

Just Doing Our Part

With a sparkle in her eye, Linda Sorensen shared her story of how she and her husband, Bob, created a fulfilling life in Greater Lafayette, using their talents and blessings to enrich the community. They were both very active Purdue undergraduates in the 1960s, serving in leadership roles across campus. They married in 1964 and built their careers—his in finance and hers in teaching home economics and guidance counseling—while building up those around them. As they identified needs in the community, they did something about it.



Bob and Linda Sorensen

Linda downplayed their many contributions as “just doing their part” for society. But the responsibility they assumed in leadership positions with groups such as the YWCA, Mortar Board, Kappa Alpha Theta, West Lafayette Redevelopment Commission, Boy Scouts of America, Art League, and Tippecanoe County Historical Society, to name a few, makes the average person blush when you consider they achieved all that while working in demanding careers and raising a family. The Sorensens have two adult children, Robert Scott Sorensen and Anne Sorensen Inman. They have six grandchildren: Sydney, Robert, and Erik Sorensen; and Sam, Alec, and Ryan Inman.

Bob passed away in 2021 at the age of 80, having reached many professional and personal goals. He spent much of his career in academia, serving Purdue, Ivy Tech, and Saint Louis University in various leadership capacities in finance and systems management. The Boy Scouts was near and dear to his heart because the program emphasized developing leadership and character. He was a proud Norwegian and discovered family ties during genealogy searches, which led to multiple trips to Norway. He joined the Sons of Norway Circle City Lodge and served as president. Some people are just born leaders. It's unusual when both members of the couple are so inclined.

Linda continues the legacy of helping others in her enthusiastic, encouraging manner. Her passion is supporting young people on their life journey, just as she had done in her career as a teacher and guidance counselor for West Lafayette Community Schools. She taught them life skills and later guided them to make wise life choices. Linda's thread of helping young people continued to knit itself into a broader quilt of community life when she served on The Community Foundation's Lilly

Scholarship Committee, a prestigious scholarship which can profoundly impact recipients' life trajectory.

In 2015, Linda became a charter member of 100+ Women Who Care, serving on the steering committee, and is still an active member. The Community Foundation's Giving Circles provide a brilliant way to multiply financial resources for worthy, member-nominated nonprofit organizations.

Another way Linda impacted the community was by helping establish a new endowment for the Art League, as part of the group's 50-year celebration, supporting the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette. Linda, along with Sue Carr and Kendall Smith, approached The Community Foundation to establish one for the Art League, enabling it to carry out its charitable work, including art acquisition, education, scholarships and Museum upkeep, in perpetuity.

Shortly before Bob passed away, the Sorensens decided to join CFGL's Legacy Society with a twist. Instead of distributing funds after both spouses had passed, they wanted the distribution of funds to begin upon the death of the first spouse. The Linda M. and Robert S. Sorensen Endowment is discretionary, whereas The Community Foundation determines how to most effectively address the

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community’s most pressing needs with endowment funding.

Linda’s spunk and love of life continues to keep her busy and involved with the community she cherishes. If you are ever lucky enough to make her acquaintance, don’t be surprised if she recruits you into doing something good.

Endowment Salute to Tree Lafayette



David Lasater, Larry Rose, Matt Green, Zonda Bryant, Gene Kroeschen, Cheryl Talley, Bill Arthur, Barry Bruce

Established in 1993, Tree Lafayette has planted, watered, pruned, and mulched over 4,600 trees in the Greater Lafayette area.

The Community Foundation saluted the nonprofit organization during a special wine and hors d’oeuvres event to celebrate its commitment to perpetually support their mission through an endowment. The Tree Lafayette Fund in Honor of Larry L. Rose provides ongoing financial support for local tree planting, maintenance, and education. Larry Rose served as president from 2006 to 2012, and as the executive director until 2017.

Recent Gifts

IN MEMORY

- Jane Early Boswell**
Stuart and Mary Lee Bollock
Greater Lafayette Clay Guild
Barry Priest and Rebecca Morrison
- Fritz Cohen**
David and Carol Luhman
- W. Nicholas Delgass**
Elizabeth Delgass
- Nicole Ahl Durbin**
Joseph and Judith Dufficy
Ed and Sue Eiler

- Robert Hannemann**
David and Carol Luhman
- Victor Klinker**
David and Carol Luhman
- Larry and Becky Lyons**
David Antcliff
Kimberly Deno
Ann Fenwick
Amber Fitzwater
Claire Kegley
Barbara Morin
Amanda Pynaert
Joyce Shuey

- Jon Story**
David and Carol Luhman
- Katie Traynor**
Danielle Bluhm
William Hyde
Elizabeth Miller
Michael and Jodi Miller
- Shannon Withers**
David and Carol Luhman

IN HONOR

- Ron Clark**
David and Sue Lasater
- David Lasater**
Karen Mosson
- Betty M. Nelson**
Meddie and Candy Silver
Karen Mosson
- Bernie Seaman**
Jennie Jones
- Joe and Bernie Seaman**
Michael Seaman
- Gladys Wright**
David and Carol Luhman

2025 Scholars:

George Balfe Scholarship
Karina Casas | Jefferson High School

Roger Blalock Scholarship
Mylon Turner | Purdue University

Tara Balfe Clifford Scholarship
Yanitza Gaeta | Jefferson High School

Jane Early Boswell Scholarship
Mandorallyn Robertson | Jefferson High School

Carroll High School Women Pursuing STEM
Hailey Sandquist | Carroll High School (2022)
Rachel Uchtman | Carroll High School (2022)

Samuel and Pearl Mae Fritts Cole Scholarship
Tyli Lynn Harp | Southeastern Illinois College
Carson Nash VanDyke | Southeastern Illinois College

Samuel C. Curtis Scholarship
Charles Kallock | Jefferson High School

Max and Elsie Goken Scholarship
Olivia Estep | Harrison High School
Gabrielle McAtee | Jefferson High School
Bethany Dinius | Harrison High School
Alyssa Knochel | Boston Architectural College

Robert and Dorothy Hughes Scholarship
Avarey Benker |McCutcheon High School
Chloe Louk | Jefferson High School

Jeff High School Alumni Association Scholarship
Briseida Aquino | Jefferson High School
Alexis Baumgartner | Jefferson High School
Erin Bloomer | Jefferson High School
Willow Buchholz | Jefferson High School



2025 scholarship recipients

Riley Cabrera | Jefferson High School
Maizie Corbin | Jefferson High School
Emily Kurtz | Jefferson High School
Mandorallyn Robertson | Jefferson High School
Jaylin Salas-Gomez | Jefferson High School
Corbin Stanchfield | Jefferson High School

Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships
Jada Dior | Jefferson High School
Braylyn Gudeman | Faith Christian High School
Jesse Sierra | McCutcheon High School

Elizabeth Mackay Scholarship
Carly Corbett | Harrison High School
Sarah Luban | McCutcheon High School

Shirley and Mick McTague Scholarship
Micah Meister | Harrison High School

Harlan W. and Dorothy W. Parr Scholarship
Kevin Affoukou | Purdue University
Mavis Akom | Purdue University
Kwabena Bayity | Purdue University
Oseremi Olivia Jagbojo | Purdue University
Hema Lingireddy | Purdue University
Kaley Mumma | Purdue University
Elizabeth Ogar | Purdue University
James Sadler | Purdue University
Mariah Schaeper | Purdue University

Roland G. Parrish Black Cultural Center Scholarship
Armani Bearden | Purdue University
Sydney Smith | Purdue University
Jonathan Jones | Purdue University
Chukwulozie Onwuta | Purdue University

Presidential Leadership Scholarship in Honor of Tarrus Richardson
Londyn Williams | Purdue University
Kelsey Goodwin | Purdue University

Price Family Scholarship in Memory of Thomas M. Price
Madigan Boesch | West Lafayette High School

Purdue University Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Scholarship
Jessica Purcell | Purdue University
Ashley Schmitt | Purdue University

David Smyser Scholarship
Elaina Gorringe | Jefferson High School

Betty M. Suddarth Scholarship
Hope Pfeiffer | Harrison High School

Katie Traynor, RN, Scholarship
Lianna Clendenny | Purdue University
Owen Skoglund | Purdue University

Truitt Family West Lafayette High School Leadership Scholarship
Lincoln Furry | West Lafayette High School
Bree Johnson | West Lafayette High School

Robert and Marilyn Whitsel Scholarship
Natalie David | West Lafayette High School
Katelyn Ford | Harrison High School

Jacob E. and Mary Ann Wiebers Scholarship
William King | Faith Christian High School

West Lafayette High School Golden Scholarship
Allison Creech | West Lafayette High School

New Endowments

- Steve and Marie Cherie Bruhn Endowment Fund for Community Cancer Network, Inc
- Steve Cotten Endowment for Harrison Bands
- Lafayette Indiana Salvation Army Endowment
- Lafayette Urban Ministry Endowment
- Matthew 25 Care & Share Soup Kitchen Endowment
- Curtis M. Swan Endowment for Lafayette Family YMCA Youth Scholarships

Grants

NOW

- CAREGIVER COMPANION INC.**
\$5,866 | Technology upgrades
- CARS FOR KEEPS**
\$278 | Video recording equipment
- GIRL SCOUTS OF CENTRAL INDIANA**
\$6,000 | Camp Sycamore Valley asphalt repair
- HANNA COMMUNITY CENTER**
\$3,318 | Food storage and serving utensils
- HOMESTEAD RESOURCES**
\$10,000 | Lifecycle computer/phone and scanner replacement
- IMAGINATION STATION**
\$8,286 | Lighting improvement project
- JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF GREATER LAFAYETTE**
\$9,837 | New tables, office remodel, and portable touchscreen TV's
- KLD FOUNDATION**
\$6,229 | Computer equipment
- LAFAYETTE FAMILY SHELTER**
\$4,000 | Update carpeting for family room
- LAFAYETTE FAMILY YMCA**
\$10,000 | Y Dance Studio capital improvements

- LAFAYETTE ROTARY CLUB FOUNDATION**
\$813 | Tablecloths
- LONG CENTER**
\$10,000 | Venue wayfinding signage
- LTHC HOMELESS SERVICES**
\$3,000 | Engagement Center flood recovery and resilience upgrade
- MILLIE'S MISSION, INC.**
\$3,360 | Security cameras
- NICHES LAND TRUST**
\$1,766 | Public access site improvements
\$9,984 | Equipment to support invasive species management program
- ROBERT AND ELLEN HAAN MUSEUM OF INDIANA ART**
\$1,854 | Computer upgrade for enhanced outreach and engagement
- SONGWRITER'S ASSOCIATION OF MID-NORTH INDIANA (SAMI)**
\$9,737 | New computer for audio and video recording
\$9,975 | Lighting equipment for SAMI Live Showcases
- WOLF PARK**
\$9,599 | Accessibility golf cart
- YWCA OF GREATER LAFAYETTE**
\$9,228 | Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter bedroom furniture
\$10,000 | Domestic Violence Shelter bathroom floor repair and replacement

SPRING

- BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, SAGAMORE COUNCIL**
\$50,000 | Backup generator for Franklin L. Cary Camp
- BRAVELY WOMEN'S HEALTH**
\$48,752 | Furnace and air conditioner replacement
- GROUP HOMES FOR CHILDREN**
\$50,000 | Renovation of ground level floor
- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF LAFAYETTE**
\$32,500 | Brush with Kindness work truck
- LAFAYETTE ADULT RESOURCE ACADEMY (LARA)**
\$32,021 | Technology infrastructure
- LAFAYETTE URBAN ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION, INC.**
\$25,000 | Commemorative City of Lafayette bicentennial public art sculpture
- LAFAYETTE URBAN MINISTRY (LUM)**
\$14,250 | wheelchair accessible minibus
- RIGHT STEPS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS**
\$47,477 | Shade structures for right steps early care and education centers

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 595
LAFAYETTE IN

Upcoming Events

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

Sept. 10 at noon

GIVING CIRCLES

100+ Women Who Care

Sept. 16; Dec. 9 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club

100+ Men Who Give

Sept. 9; Dec. 2 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club

EBERLE SERIES

Creating an Inclusive Board Culture

Sept. 10 | 11 am - 2 pm | Lafayette County Club

Effective Orientation and Onboarding

Oct. 1 | 11 am - 2 pm | Lafayette County Club

Managing Board Conflict

Nov. 12 | 11 am - 2 pm | Lafayette County Club

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