. “When we got married she knew most of the people in the town through the telephone company and I knew most of the farmers. If they had cows I knew them. I traveled 2 million miles in Fulton County,” said Bob.

However, their community involvement doesn’t stop there. Both Bob and Carol are 60-plus-year members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Carol was the first Junior American Legion Auxiliary member to be sent to Hoosier Girls State, and she is now the head of the Scholarship Committee. For over twenty years, Bob has been the Sergeant of The Guard at Military funerals. Additionally, Bob has been very active in the Lions Club and has done volunteer janitorial work for the club. Carol currently volunteers once a week to work the front desk at the community center, and she helps at The Compassionate Health Center one afternoon a week.

In 2007, Bob and Carol established the Bridge Family Operating Endowment Fund. Carol explained said, “We wanted to support the great work of the Community Foundation and established our own endowment. In being familiar with all of the beautiful scholarships, we felt that we could contribute to the Community Foundation and help it to continue giving back. This led us to establish the operating fund to cover the expenses necessary in the operating of the Fulton County Community Foundation.”

The Fulton County Community Foundation has been an opportunity for Bob and Carol to be involved not only in Rochester but also in many other areas of the community. The two had also been involved with the Community Foundation previously. Carol was one of the founding members of the first Fulton County Community Foundation Board and Bob served a three-year term on a later board. They saw the Community Foundation as a way to support everything they were passionate about in the community.