

Upcoming Events

Nonprofit Training - Dramatically Improve Your Presentation Skills
03/29/2011

8:30 a.m. registration

9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. workshop

For more information or to register, call 574-267-1901 or email brenda@kcfoundation.org.

Scholarship Application Deadline
04/01/2011

Information and applications available at www.kcfoundation.org/seekingfunds/scholarships.

Kosciusko REMC Operation Round Up Grant Application Deadline
04/15/2011

Applications available at www.kcfoundation.org.

Heart of Gold Nomination Deadline
04/15/2011

Nomination forms will be available at www.kcfoundation.org by March 1.

Community Grant Application Deadline

05/15/2011

Guidelines and applications available at www.kcfoundation.org.

OUR MISSION:

By bringing caring people and charitable endeavors together, we make donor dreams shine for the good of our community.

We do this by:

Serving as the vehicle for donors' charitable dreams

Awarding grants to charitable projects and organizations

Addressing community needs as a catalyst and convener.

4

Winter/Spring 2011 CATALYST

A Spark. A Change. A Beginning...For Good Things.

Creating a Lasting Chord: Margaret Ann Voirol

By Brenda Rigdon, Development Director



Margaret Ann loved to read and travel. Her other favorite hobby was collecting opalescent glassware, like the vase in this photo.

Margaret Ann Voirol was a force to be reckoned with. An accomplished musician and voracious reader, she wanted her students to not only perform at the highest level, she wanted them to understand the motivations of the composer so that they could perform the music with nuance, empathy and emotion. This is her story.

Born in Fort Wayne, Ind., Margaret Voirol grew up in a small family, with only one sibling, her brother James. Her father worked as a train conductor in the railroad industry, and because of his job, the family could travel anywhere on the railroad free of charge. While she was very young, Voirol's mother used this access to take her to violin lessons in Chicago each week. During high school, she took those trips by herself.

After graduating from high school, she went to college at DePauw in Greencastle, Indiana, studying Art, Music and Dance. She graduated with a BA in Piano and a minor in Voice. She earned a Masters in Music from Columbia University. She became engaged to a young medical doctor, but tragically, he was killed in WWII. Voirol never married.

She became a music teacher at Warsaw High School, where she taught for 38 years. Voirol taught all things music: music theory, music appreciation, music history, and stage presence. She was a stickler for detail, but never expected more from her students than she gave herself.

"Miss Voirol's special womens' choral group was known as "The Belles," recalled Scott Avery, Warsaw High School Choir Director. "They were required to have a performance costume custom made each year. All members wore not only the exact same dress, (Continued on Page 2)

Sign up for the newsletter at www.kcfoundation.org.

Want To Learn How Grants Help the Community?

Check out the new **Grant Impact** section of our website located at the bottom of our website's homepage: www.kcfoundation.org. Learn about the impact of recently awarded grants in our community.



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 0169
Warsaw Indiana

they wore the same stockings and the exact same shoes! Miss Voirol would have the women in the group stand on stage, and she would measure the distance from the stage floor to the hem of each skirt—and they all had to match exactly!”

Voirol demanded just as much from the music. She would have them “drill and drill and drill, until they got it exactly right,” according to Dan Beam, music teacher at Edgewood Middle School, and friend of Voirol.

In her summers, Voirol traveled the world. She went on at least five African safaris, made two trips to the Galapagos Islands to see the turtles, and even visited Antarctica. But she did not travel like a tourist. She traveled on freighters and working ships, and wanted to see the ‘non-touristy’ ports and towns.

Voirol also traveled with her students. During their lunch hours, they would do concerts for the elementary school students in town, and during Lent, they would do concerts at different local churches on Sunday evenings. Voirol called these shows her “Sacred Concerts.” They would sing religious music, always finishing with the song, “May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You.” They would travel to other high schools in Indiana and Michigan,

and traveled to Toronto and other places in Canada.

Jean Sandy, long time Warsaw resident, went along on some of those trips, including the tour to Toronto. “Miss Voirol was always looking for ways to give her students special opportunities to see the world, and experience things they never would have the chance to experience otherwise,” Sandy said.



Miss Voirol with her choral department students, in their performance attire, at what is now Lakeview Middle School. (Note the matching skirt lengths!)

“Miss Voirol had a way of opening your eyes and your mind to the music,” Beam said. “She also was using verbiage, language, and history to teach music. She was ahead of her time in a lot of ways—teaching across the curriculum back in the 60’s and 70’s! She also was a master at networking!” continued Beam.

Margaret Ann Voirol had a lasting impact on the students she taught. She was voted the “Woman of

the Year” in 1970, and when she retired in June of 1983, friends and former students gathered at the International Friendship House, now the Westminster Hotel, in Winona Lake to honor her 38 years of service. In the fall of 2009, when Margaret Ann passed away, an impromptu choir of her former students stood up at her service and sang together at the end, as if they had rehearsed it for weeks, “May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You.”

The Kosciusko County Community Foundation is proud to continue Margaret Ann Voirol’s legacy in our community. Two of her former students, Jane Glover-McInnis and Loretta Castaldi have created an endowment fund at the Community Foundation called the Margaret Ann Voirol Memorial Endowment Fund. It will provide funding for the choral music department at Warsaw Community

High School, in Margaret Ann’s memory, forever. If you or someone you know would like to make a contribution to this fund, in Miss Voirol’s memory, you can do so online: www.kcfoundation.org or you may send your check to:

Kosciusko County Community Foundation, Inc.
102 E Market Street
Warsaw, IN 46580



PLAYING SANTA: Focus on KEYS

BY Jacob Collins, KEYS Member

On December 9, Headstart kids all across Kosciusko County arrived at school thinking it would be another average school day. However, they were surprised to have wrapped Christmas presents for their classrooms being delivered by KEYS students.



KEYS members (front to back): Tanner Dickerhoff, Scott Smyth and Jordan Satoski shop for Headstart Christmas gifts.

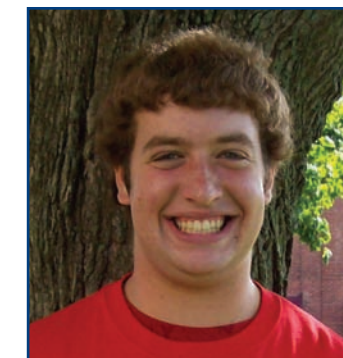
KEYS is a group of twenty students from schools servicing Kosciusko County (Warsaw, Wawasee, Tippecanoe Valley, and Lakeland Christian). KEYS is an acronym for Kosciusko Endowment Youth Services and is a program of the Kosciusko County Community Foundation.

The Headstart kids

eagerly unwrapped the presents in a fury, excited at the prospect of what treasures were hidden beneath the wrapping. After the presents had been unwrapped, the Headstart and KEYS students put the toys to the test, playing with each and every one of them. Delivering presents to Headstart students is something KEYS has been doing for several years now.

The KEYS group does philanthropic work all across Kosciusko County with a specific focus on education. Tanner Dickerhoff, a Warsaw High School KEYS representative says, “It’s just great to interact with these kids that look up to you and know that you’re making a difference in their education.” Both the Headstart and KEYS students had tremendous fun. They learned giving is just as fun as receiving – but they received a lot of hugs and thank you’s which were gifts as well.

Jacob Collins is a Senior at Wawasee High School. He is currently the KEYS treasurer and chair of the publicity committee.



Tracey Ann Yeager Memorial Scholarship



The Tracey Ann Yeager Memorial Scholarship was established by many friends and family of Tracey Yeager, in her memory. Tracey passed away on May 31, 2010 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She served in the U.S. Navy as a helicopter pilot, earning the rank of lieutenant and was a wife and mother.

Beginning this year, the fund will award scholarships to female students from Kosciusko County who pursue excellence, demonstrate leadership and are involved in the community and in extracurricular activities. Preference will be given to women pursuing career paths considered non-traditional for females. More information on this and all other scholarships is available at www.kcfoundation.org/seekingfunds/scholarships, or by calling 574-267-1901.

