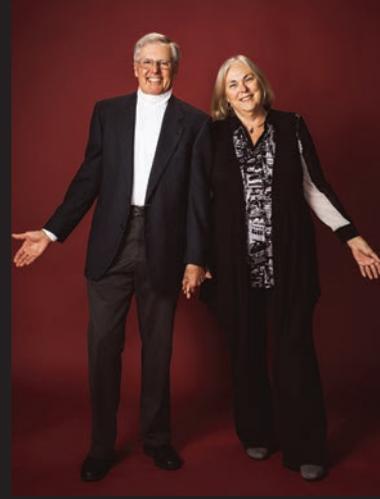




25 Couples





Who Contribute To Our Community

Photography by Jeff Richardson



To Serve, To Give, To Make a Difference

The virtues of volunteering can't be overstated—the hours volunteers spend in service support worthwhile causes, nonprofit organizations, and the larger community. But as the couples in the following stories attest, those hours offer the volunteers something, too—a sense of fulfillment, purpose, connection, even joy.

The couples here are but a representative sample of the many thousands of volunteers in Bloomington and Monroe County who give of their time and talent every day to any number of organizations. Many are retired and have found their vast experience—in education, business, medicine, and other fields—to be of service, while allowing them to continue to feel gratification as professionals.

These “Couples Who Contribute to Our Community” serve in many different ways. Some, who have been financially successful in life, are able to contribute the resources so necessary to help the less fortunate and to support our social services, educational institutions, and the arts. Several are volunteers with Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Others serve on the boards of their religious organizations, City and County committees, or give of themselves to the arts, education, homeless advocacy, health care, environmental awareness, animal welfare, and other concerns. Even so, this is just a sampling of the many volunteering opportunities available in the community. To find out more about how and where to volunteer, visit the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network at bloomingtonvolunteernetwork.org.

Jennie and Neville Vaughan

“Giving back to the community is our daily work.”

When Jennie and Neville Vaughan decided to come to Bloomington from California, they didn't have a plan—they simply quit their jobs, packed up their belongings and 5-year-old son, and headed east. Jennie drove the van. Married 26 years, they've made a go of it.

Jennie, now 57, joined Kelly Services, where she learned about Bloomington and job placement. That led to a career at Ivy Tech Community College. She was executive director of human resources when Chancellor John Whikehart retired. She succeeded him in April 2014.

“Chancellor Whikehart wanted us, as employees, to be out in our communities, participating,” Jennie says. She's active in her neighborhood and on boards, including the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation, Regional Opportunities Initiative, IU Health Bloomington Hospital, and Bloomington Redevelopment Commission.

She's especially proud of the O'Bannon Institute, a full day of community service hosted by Ivy Tech. “We performed 1,000 hours of service the first year, and exceeded the goal the second year,” she says.

Neville, 53, had been a paralegal for a year when he became a full-time member of the Bloomington Fire Department. That was 20 years ago this June. He's now battalion chief.

“Giving back to the community is our daily work,” he says. “We raise money through the year and give it all away.” Department initiatives include Shop with a Firefighter, Santa's Broken Sleigh,



(l-r) Neville and Jennie Vaughan.

smoke detector blitz, and Bloomington Meals on Wheels. “It's a calling,” he says. “We're programmed as firefighters to help people.”
—*Olivia Dorfman*



(l-r) Brian and Kira Richardson.

Kira and Brian Richardson

“As a man of color, it’s important for kids to see a different narrative.”

Brian and Kira Richardson came to Bloomington just two years ago, but it didn’t take them long to make an impact. Brian developed the Krimson Leadership Academy, a 10-week program focusing on life skills that benefit underrepresented male students in fourth through sixth grades at Fairview Elementary School.

“As a man of color, it’s important for kids to see a different narrative,” says Brian, who also volunteers with the United Way of Monroe County Real Men Read program. “Representation matters, especially from the marginalized populations.”

“Representation is big,” says Kira, who volunteers at Girls Inc. of Monroe County and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington. “It’s gratifying to see people benefit. It really doesn’t take much time out of your day, but it makes a big difference.”

Brian adds, “For them to see what we do, then it becomes more tangible to them.”

The City of Bloomington named Brian the 2017 Outstanding Black Male Leader of Tomorrow, and Girls Inc. presented Kira with its 2017 Bold Award.

But they both say they don’t do what they do for the accolades. “We’re in the position to give back, so we should,” says Brian, who is the assistant director for diversity and inclusion at the Indiana University School of Public Health.

“It does help to shed light on the issues we’re focusing on,” says Kira, an HIV disease intervention specialist with the Indiana State Department of Health.

Last December, the couple celebrated their daughter Alexa’s first birthday. “Having a young girl,” Brian says, “makes it even more important to try and make Bloomington what we want it to be for her.” —*Rosie Piga Pizzo*

Ute and Lynn Coyne

“It gives me satisfaction helping other people.”

Ute Coyne practiced deception in order to volunteer at a hospital in Düsseldorf, Germany, where she grew up. “I was 13 years old, and you had to be 16 to do it,” she says. “I told my girlfriend to sign us up. She was shorter than I was but she was 16. They thought I was, too.”

Nursing became her profession. At age 21 she came to Bloomington as a nanny, and later took a nursing job at Bloomington Hospital, where she worked for 37 years. Retired for the past seven years, she has been active with Volunteers in Medicine, IU Health Hospice House, Habitat for Humanity, and 100+ Women Who Care. “It gives me satisfaction helping other people,” says Ute, 72. “It’s a good feeling.”

Lynn’s family moved to Bloomington when he was a teenager, and Lynn cites instances from his teenage years when the course of his life was changed by the everyday actions of other people, such as a high school guidance counselor encouraging him. “I’m very grateful and I’m very loyal,” Lynn says. “If I get a chance to talk to somebody and help them, I do it. You just don’t know the impact.”

Today, Lynn, 73, is president of the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation. He serves on the boards of IU Health Bloomington Hospital and Ivy Tech Community College–Bloomington. He has chaired the boards of the Red Cross, the Monroe County Community School Corporation, and The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. “I look at what provides opportunity for people to move up in life,” Lynn says. —*Craig Coley*



(l-r) Ute and Lynn Coyne.

Krista Detor and Dave Weber

“There’s more need for help than there’s help given.”

Gratitude infuses singer/songwriter Krista Detor and Dave Weber’s contributions to Bloomington and around the world.

A California native, Detor, 49, came to Bloomington—her mother’s hometown—in 1999. “I was only going to stop over for a year,” she says, “But I just started falling in love with the place.”

A few years later, she walked into Weber’s recording studio. “We met, and in a couple of years it blossomed into something,” Detor says. The couple married in 2006.

Detor’s annual holiday concert has become a Bloomington tradition. The first was held for Nyaka, a school for AIDS orphans in Uganda, which Detor had heard about through her mother’s church. “They asked me to do a benefit show for this incredibly important enterprise,” she explains. “I liked the idea of giving back in a big show every year.”

Over a dozen years, the show has supported many local organizations: Giving Back to Africa, the Bloomington Animal Shelter, Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, and, most recently, Bloomington Meals on Wheels. And that’s just here. She also does benefit concerts across the country and abroad.

Weber, also 49, learned audio recording at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, then founded Airtime Studios. He shares expertise and equipment with many Bloomington groups: Lotus World Music & Arts Festival, Bloomington Playwrights Project, the Soup Bowl Benefit, and local high schools. He also works with students and interns in his studio. “I’ve always been aware that there’s more need for help than there’s help given,” he says. —*Olivia Dorfman*



(l-r) Krista Detor and Dave Weber.

(l-r) Jennifer Bass and Michael Hamburger.



Michael Hamburger and Jennifer Bass

Sharing (and living) a "pay it forward" ethic.

Michael Hamburger and Jennifer Bass share the “pay it forward” ethic and live it, both locally and globally.

An Indiana University geology professor, Hamburger, 64, is the founder of Concerned Scientists at IU, an advocacy coalition focused on political issues related to science, especially climate issues. He helped drive IU’s campus sustainability effort, chaired the university’s Task Force in Sustainability, organized the Office of Sustainability, and hired its first director. He also helped establish the Research and Teaching Preserve on the north edge of campus. He regards the 1,500-acre nature preserve as a core accomplishment.

Bass, 63, is a CASA volunteer and is active in the progressive advocacy group Hoosier Action. Both are organizers for the annual Soup Bowl Benefit for the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. “I’m focused on the community, and particularly issues of health care, homelessness and poverty,” Bass says.

Her interests are diverse. “Michael goes deep; I go wide,” Bass suggests.

Bass is the former chair of the Mental Health Association of Monroe County, and was communications director at the Kinsey Institute for 20 years. She left her job in 2016, and is currently involved in an oral history project, launched by a former Kinsey colleague, called “Marriage Equality: Stories from the Heartland.”

Married for 35 years, the couple met in 1978 on a blind date in New York City. “One of our first dates was to see *Breaking Away* when it first came out,” Hamburger recalls. “But it didn’t occur to us that we might end up in Bloomington until I was hired to teach at IU. —*Peter Dorfman*

Michael A. McRobbie and Laurie Burns McRobbie

“...a huge impact on Bloomington and surrounding counties.”

Now in their 11th year as Indiana University’s first couple, Michael A. McRobbie and Laurie Burns McRobbie are among Bloomington’s most visible and deeply engaged community leaders.

Michael’s community activities are inseparable from his role as president of the university. He is vice chairman of IU Health, one of the nation’s largest health systems. “We’ve overseen the rejuvenation of IU’s role in IU Health, culminating in the decision to build the new IU Health Bloomington Hospital,” he says. “That will have a huge impact on Bloomington and surrounding counties.”

Laurie is on the board of the Community Foundation; is involved in the Thrive by Five Campaign, which raises money for pre-K education in Monroe County; and is an active supporter of Middle Way House.

Laurie is also a big supporter of Serve IT, a service learning clinic that provides real-world experience for IU students while helping nonprofit organizations with technology needs. The McRobbies met through Internet2, a consortium for next-generation internet development. “IU was a founding member and Michael was its principal representative,” Laurie, 63, explains. “We met as colleagues in 2000. In 2003, coincidentally, we both lost our spouses to brain tumors. So we had that personal experience in common. One thing led to another ...”

They married in 2005. Each has three children. “We created the classic Brady Bunch,” Michael, 67, says.

Committed to philanthropic support for the university, most recently its bicentennial campaign, they have made numerous inter-



(l-r) Michael A. McRobbie and Laurie Burns McRobbie.

national trips together, building global ties for the university and the city. “Between us, we’ve really tried to underscore the importance of international engagement,” says Michael. —Peter Dorfman

Holly Bales-Hall and Kareston Hall

“Be a cheerful servant”

As public school teachers, Holly Bales-Hall and Kareston Hall frequently witness what’s lacking in the lives of children. Both grew up pledging to live by the Girl Scout Law, and they promote positive change by serving as leaders for their 12-year-old daughter Courtlyn’s Girl Scout troop of 17 sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders.

Over the past seven years, they have encouraged their daughter, and the scouts they lead, to find causes they feel passionate about and to volunteer. They rattle off too many causes to name, from food drives for the hungry to gifts delivered with holiday carols to nursing homes to the promotion of Operation: Cookie Drop, which sends Girl Scout cookies to troops overseas. Leading the Girl Scouts doesn’t feel like work to the couple. “It’s something we just see as part of our lives,” Holly says.

Kareston teaches math at Bloomington High School South while Holly teaches music to pre-K through fourth grade at two elementary schools in Brown County.

Having lost a brother to AIDS, Holly volunteers for HIV/AIDS awareness, including working with the AIDS Memorial Quilt when it recently visited IU. “We are both faith-based people who believe in caring for others,” says Holly, whose mother taught her the motto



(l-r) Kareston Hall and Holly Bales-Hall.

“Be a cheerful servant” when offering service. “We’ve adopted this motto for our family,” she says.

Holly and Kareston had their marriage ceremony 14 years ago, which they formalized in 2014 when the same-sex marriage laws in Indiana changed. —Tracy Zollinger Turner



(l-r) Don Griffin Jr. and Nicole Griffin.

Nicole and Don Griffin Jr.

“We’re put on this earth to make things better for the next generation.”

Don Griffin Jr. is the silhouetted figure leaning against the letter G on the red signs for Griffin Realty, a company he started 14 years ago with his wife, Nicole. She is director of the Indiana University Visitor Information Center.

Bloomington natives, Don and Nicole have known each other since they were 4 years old. Ask Nicole about her contributions to the community, and she talks about all the things her husband does. Ask him, and he talks about the service awards she has won. “Everything that my name is attached to, she is a part of it,” Don says. “She’s the brains behind everything.”

Nicole, 46, serves on and has chaired the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission. Don, 47, is active with the NAACP and started the Monroe County Black Democratic Caucus in 2016. They support the IU Eskenazi Museum of Art and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington.

“We have the opportunities we have because of the people who came before us,” Nicole says. “So when our son was born, we realized we had to also help him understand his history.”

Their son, Dexter, now 16, inspired them to create the City of Bloomington Black History Month Living Legend Award, which is bestowed annually.

“We think Bloomington is the best place in the world,” Don says. “No place is perfect. If what you seek isn’t here, maybe you need to be the person to change it. I think we’re put on this earth to make things better for the next generation.” —*Craig Coley*

Peggy and John Woodcock

“I like using photography as a therapeutic tool.”

Photography may have taken Peggy and John Woodcock around the world, but their passion for it goes hand-in-hand with philanthropy.

With children and grandchildren living in Japan, it seems inevitable that the Woodcocks would have hundreds of photographs from there. In fact, they had planned to host a photo exhibit featuring some of them in 2011. When an earthquake and tsunami hit Japan in March of that year, they turned the show into a benefit. “The photos sold out, and every cent went to the devastated area,” says Peggy, who has degrees in fine arts and teaching.

Closer to home, John does portrait photography for IU Health Bloomington Hospice. “I like, among other things, using photography as a therapeutic tool,” says John, a retired English professor. This speaks to his involvement with Flashes of Hope, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating uplifting portraits of children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. “Feeling good is not a bad thing when you’re trying to fight cancer,” John says. “It’s very moving how thankful the parents are to have these photos.”

When *Bloom* asked men and women who were experiencing homelessness to take pictures for a story, “How the Homeless See Bloomington,” Peggy and John taught a course at Shalom Community Center to teach them the mechanics and techniques of photography. “I thought it was a great idea,” Peggy says.

The photographs were later sold during two different shows. Half of the money went to Shalom and half to the artists. As a Shalom volunteer, Peggy says, “I was touched by how generous people were.” —*Rosie Piga Pizzo*



(l-r) Peggy and John Woodcock.

Connie and Steve Ferguson

“You can’t ever take an education away from anybody.”

Steve and Connie Ferguson are committed to improving educational opportunities. The main building at Ivy Tech Community College–Bloomington bears their names in recognition of their \$1 million contribution to the campus. In addition, they’ve provided Ivy Tech students with endowed scholarships in nursing, biotechnology, radiation therapy, and other programs. Connie has chaired Ivy Tech’s regional board of trustees since 1998, and Steve was on the Indiana University board of trustees for 12 years. They also support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington.

Steve explains their enthusiasm for supporting education this way: “If somebody has an education, they can take care of themselves. You can’t ever take an education away from anybody.”

Connie, 67, owns CS Property Management. Steve, 77, is chairman of the board of Cook Group, the medical device manufacturer. He also has served as a state legislator and is on several boards, including the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

Connie and Steve have been married for 25 years. About their philanthropy, Connie says, “Couples disagree about how to spend money. We have never disagreed about how to give money.”

One of their most widely recognized contributions was not in the educational realm at all. Their donation of land and \$50,000 created Ferguson Dog Park, where dogs can run off-leash.

“We’ve been quite shocked in how many responses we hear,” Connie says. “I can be in the hairdresser, and somebody overheard



(l-r) Connie and Steve Ferguson.

that I was Connie Ferguson, and they’ll come back to the chair and say, ‘I just have to tell you how much we love your dog park.’”

— Craig Coley

Ann Marie Thomson and Dr. Jim Calli

“To figure out the best way to give back.”

Thirty-two years ago in Maine, a missionary’s daughter from the Belgian Congo met a doctor’s son from North Vernon, Indiana. A year later, Ann Marie Thomson and Dr. Jim Calli moved to Bloomington and started serving the community.

Calli, 72, is a cardiologist. Thomson, 63, was a nurse. She then earned her master’s and Ph.D. from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, and has taught at IU since 2001. “Both of us have been very involved,” says Thomson. “With the Lotus Festival, the National Service Commission, on boards for many years.”

The couple also helped educate a Congolese friend’s son. “We got him into nursing school in Kinshasa,” Thomson says. Then the young man fell ill, and died. “He died from something easily treated,” Calli notes. “It crystallized how dreams evaporate in Congo,” Thomson says. “I felt hopeless. I was raised by Congolese—they taught me moral values. Jim had the idea to help other young people in Africa.”

The couple founded the nonprofit Giving Back to Africa (GBTA) in 2004. “We took three years to educate ourselves,” Thomson says. “We went there, did focus groups, pilot projects, and interviews to figure out the best way to give back.”



(l-r) Dr. Jim Calli and Ann Marie Thomson.

The result: a Congolese school with a curriculum mutually developed by GBTA and Congolese teachers. It is now expanding to two new schools, one with 1,000 students.

Though they have known each other for three decades, Thomson and Calli married just three years ago. “The strength of our relationship is that we’re so different—like night and day. I’ve been blessed,” says Thomson. Adds Calli, “So have I.” —Olivia Dorfman

Mayor John Hamilton and Dawn Johnsen

*“Be kind, be useful,
and don’t be lazy.”*

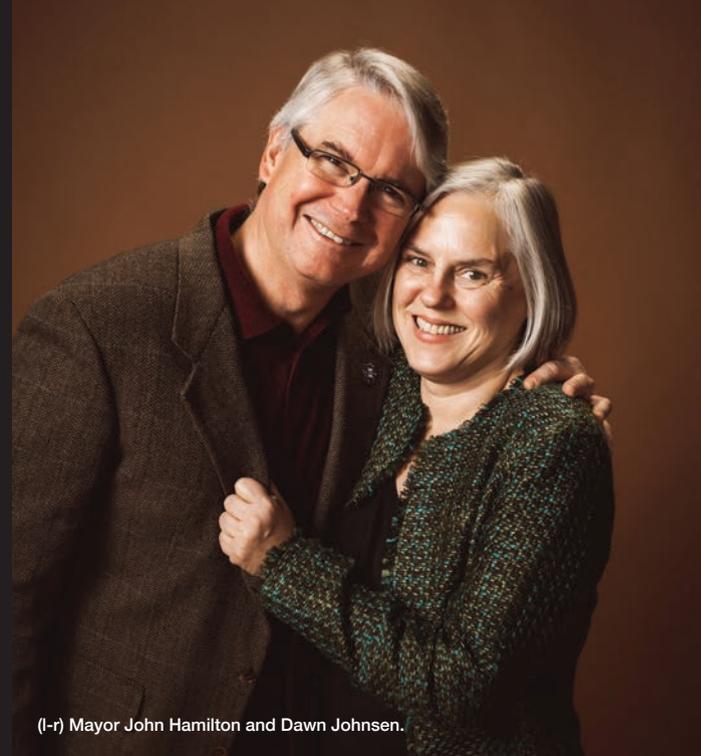
Indiana University Maurer School of Law Professor Dawn Johnsen and Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton grew up in families that stressed community service and political activism.

Hamilton’s father was a Methodist minister active in social justice causes, and his uncle Lee Hamilton was a longtime United States congressman. “I grew up steeped in that brew,” Hamilton says. “I was always active in volunteer things.”

Hamilton, 58, served on the boards of the Monroe County Community School Corporation and Shalom Community Center. When he became mayor in 2016, he stepped down from Shalom. “There are 350 nonprofits in Bloomington, and I think it’s important that I be relational with all of them,” he says.

Growing up on Long Island, New York, Johnsen, 56, watched her letter carrier father go on strike, and says her mother was “always at the school, arguing about things.” So when Johnsen’s high school planned to fire teachers and eliminate electives, she organized a walk-out. “When the clock struck nine, we walked out, occupied the front lawn, and demanded a meeting with the school board—which they gave us,” Johnsen says. “We totally won, and it was really inspiring.”

A constitutional law expert, Johnsen served on the transition teams of presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. She has been



(l-r) Mayor John Hamilton and Dawn Johnsen.

active with Planned Parenthood, the American Civil Liberties Union, Monroe County Democrats, Democratic Women’s Caucus, Call to Action, and the NAACP.

Hamilton tells of meeting President Barack Obama and hearing the advice Obama gives his daughters: “Be kind, be useful, and don’t be lazy.’ Those are three good things, I think.” —*Craig Coley*

Cathy and Luis Fuentes-Rohwer

*Making the world
a better place.*

Luis and Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer’s paths first crossed when they were undergraduates at the University of Michigan and working with low-income students in an after-school program. So it shouldn’t come as a surprise that their community service focuses on education and helping young people.

Teaching positions for Luis at the Indiana University School of Law and Latino Studies brought the family to Bloomington in 2002.

When the youngest of their four children entered school, Cathy began volunteering with the Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) and helped with the 2010 referendum campaign. In 2012, she became chair of the Indiana Coalition for Public Education—Monroe County. “It’s about fighting to preserve public education, which is essential to our democracy,” she says. She’s driven to advocate for students’ needs. An MCCSC school board member, Cathy played a crucial role in reversing policies involving lunch shaming.

Along with teaching, Luis serves as a faculty advisor for several IU student organizations. “The only reason I do what I do is to help students,” says Luis, who moved from Puerto Rico to Florida when he was 16. “If they need someone to turn to, I have to say yes. I was there once, and help wasn’t always there.”



(l-r) Cathy and Luis Fuentes-Rohwer.

Luis and Cathy say they feel uncomfortable receiving accolades for doing what they believe everyone should be doing. “Anything you do should be about making the world a better place,” says Luis, whose recent involvement includes De Pueblo a Pueblo, a group helping to rebuild Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Caribbean after the natural disasters there. —*Rosie Piga Pizzo*



(l-r) Ron and Carol Remak.

Carol and Ron Remak

A legacy of community involvement through volunteerism and sponsorship.

Ron and Carol Remak grew up in Bloomington families that appeared, on the surface, to be very different. Ron's father taught German and comparative literature at Indiana University while Carol's was the founder of the financial services agency Bill C. Brown Associates. "What our families shared was that they were both so inclined to help others less fortunate," Ron says. "That became a part of both of our DNA because we saw it lived out."

They met and became friends around middle school, but things changed in college when a friend of Ron's met Carol. "And he became so adamant that she and I were meant for each other that he wouldn't let up until we went on a date," Ron recalls. "And he was right."

They married soon after Ron's 1979 graduation from IU, when he began to work for Carol's father. He purchased Bill C. Brown Associates from his father-in-law in 1997, continuing the company's legacy of community involvement through volunteerism and sponsorship, supporting nearly 90 charitable organizations. Awarded several times for his civic involvement, including Rotarian Man of the Year in 2016, Ron currently serves on the board of Riley Children's Foundation, among others. Carol steers the Castle Cart through Riley Hospital once a week, passing out toys and games to patients. She also serves on the advisory board of Susie's Place, the child advocacy center.

Parents of three and grandparents to six, they mentor young adults separately and couples as a team. "Carol has a great gift to listen and give discernment to others in a loving, non-judgmental way," Ron says. —Tracy Zollinger Turner

Jenny and James Yang

"I love to share, so I share everywhere I go."

Since the earliest days of the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market and for many years, Jenny Yang, surrounded by her flowers and herbs, was a familiar face. An avid gardener, she loved sharing the spoils of her expertly worked soil with the community.

She and her husband, James, came to Indiana University in the 1970s from Taiwan so he could attain his Ph.D. in English and American literature. As their children fell in love with the Bloomington way of life, Jenny remained here while James returned to Taiwan to teach at the National Tsing Hua University. They reunited their family here or abroad as often as they could.

Upon his retirement in 2001, James returned to Bloomington, and he and Jenny have been active, visible ambassadors of traditional Chinese arts ever since. They were longtime volunteers at IU's Asian Culture Center, and James has frequently played *ehru*, a two-stringed, violin-like instrument, at the Farmers' Market, the IU Eskenazi Museum of Art, and other public spaces. He also teaches and exhibits calligraphy, paper art, and painting, often at community events. Jenny teaches Chinese movement arts like tai chi and qigong.

Jenny stopped working at the Farmers' Market in 2012. These days, at harvest times, she takes bouquets to Meadowood Retirement Community, where she teaches qigong and helps with the garden, or to the weekly Global Women's Gathering at University Baptist Church, where international women and children gather to practice English, socialize, and craft together. "I love to share, so I share everywhere I go," she says. —Tracy Zollinger Turner



(l-r) Jenny and James Yang.

Drs. Carol and Jim Touloukian

“Kids don’t have much political power.”

Pediatrician Carol Touloukian and her husband, Jim, a gastroenterologist, both were raised in close-knit, stable families. They understand how lucky they are and have worked to pass that good fortune on through their charitable activities.

The common thread for Carol, 66, is child advocacy, through her work as a CASA volunteer, a public advocate for child health, and a member of the Monroe County Board of Health. “Kids don’t have much political power,” she observes. “As a CASA, I try to make sure kids with special needs get the care they need, whether they’re with their parents or not.”

Jim, 67, is on the regional board of Ivy Tech Community College, and celebrates the way the school quickly trains students for well-paying jobs in Bloomington. Carol has co-chaired fundraisers for Ivy Tech and is on the Ivy Tech John Waldron Advisory Board.

The Touloukians also work with New Hope Family Shelter. Carol helped launch New Hope’s child care center, The Nest. Jim has been involved in Hope Builders, volunteers who maintain the agency’s buildings along East 2nd Street.

The Touloukians met as Indiana University undergraduates, shortly before Jim started medical school at IU. “We met over the

(l-r) Drs. Jim and Carol Touloukian.



microscope,” Jim recalls. The following year, Carol also went to IU Medical School.

They graduated together in 1976, did their residencies at Yale New Haven Hospital, then fellowships at UCLA. They returned to Bloomington in 1981 and raised their three children here.

“It’s natural to want to give back,” Carol says. “It’s what you do.”
—Peter Dorfman

Doris and Jim Sims

“When I say my prayers, I ask for stamina and wisdom.”

Doris and Jim Sims have served Bloomington for the entirety of their 39-year marriage.

Doris earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University and has spent the majority of her career working for the City, currently as director of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department.

She has been on the boards of the Bloomington Housing Authority, Bloomington Board of Public Safety, American Red Cross, United Way of Monroe County, and the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office Merit Board. She’s served as chair of Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky, and has worked with Girls Inc. and the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana. In 2017, she was named a Living Legend at Bloomington’s Black History Month Gala.

Currently, Doris is on the Second Baptist Church board of trustees, chair of the IU Credit Union board of directors, and is membership chair for the Monroe County NAACP. “I’ve scaled back some,” she says.

Fellow IU alum Jim, 61, is area manager for environmental operations in the Residential Program and Services Division at IU. He serves on IU’s Diversity Committee and Black Faculty and Staff Council and on the City Board of Housing Quality Appeals,

(l-r) Doris and Jim Sims.



Plan Commission, Board of Public Safety, Utilities Service Board, Commission on the Status of Black Males, and Black History Month Committee.

In January 2017, Sims was elected president of the Monroe County NAACP, and in August, he became an at-large representative on the Bloomington City Council.

“When I say my prayers, I ask for stamina,” Jim says. “And wisdom.” —Olivia Dorfman

Diana Lambdin and Frank Lester

“It’s important to match volunteering to your own skills.”

Married for 23 years, former Indiana University math education professors Diana Lambdin and Frank Lester have always had a full slate of community service activities.

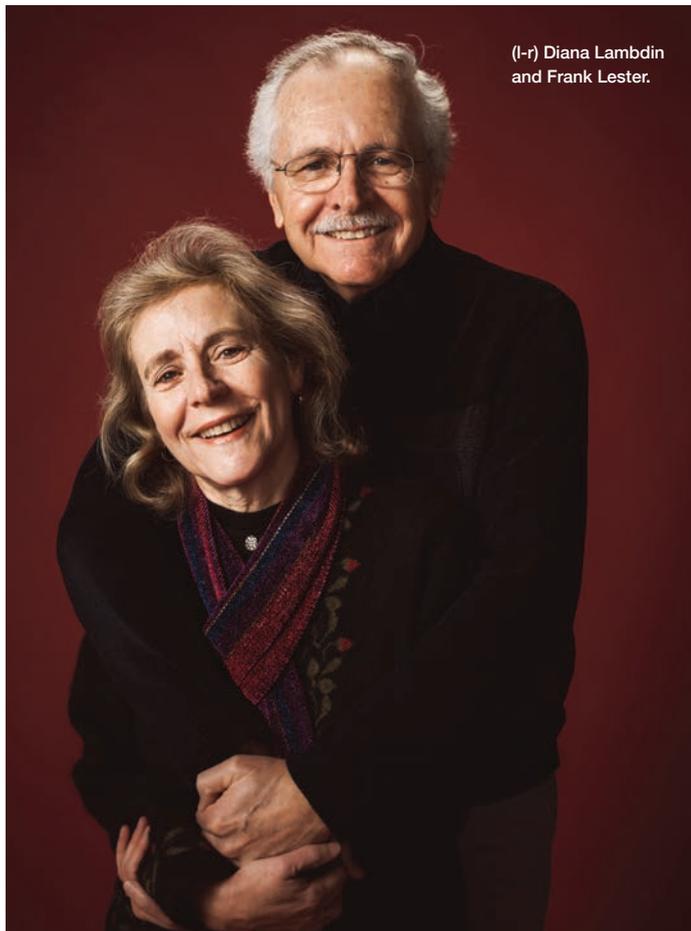
While at IU, they helped organize and direct activities on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and on Thanksgiving they could be found dishing up meals at Community Kitchen of Monroe County.

“And we were at the Interfaith Emergency Winter Shelter from the beginning,” Lester says. Lambdin recalls working the 11:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. shift: “I brought a stack of papers and graded.” The couple still volunteers there, though a bit earlier in the evening. And they still deliver for Bloomington Meals on Wheels twice a month.

Lambdin, 69, has been a Monroe County CASA volunteer for more than five years. The work entails research and writing, which come naturally to an academic. “It’s important to match volunteering to your own skills—it doesn’t need to be directly aligned to your prior work history,” says Lambdin, who also serves as a docent at the Wylie House Museum.

Lester, 74, is a student advocate for the IU Division of Student Affairs. “My main job is to help students navigate the university system when they violate the code,” he explains. “IU is like a small city. We have hundreds of homeless students, and there’s plagiarism, intoxication, sexual assault.”

Of the time they spend on their philanthropic activities, Lambdin says, “We have time alone and time together, so it’s a nice balance. The activities make our lives very full, but they don’t take over our life.” —*Olivia Dorfman*



(l-r) Diana Lambdin and Frank Lester.

(l-r) Dan and Tina Peterson.



Tina and Dan Peterson

“We wanted to make a difference in the place we call home.”

Raised in a military family, Tina Peterson never lived in one place for more than five years until she came to Bloomington 26 years ago. Then a stay-at-home mother, she volunteered for her children’s schools and local organizations, doing multiple projects that “allowed me to feel like I was becoming part of a community.” That involvement led to full-time work with the Foundation for Monroe County Community Schools for 10 years.

Now she’s president and CEO of the Community Foundation, which fosters the growth of educational opportunities, economic development, and resources for basic human needs in Bloomington and Monroe County. She is also the CEO of Regional Opportunity Initiatives Inc., which has parallel goals for 11 south-central Indiana counties.

Tina and Dan met when both were divorced, single parents. They, with their four children, became a blended family 14 years ago, finding common ground in their values. “We wanted to make a difference in the place we call home,” Tina says.

Dan, an Indiana native, is vice president of industry and government affairs for Cook Group, where he has worked since 1989. He says he focuses locally, regionally, and sometimes nationally, on “policies and programs in health care delivery as well as education, economic, and workforce development to ensure that the communities in which Cook is involved are well-functioning and vibrant.” He serves on the board of BioCrossroads, the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation, and ROI, among others.

“All of our work, which is very much complementary, aligns,” Dan says. “We are trying to push and pull things in the same directions for all the right reasons.” —*Tracy Zollinger Turner*

Martha and David Moore

*“Those who have much,
need to give much.”*

Longtime Bloomington residents and high school sweethearts Martha and David Moore knew they wanted to blend their passions with community needs. For Martha, the focus is on education and children. For David, photography and art.

They opened Pictura Gallery on the downtown Square in 2008. “Once we opened, we learned more about the needs of artists, art students, and art education,” says Martha, a retired schoolteacher and organizer of the downtown First Friday Gallery Walks.

When the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington needed financing for a photo club, the Moores bought them cameras. They continue to fund three photography programs, and support an intern to oversee programming.

Martha explains their contributions stem from two values. “Both of us were raised in church. So those who have much, need to give much.” The second motivation: “It’s more meaningful when we give gifts that come out of our own love and passion,” she says.

Martha and David also purchased cameras for homeless men and women to document their days for the “How the Homeless See Bloomington” story published in *Bloom*. “I believe in Malcolm Abrams’ energy for the homeless,” David says. “A person’s passion and energy carry a lot of weight.” The photos were also displayed at Pictura, with proceeds from sales going to the homeless photographers and Shalom Community Center.

After 10 years downtown, Pictura Gallery has a large new home at the FAR (Fourth And Rogers) Center for Contemporary Arts. “We hope to create a space where artists collaborate,” David says. “It’s new motivation to have speakers and classes. It comes back to those passions of ours.” —*Rosie Pigo Pizzo*

(l-r) Martha and David Moore.



(l-r) Malcolm Dalglish
and Dr. Judy Klein.



Dr. Judy Klein and Malcolm Dalglish

*“We try to work for social
justice in our community.”*

According to Malcolm Dalglish, he and his wife, Dr. Judy Klein, “met at Oberlin College almost 45 years ago, and have been co-conspirators in life and love ever since.” The couple rooted themselves in Bloomington in 1981, when Judy first worked as a physician at Planned Parenthood. Now at IU Health, she has been active with Physicians for Social Responsibility and Volunteers in Medicine, and served on the board of Lotus World Music & Arts Festival.

Dalglish, a hammered dulcimer player and composer, has made the majority of his local performances charitable benefits. Three years ago, he created Love Songs for a Lasting World for Middle Way House. Klein leads the fundraising committee. Now an annual event at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater, it begins with music and dancing featuring Dalglish and his folk choir, The Ooolites, and ends with an audience-inclusive singing procession to a bonfire and pie. The couple has also worked on the annual Soup Bowl Benefit for Hoosier Hills Food Bank for more than a decade. “Together we try to work for social justice in our community, while creating beauty and joy,” Klein says.

“I see much of my future work in the community going towards the use of art to create a corridor between our city streets and our local green spaces and woodland preserves,” Dalglish says. He is currently looking at an ambitious project involving Bloomington Parks and Recreation, the IU Research and Teaching Preserve, the mayor’s office, Sycamore Land Trust, and fellow nature lovers that would bring both an “art of nature” festival and a circumferential trail to Griffy Woods Nature Preserve. —*Tracy Zollinger Turner*

Christopher DeYoung and Colin Johnson

“What is my purpose?”

Christopher DeYoung and Colin Johnson are yes men—people ask them to help, and they say yes.

Married since 2015, Johnson and DeYoung met in Washington, D.C., in 2001. They moved to Bloomington in 2005 when Johnson was hired as professor of gender studies at Indiana University.

DeYoung, who had worked in public relations in D.C., stopped working when they moved and instead threw himself into gardening. After a year, though, he says he began to ask himself, “What is my purpose?” Walking his dog, Woodruff, in Bryan Park one day, DeYoung met another dog walker, Toby Strout, who was executive director of Middle Way House. “Toby asked me to do one thing that was easy to say yes to,” says DeYoung, 53. As the requests kept coming, he kept saying yes.

Today, DeYoung says yes to a lot of Middle Way House activities, from hanging the sweaters that wrap downtown trees (raising awareness and money for the domestic violence shelter) to helping care for its rooftop garden. He is at Middle Way so frequently volunteering, people think he is a full-time staff member.

For Johnson, 44, service is grounded in the IU community. His field of gender studies intersects with student lives and identities,



(l-r) Christopher DeYoung and Colin Johnson.

and students often ask for help in working through personal trials. He speaks in dormitories and sponsors student groups. “I find it hard to say no to people because so many people didn’t say no to me when I needed support,” Johnson says. “And I find it really rewarding. I like watching students flourish.” —*Craig Coley*

Dr. Rob Stone and Karen Green Stone

“You meet wonderful people as an activist.”

Dr. Rob Stone and Karen Green Stone are a team, in activism and life. “I’m the pretty face and she’s the brains,” Rob insists.

A physician and an outspoken advocate for single-payer health care, Rob, 65, organized Hoosiers for a Commonsense Health Plan (HCHP), the Indiana chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program, in 2005. “There are other HCHP chapters in Indiana, but none as active as this one,” he says.

Karen, 70, co-founded the Local Clay Potters’ Guild and Artisan Guilds of Bloomington, which includes fiber and glass artists. Pottery led her to the annual Soup Bowl Benefit for Hoosier Hills Food Bank. She organizes the production and donation of artisan bowls for the event, drawing on guild potters and local amateurs.

She also works with the League of Women Voters. In 2014, the City’s Commission on the Status of Women named her Woman of the Year for her activism.

Rob grew up in Evansville, Indiana. After medical school, he worked in an indigent care clinic in Denver. He moved to Bloomington in 1983 and became an emergency medicine doctor, later switching to palliative and hospice care.



(l-r) Dr. Rob Stone and Karen Green Stone.

Karen moved from New York state to Denver to study ceramics. That’s where she met Rob in 1980, while protesting at the Rocky Flats nuclear trigger factory. Karen had met her first husband at those demonstrations. She ultimately divorced, and Rob became a widower. A long-distance relationship evolved, and they married in 1994.

“You meet wonderful people as an activist,” Green Stone says. “It’s a privilege just to know them.” —*Peter Dorfman*

(l-r) Mary Goetze and Bob Althausen.



Mary Goetze and Bob Althausen

“We’re not through giving back.”

Mary Goetze and Bob Althausen have found that great things can be accomplished in a community by helping one family at a time.

Althausen, 78, a retired Indiana University sociology professor, has been a CASA volunteer since 2005, but he devotes much of his time to the American Red Cross. While he has deployed to disaster sites, nowadays he works mostly from home, doing virtual damage assessments. He organizes volunteers into Virtual Data Assessment Teams using techniques he created. The assessments help families recover quickly from fires and natural disasters.

Goetze, 75, retired from the IU Jacobs School of Music, where she was a vocal music professor. After retirement, she brought her skills to the Monroe County Correctional Center, where she conducted songwriting classes and established vocal ensembles. “I kept hearing about choirs in jails and prisons, and that sounded like an opportunity to contribute,” she says.

In 2008, Goetze also became a CASA volunteer, and many times she was involved with inmates for whose children she was an advocate. She also joined New Leaf New Life, which helps inmates return to the community after incarceration. There she started Kids with Absent Parents (KAP) to support inmates’ children, as well as Read to Me, a program in which she records incarcerated parents reading stories for their children.

Goetze and Althausen met as faculty colleagues and married in 1981.

“I don’t like the word ‘retirement,’” Althausen says. “We’ve learned many new things since we retired, and we’re not through giving back.” —*Peter Dorfman*

Carrie Newcomer and Robert Meitus

“Being of service in our community is an integral part of who we are.”

Singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer and her husband, attorney Robert Meitus, have intertwined their work lives with service and activism for 28 years. The two met in the late 80s when Meitus asked Newcomer to perform at a small music festival he was promoting in West Lafayette, Indiana. Meitus lived on the East Coast at the time, but after a year of long letters and weekend phone calls, they felt they belonged together. They moved here in 1991.

“People in Bloomington give us such energy and creative ideas and inspiration,” Newcomer says.

“The Soup Bowl is a case in point,” Meitus explains, referring to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank benefit the couple helped found 24 years ago. “A very small group came together, incorporating the arts with handmade bowls, local restaurants, local musicians.”

Newcomer’s musical performances benefit many health, hunger, environmental, and justice organizations, including Amethyst House, Sycamore Land Trust, Indiana Forest Alliance, and Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light. She also promotes progressive spirituality, interfaith dialogue, and women’s causes.

Meitus became involved in the Citizens’ Climate Lobby four years ago, and is co-leader of the organization’s local chapter. He also does pro bono legal work for struggling artists.

Many local organizations benefit from the couple’s help, including Shalom Community Center, Lotus World Music & Arts Festival, Buskirk-Chumley Theater, WFIU/WTIU, WFHB, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana.

Newcomer says, “Our idea of being of service in our community is an integral part of who we are and how we operate.” —*Olivia Dorfman*

(l-r) Carrie Newcomer and Robert Meitus.

