

Forever Tree Society program provides opportunity to keep someone's memory alive

Written by Administrator

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When Pat Bridge of Scottsburg heard about the new Forever Tree Society program at the Scott County Community Foundation, she immediately knew she wanted to do something in memory of her parents, Laurence and Myrtle Bridge.

They were lifelong residents and farmers in Johnson Township, Scott County. Myrtle was a charter member of the Scott Memorial Hospital Guild and Laurence was a committee member of the Agriculture Stabilization Office for many years.

They were both members and very active in the Pisgah Methodist Church. "Honest, family oriented, hardworking and Christians," says Pam Mosley, Pat's only child and Laurence and Myrtle's only grandchild.

After learning more information about the Forever Tree Society, Pat decided to establish the Laurence and Myrtle Bridge Memorial Fund. She likes the concept that because of the unrestricted gift, the board can decide where the money is best needed. She was also able to participate in the matching funds program that the Foundation Board of Directors offered as an incentive to donors. Through Sept. 30, the Foundation is offering \$25,000 in matching funds for the program.

The program is perfect for Pat because any other donors in the family or friends can donate to the fund at any time in any amount in Pat's name, even as a birthday or holiday gift to Pat. And through establishing a Forever Tree Society fund, Pat was able to fulfill her goal of giving back to the community that has given so generously to her over the years.

There are three levels in the Forever Tree Society: the Blossom Fund, the Willow Fund and the Oak Fund. All donors who give an unrestricted gift of \$500 or more honoring or memorializing a significant individual, organization or business will establish a Blossom Fund.

When gifts reach the \$10,000 level, or a donor makes an unrestricted gift of \$10,000 or more, a Willow Fund is created. This fund becomes a "stand alone" unrestricted endowment fund, in which a portion of annual earnings are granted in the name of the honoree each year during the Foundation's grants cycle.

When gifts to a Willow Fund reach \$50,000, an Oak Fund is created. The earnings from this fund will support a specific charitable project in the community.

While no additional gifts are required to maintain any of these funds, donors are encouraged to consider future gifts so that the Forever Tree Society's impact will continue to grow in Scott County.

For information on how you can honor or memorialize a loved one or your family, or give tribute to your favorite organization or business, please call the Scott County Community Foundation today at 752-2057 or email info@scottcountyfoundation.org. The office is at 60 N. Main St., Scottsburg. You can view more information on the Foundation at www.scottcountyfoundation.org.