

Passing the Torch by Giving Back

LEGACY DONORS

Richard and Cheryl Bender have a simple, but important, goal for their legacy fund through the Tipp City Foundation- to leave a legacy that will continue to impact the youth and young adults of Miami County.

This fund was established by the couple in early 2024.

Richard Bender was a youth leader at Ginghamburg Church for more than 30 years, leading small groups that took teens on mission trips. "Creating this fund is a small way to continue investing in our teens and young adults," he said.

Cheryl Bender said, "I had great mentors in my childhood through high school who mentored me. I am who I am today because of ordinary people who gave extraordinary time and effort to me. It's like I want to pass the torch by giving back to the next generations.

"We didn't have biological children so I could invest my efforts within youth of Clubhouse, church and the surrounding community. This fund will continue giving to many who we will never meet but have intentionally set resources for those who come after us," she said.

The Benders said they chose the Tipp City Foundation to receive their legacy gift because it made sense. They said Cheryl grew up enjoying the Fox and Pearson farms, which her family have cared for since 1806. Richard moved to the area in the 1970s but said he considers Tipp City as his hometown.

A native of Edgerton, Ohio, Richard graduated from Columbus Business University with majors in business and accounting. He took a job with a finance company that promoted him to manage its Troy location. He switched to a banking career an abbreviated time later and became manager of First National Bank's Tipp City office.

"Because of this, I relocated to Tipp City, and this has been my home ever since. I met my wife Cheryl while I was the manager of this office. I spent 30 plus years in the banking world and retired in 2010 to become the executive director of the United Way of Troy. In 2018 I was able to help merge the Tipp City, Troy and Piqua United Ways to form the United Way of Miami County and took on the role of chief financial officer," Richard said. He retired from the United Way in December 2023.

Growing up in Tipp City, Cheryl said she enjoys life in a small town. Following graduation from Tippecanoe High School in 1982, she

attended Wright State University and the University of Dayton. She holds degrees in clinical psychology and social work.

"Thirty-three years as the Clubhouse nonprofit director, I helped develop over 8,500 teen volunteers and 340 paid teen interns who mentored 9,000 children with limited opportunities in 12 Miami Valley area neighborhoods. In 2021, I was consecrated as a deaconess of the United Methodist Church focusing on social justice and service," she said.

Cheryl is now employed as a part-time Nexus Mental Health Counselor with New Creation Counseling Center.

The Benders have been married for 34 years. Their goal is to continue to see as much of the "beautiful world" as possible as their careers wind down.

Tipp City Foundation

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