

Artist's Passion Endowed: A Love Story

LEGACY DONORS

Stan Evans said his interest in the Tipp City Arts Fund in Memory of Ellen Cotterman is simple to trace: to his long-time companion Ellen Cotterman. "It all goes back to Ellen," Evans said.

"It is a combination of the fact it was Ellen's dream and the people involved in it are so devoted and do such a wonderful job," he said, pointing to a fund beneficiary, the Tipp City Arts Council.

Evans pointed out Cotterman's extensive involvement in the community such as founding the city restoration board in the mid-1980s, being the "instigator" of city participation in the Tree City USA program and categorizing and registering buildings in the city's historic district on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cotterman worked through Tipp Monroe Community Services to start the annual Christmas home tour program and was the driving force behind the Windows on the City, the first big project of the Tipp City Arts Council. She also advocated the concept of displaying decorated chairs across the community, a dream that came to life in 2014 with the Take a Seat fundraiser by the Arts Council.

A 1968 Tiptecanoe High School and a University of Cincinnati graduate, Evans is co-owner with his brother of a family insurance agency. He has three adult children, Angela, Corey and Ben.

Evans is on the Tipp City United Way board; previously served on various committees of the Tipp City United Methodist Church; and serves on two city of Tipp City committees. He is a member of Tipp

City Rotary, Arts Council and Masonic Lodge; and was named Tipp City Community Foundation Philanthropist of the Year in 2014.

Evans said the Tipp City Arts Fund in Memory of Ellen Cotterman grew from the memorial fund set up by her three children at the time of her death in 2010. The goal was to create a sustainable fund that would keep Cotterman's legacy alive. Evans later chose to make the fund the beneficiary of one of his life insurance policies.

"I have been so impressed, humbled, in awe of the people on the arts council. Ellen would be so tickled," he said

The fund supports projects such as the plein air event and numerous youth art education programs, which was Ellen's greatest love.

He chose the Tipp City Area Community Foundations to handle the fund because of the people he knows personally on its board. "I know that they will guard the money and do it wisely. I am active on the United Way board and Dayton is Dayton and Miami County is Miami County. We are constantly fighting United Way National to keep the Tipp City United Way a local organization, standing on its own and not become a member of a regional organization. I want the donated money to stay here and be used here," Evans said.

To Discuss Joining the Legacy Society, Please Contact Jim Ranft, at 667-1270 or Heather Bailey at 667-4499.

Tipp City Area Community Foundations

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