

Harrison County Community Foundation

Dr. Ken Oppel Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Dr. Ken Oppel Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in the spring of 2011 at the Harrison County Community Foundation to honor Ken's lifelong dedication to the service of others. North Harrison High School students graduating with a GPA of 2.8 to 3.2 on a 4.0 scale and entering degree programs in the fields of education, nursing, or law enforcement will be given priority when selecting candidates for this scholarship. Ken spent many years supporting the education of students at North Harrison and this scholarship continues to do so in his memory.

Ken was born in Harrison County on January 31, 1965, to Beatrice and the late Forrest (Buck) Oppel. Ken and his younger brother, Gregg, were taught by their parents to be involved in the community, serving others. Ken continued to be an active resident of northern Harrison County throughout his life. Ken graduated from North Harrison High School in May of 1983. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Indiana University, and obtained his principal's license. Ken continued his work in education at Indiana State University, earning his superintendent's license and then his Doctorate in Education from Spalding University in Louisville. On June 28, 1997, Ken married Chrissy Crawford. Their daughter, Madison, was born on May 28, 1999, and their son, Christopher, joined them on August 9, 2008.

Known far and wide for his giving spirit and dedication to the well-being of others, Ken not only served his school community as a teacher, coach, and administrator, but also worked throughout the community and state as a member of the Ramsey Lions Club, the Harrison County Board of Health, the Indiana High School Athletic Association, the Indiana Professional Association of School Superintendents, and Unity Chapel United Methodist Church. In addition, Ken was a strong supporter of the WHAS Crusade for Children, the men and women serving in our military, and in local law enforcement and emergency services.

Ken never met a stranger and anyone spending even a few minutes with him soon felt they had made a friend. A fierce competitor on the ball court or field, Ken was often said to "bleed North Harrison blue." He was equally passionate about education and helping students realize the opportunities before them in life, limited only by their own choices. Ken's love for North Harrison and his students was only surpassed by his love for his own children, Madison and Christopher, and the family he and Chrissy had together. This scholarship fund is a tribute to Ken and is meant to further his passion for life and for his fellow human beings.

