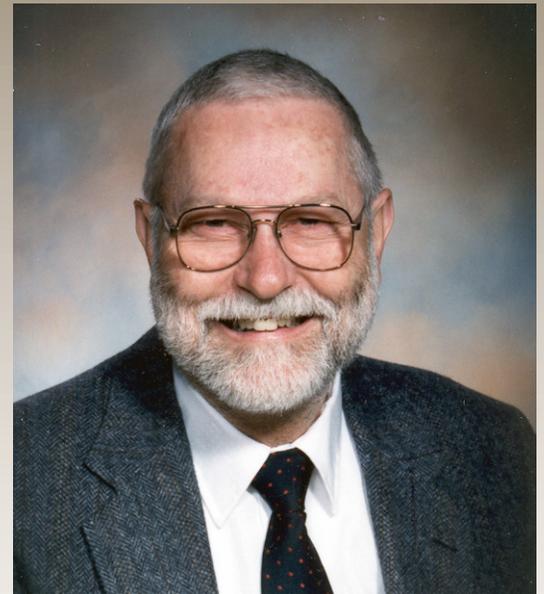


DONOR STORIES

RAYMOND “BUD” NICHOLS

“Raymond (Bud) Nichols Scholarship Fund”



RAYMOND “BUD” NICHOLS

An Iowa farm boy with a wanderlust that became a focused mission for world understanding is the perfect way to describe Raymond “Bud” Nichols. Bud was born on January 19, 1936 on a farm near Plainfield, Iowa. His early years gave him a love for the down-to-earth, straightforward lifestyle of so many Iowans close to the land.

While still young, he moved with his family to the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area for a period of time and then moved to a farm near Tripoli from fifth through ninth grade. The Nichols family made Cedar Falls their home once again during Bud’s high school years where he remained for college and his long career as a teacher and guidance counselor.

Bud’s job at school involved counseling international students from many programs.

Bud was a graduate of Iowa State Teachers College (now the University of Northern Iowa). He was an educator for two years in Denver, Iowa, and then 34 years at Cedar Falls High School where he taught math and coached basketball and golf. He remained at Cedar Falls High School after receiving his Master’s Degree as a guidance counselor to several generations of students.

While still in college, Bud married Liane Christoffersen and the young couple completed their degrees, began their teaching careers, and increased their fold with the birth of three sons; Jeff, Craig, and Doug. Liane’s teaching was interrupted for a few years and then, after getting her Master’s Degree, she settled into 28 fulfilling years at Holmes Junior High School in Cedar Falls.

In the midst of raising a family Bud and Liane were involved in scouting, politics, social activism, and various church activities. Through their church they came into contact with an opportunity that would change their life. Their local Episcopal priest was a coordinator for Youth for Understanding, a high school exchange program, and asked Bud and Liane to be volunteers for the organization. Bud’s job at school involved counseling international students from many programs. He had always enjoyed this and expanded his personal life into that field as well.

Over a period of over 30 years Bud and Liane became “mom and dad” to 11 students in their home and friends and counselors to hundreds of others for whom they were responsible as YFU representatives. Bud continued to serve in this capacity even after he retired from the school district. For 25 of those years he organized bus trips to Florida, Washington, and New York for exchange students and their family members.

Traveling abroad every summer beginning in 1969, Bud and Liane met and visited the families of the students they had hosted as well as those of many other students they knew. Bud's passion for travel took them to over 30 countries on five continents. Always he sought to connect with people living in those places to gain a more indigenous perspective than that of a tourist.

A supporter of historical renovation and other community projects, Bud served as president of the Cedar Falls Lions Club, on the vestry at St. Lukes' Episcopal Church, as president of the Northeast Iowa Guidance Counselors Association, and was a member of the Waterloo Elks Lodge. He received special recognition from the Lions Club and from Youth for Understanding for his many years of dedication to furthering global understanding.

Retiring from the school district in 1994, Bud and Liane continued to enjoy their foreign connections as well as spending time with their own three sons' families. Jeff is an electronic technician/engineer in Colorado, Craig is Vice President of Human Resources for a Florida company, and Doug teaches at Waverly-Shell Rock High School. There are five Nichols grandchildren.

Bud was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in March 2002 and died on the 11th of November that year. He was always firm in his belief that the best way to promote lasting world peace was to make as many opportunities as possible for people to experience each others culture through daily life. With that goal in mind, the Nichols family has established a scholarship fund at the Community Foundation of Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Northeast Iowa for a student who has been accepted by a program offering an overseas family living experience. It is a fitting way to honor a man who spent his life helping shape many young people for the challenges of personal decisions in an increasingly global environment.

**Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.*

Raymond "Bud" Nichols
January 19, 1936- November 11, 2002