

I Want To Inspire My Kids

LEGACY DONORS

It was a natural for Bryan Blake to become part of the Legacy Society of the Tipp City Foundation.

The arts and volunteering are a part of life, as it was for his mother, the late Ellen Cotterman. Her works live on through the Tipp City Arts Fund in Memory of Ellen Cotterman.

Although he attended school in Columbus, Bryan Blake would spend summers in Tipp City. While here, he worked for Tipp Monroe Community Services and for the city. He lived locally while attending Wright State University and returned to stay some 20 years ago.

He and wife, Michele, have been married since 1998.

"We have been fortunate to raise our kids here and enjoy the community," Bryan Blake said of his family, which also includes sons Caleb and Luke.

Bryan's initial local involvement included serving, at the encouragement of his mother, on the city restoration board and the planning commission. "Being on those boards really started my ambition in volunteering," he said.

He took some time away from service activities while studying for his master's degree, but resumed service to organizations such as Community Services and the Tipp City Area Arts Council.

"I really wanted to give back to that organization and offer my insight into whatever I could," he said of Community Services. As for the Arts Council, he said it has been great to see the organization grow and witness all of the great things the council does for the community.

In deciding to set up a legacy through his estate plan, Blake said he took the lead from his brother, Adam Blake, and Stan Evans, his mother's long time companion, who previously established legacy gifts associated with the Ellen Cotterman Fund.

"The Tipp City Arts Fund sponsors different programs involving various forms of art. With my gift, I will be able to continue that and have that grow," he said.

Blake was more than comfortable working through the local foundation. "They do so much for local organizations. The grants they give are just

spectacular," he said. "I couldn't have thought of a better organization to be involved with."

The decision to commit to the Legacy Society sets an example for the next generation.

"I want to inspire my kids, my nephews. I can only hope that (gesture) will speak to them when they get to this point in their lives and look back and say, 'This is what my parents did' and hopefully be in a position to do something like this as well," he said.

Tipp City Foundation

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