

M & M Fund

Anyone who has lived in Fulton County might have seen the name Baxter, not just on the downtown drugstore sign, but in newspaper headlines for community service and generous donations of time and money. However, the Baxter's preferred modesty to recognition, dodging the spotlight and instead talking on how others made it possible. The family is remembered for their caring, community focused characteristics, especially, Fran and Parke Baxter.

The husband and wife had been involved with the community foundation since the very beginning. Along with Parke's father, Ernie, the three of them made a \$10,000 donation to kick off the Fulton County Community Foundation in 1994. Since then, the family has created many more funds within the community foundation. When interviewing Fran and Parke's daughter, LeeAnn Pollock, about the family's funds, she smiles when the M & M Fund gets brought into conversation.



The M & M Fund was a long-kept secret amongst the family and employees of the community foundation. Working as an anonymous donor, Parke, Fran, and LeeAnn (later added on), were able to support and finance many projects in the Fulton County community. One specific project supported by the M & M Fund is the Rochester Area Art Banner Contest. This recent contest is a fun way to showcase the work of K-12 art students from Rochester, Tippecanoe Valley, and Caston School Corporations. Finalists' pieces will be printed as banners and hung in Rochester on Main Street. LeeAnn remarked how her mother was a retired teacher and would have loved to see the impact she is still making on the community's youth.

Along with a love for community, the Baxter's will forever be associated with their family business, Baxter's Drug Store. First opened by Ernie Baxter, Parke eventually started managing his father's business in 1960. In 1981, he assumed full control of the store until he retired. Carrying on the family legacy, LeeAnn continues to work at the store, now under a different name.

Amongst the community, Parke and Fran were known as the perfect, loving couple. The two married in 1949 and shared over 63 years of life's adventures together. They were true supporters of the Rochester Zebras, Purdue Boilermakers, and of course, their ever-growing family.

The couple's legacy will live on forever in the community through their funds and the lives they touched!