

A FOREVER GIFT TO WORTH COUNTY

JASPERS FAMILY LEGACY FUNDS

EST.
2015

A FUND OF THE



WORTH COUNTY
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

here for good.



A lifetime in Worth County. Far left: Marjorie and Maynard Jaspers with their young sons, twins Ronald and Donald, and the youngest, Brad. Middle: Marjorie and Maynard later in life. Far right: Don Jaspers in an undated photo.

A "sister" recounts a loving family and their legacy

It all started with a horse, according to Pat Muehl.

When Pat was 14, she wanted to do what most teens do, buy a car when she turned 16. She had saved \$500 with that idea in mind, but her mother, who Pat said feared she might flee once she had transportation, redirected her to fulfill her dream of owning a horse. Enter the Jaspers family.

With nowhere to keep her new equine purchase, Pat rode her bike to the home of Maynard and Marjorie "Marj" Jaspers on the edge of town. Having never met the family before, she knocked on the door and discussed the potential of boarding her horse on their property, which Marj agreed to. Pat's horse had a home.

"I was out there morning, noon, and night," said Pat. "It didn't take long and [the Jaspers] had this extra person that just almost moved in."

Maynard and Marj Jaspers were business owners, founding Jaspers Motor and Implement in 1948, and active members of the community. The couple had three sons, the oldest were twins, Ron and

Don, and Brad was the youngest. It didn't take long before the family had taken Pat in as their own. "They referred to me as their daughter and the boys referred to me as their sister, and so we've had a lifelong friendship," said Pat. "They got the daughter they never had. I got a wonderful family."

Maynard passed away in 1993 and Marj died in 2012, leaving the estate to Ron and Don, with a special needs trust in Brad's name. Unfortunately, Ron passed away in 2013, leaving Don as the sole executor.

During this time, Pat stayed in close touch with Don to help him through this difficult time in his life and helped him settle his parents' estate, becoming an advisor and confidant. Don had worked for his father and lived at home, allowing him to adopt the modest lifestyle of his parents.

"I talked to Donnie knowing that his family was pretty much gone. His will left everything to his brother who was now gone, so I asked him, 'What do you want to do with your assets?'" said Pat.

continued

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS FUND,
CONTACT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHEAST IOWA AT 319-287-9106.

After thoughtful conversation, Don decided he wanted to make sure organizations serving Worth County benefited from the hard work of his parents.

"That's where they had spent their lives. We talked about what his charitable desires were. He knew he only wanted the income off of the principal used, and that way he knew it would go on forever," said Pat of one of her many conversations with Don. "And I said, 'Donnie, you have just created a legacy for your parents and yourself that will never die.' He took a great deal of pride in that and knowing that he would leave this earth a better place than what he found."

Shortly after these conversations, in 2015, Don passed away from pancreatic cancer, but the Jaspers Family Fund established with the Worth County Community Foundation, an affiliate of CFNEIA, has left a legacy for his family and the

community they loved.

"Donnie would be very proud to see that what he started in motion is happening," said Pat. "They were such great people. It's neat to see no one will ever forget them. They may not always know the story, but they will know that Jaspers family is here."

Through Donnie's generosity and vision, three funds were established with the Worth County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. These funds are:

Jaspers Family Foundation Fund
Jaspers Worth County Betterment Fund
**Maynard Jaspers Family Northwood Methodist
Scholarship Fund**