



# Tipp City... "It's Personal"

## Skilled Trades Supporter Comes Home

### LEGACY DONORS

Claudia Houdeshell Koerner has returned to her hometown after more than 50 years. She has established a legacy connection with two funds, focusing on supporting those interested in the trades and providing equipment and facilities to related educational institutions. The funds, established in recent months, honor her husband Phil, who passed away in 2021, and his decades-long respect for those who work in the trades.

Philip Koerner, an east coast native whom Claudia met when she moved to Hartford, Connecticut, following graduation from Miami University, worked as an insurance company executive. Claudia worked in the insurance business for a time, then later obtained a master's degree in library science and also worked in real estate.

The Koerners lived in Hartford and then in New Hampshire. Through the years, they owned many houses and came to appreciate the skill and pride which so many brought to their work. "His fear was that the emphasis on education in the trades was no longer a priority," said Claudia. "Hopefully, these funds will be an encouragement for some who might not otherwise consider entering

these fields." The Road Less Traveled Scholarship Fund is for anyone of any age who wants to pursue the trades. The Koerner Family Fund is more geared toward providing equipment and facilities for trade-associated colleges and trade schools.

The Koerners were planning on moving back to Tipp City in 2021. However, Philip passed unexpectedly before he could make the move. So, Claudia is again making Tipp City her home. "I am happy to be here" she said, noting that her sister and nieces and their families

live locally, as well as some old school friends. She was familiar with the Tipp City Foundation through a bequest left by her parents, Gene and Jean Houdeshell. "The Foundation does good work, and I am happy to help where I can. This is where I'm from and where I plan to stay. The Tipp City Foundation was the right way for me to go. I'm happy with my choice."

#### Tipp City Foundation

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