

Honoring Her Family and Roots

LEGACY DONORS

Kathy Stafford's decision to give back boils down to two simple desires: wanting to make a difference in the world and honoring her family. Her estate will provide assets for two endowed funds within the Tipp City Foundation: the Eickmeyer Family Fund and the Bob and Barbara Stafford Fund.

Kathy was born at Stouder Memorial Hospital in Troy and brought home by her parents to an upstairs apartment just east of the railroad tracks on Plum Street in Tipp City, which was owned by relatives. When she was 3 years old her parents bought a home on the other side of the railroad tracks, where they lived for the rest of their lives. While Kathy was raised in Tipp City, she spent most of her adult life elsewhere, living in several different states.

"It's my hometown, I had a wonderful childhood here, and because my parents were here it has always been my anchor as my career took me to other places in the country. While Tipp has grown and changed some, I think it retains some of the character of the small town I grew up in," said Kathy.

Kathy graduated from Kent State in 1970. She got her master's degree and a PhD from Ohio State. She began her career in higher education, first at the state coordinating level in Columbus and then at other universities like the University of Akron, the University of South

Florida, the University of Houston, James Madison, and finally Kent State University as Vice President for University Relations, which is where she retired. After retiring, she moved back to Tipp City in 2014 to care for her ailing mother.

While the Bob and Barbara Stafford Fund will be unrestricted, the Eickmeyer Family Fund has a specific purpose to support the Tipp City Police Department. The Eickmeyers' roots in Tipp City date to the 1860s. In fact, Kathy's great-grandfather George Bernard Eickmeyer was a Tipp City Police Officer, who died in the line of duty in 1945.

"It's important because I'd like to make some small difference in the world and because I would like my parents to be remembered and live on in the community," said Kathy.

The Stafford fund's purpose is just to support the community. It will be an unrestricted gift to be used at the Tipp City Foundation board's discretion. I was in the fundraising business, so I appreciate the importance of unrestricted money," Kathy said.

Tipp City Foundation

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2025

