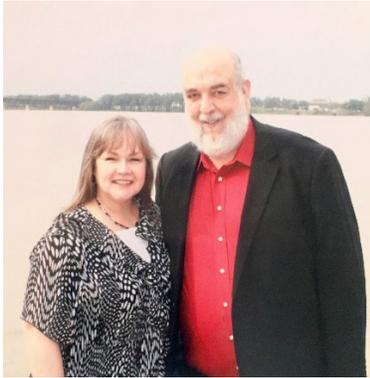


ABOUT



Leland J. Harbeson &
Christine A. (Knies) Harbeson

Crawford County has always played a part in the lives of Leland and Christine.

They are the proud parents of three grown children and five grandchildren who are growing up so fast!



They started the Earl E. Harbeson & Ronald J. Knies Grantmaking Fund as a way to honor their fathers; impact on their lives. They make annual gifts to the fund on Father's Day and Christmas, but have included the fund as a part of Christine's estate plan. This fund is unrestricted which means the CFCC grant committee and Board of Directors decides which nonprofits are eligible to receive funds based on a competitive, open grant cycle.

"As grandparents, we recognize the very special role that parents play in the role of their children. While parents are busy working, maintaining homes and raising children, we know the stolen moments as a family are incredibly valuable. Even if everyone is gobbling down take out between school, work and after school activities, small gestures of appreciation and having one's own cheering section build esteem and bonds that last forever.

For Leland, he remembers that his Dad, Earl, never missed one of his games. He would work double or split shifts to work around the sport's schedule. He also remembers his Mom and Dad caring for five cousins while they all grew up in a small home. "Somehow, Dad always made sure there was enough for everyone," said Leland. "And everyone who knew him knew he liked to help make apple butter. Apple butter is one of my favorite things, probably because of the memories it brings up."

For Christine, she knows how hard her Dad worked. Not only did he work hard, he was also a talented craftsman. She now has one of the desks he made as a gift to his brother and his new wife on their wedding day. That new wife is her godmother, so the impact of family is strong. Additionally, his parents taught her the value of farm life and extended family. "My dad was one of nine children. I think my last count on first cousins is forty-two, not including spouses. We used to get together every Christmas and Easter and eventually had to rent out places so we could gather. I sure do miss the family members who have passed on, especially my Dad!"

And so they honor their fathers and the legacy they left through the lives of their children. They encourage you to find ways to honor the people in your life. You can start small and add to the fund over time, or just set up a fund to be realized through your estate plan. These funds will serve as an eternal tribute and will distribute grants to Crawford County year after year after year...

The Earl E. Harbeson & Ronald J. Knies Grantmaking Fund made its first grant in 2021.