

Harrison County Community Foundation

Gary and Jean Geswein FFA Fund

The Gary and Jean Geswein FFA Fund was established in December 2010. The fund provides support to Harrison County, Indiana high school FFA programs by providing funding for community projects or leadership and training programs, as well as help FFA participants attend conferences. Each year, the interest from the endowment is divided equally among the FFA chapters.

Gary grew up on a dairy farm on the Harrison/Floyd County line. He graduated from Morgan (Township) High School and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Agriculture Education from Purdue University. He taught agriculture and advised FFA chapters at Franklin High School and Crothersville, Jr./Sr. High School. Gary was also an Agriculture Education Consultant with the IN Dept. of Education for 10 years. In 1983, the superintendent of North Harrison Schools contacted him about restarting the agriculture program at North Harrison High School. Gary taught at NHHS for 18 years. He saw the agriculture department grow and helped design the NHHS agriculture facility in 1992. After retiring in 2002 for one year, Gary started an agriculture department/FFA chapter at Lanesville High School, where he taught part-time for three years. The program was ready for a full-time teacher when he left.

Jean Becher grew up in Louisville, graduated from Holy Rosary Academy, and received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Spalding University. After graduating, she taught at Fairdale Elementary.

Gary and Jean met at Whispering Hills Country Club in Louisville in 1970. After a year and a half, they married and moved to Crothersville, where Jean taught at Crothersville Elementary. While there, their daughter, Pam, was born. Later, they moved to Brownsburg, IN where Gary worked for the IN Dept. of Public Instruction. Chris was born while they lived there. Later, the family moved to the North Harrison area. Jean taught kindergarten and Title I at North Harrison Elementary before retiring in 2006. Both children graduated from NHHS and attended Purdue School of Agriculture.

Pam and her husband, Mark, live in northern VA. They have two sons: Ryan and Evan. Chris and his wife, Mallory, live in Valdosta, GA. They have three children: Liam, Hayden, and Tate. Gary and Jean love visiting the children and their families, as well as traveling in the U.S. and abroad.

Gary and Jean volunteer at St. Michael's Church, belong to the Palmyra Lions Club, and volunteer at the IN State Fair Pioneer Village. Gary has been active on non-profit boards, including Harrison County Farm Bureau, Harrison County Community Foundation, and Harrison County Lifelong Learning.

Gary participated in FFA at Morgan High School, which helped him decide to teach agriculture. After they married, Jean learned about and embraced FFA. Pam and Chris were active in and benefitted from FFA at North Harrison. Gary and Jean created this endowment so Harrison County FFAs will continue to have a positive influence on others.

