



the MOLINE FOUNDATION

CEO Plagenz reflects on what makes our region special



As a summer of gathering and reconnecting with family and friends will soon be concluding, it is easy to reflect on why our region is a special place to live. Whether enjoying the beautiful natural attractions of our area parks or attending one of the almost endless assortments of festivals, fairs, and farmers markets, we are definitely blessed with a variety of places and activities.

While these amenities are noteworthy, what actually makes our community unique and special is the people. Thoughtful, genuinely kind-hearted people who care not only about their family, but their neighbors and the community. I encourage you to continue reading this newsletter to learn how Karen and Tom Getz's legacy continues to care for their community even today and how one local non-profit is teaching kids how the values learned on the golf course can be applied in their lives.

Yes, it is the people who make our community truly special.

**Tom and Karen Getz Fund helps beautify
Moline with Garden Guardians**



This spring, the Tom and Karen Getz Endowment Fund granted funds to Garden Guardians - a partnership between Keep Moline Beautiful, the City of Moline, and residents who want to assist in the beautification of specific gardens within the City. The project is a way for an individual, group or a business to adopt and maintain any one of the 17 gardens along Ben Butterworth Parkway.

Established in 2007, The Tom and Karen Getz Endowment Fund has been supporting projects in the Quad Cities with the goal to support and promote civic pride, youth development and the arts.

The fund was created to honor spouses Tom and Karen Getz by their children, who sought to honor their parents.

Tom and Karen were committed to the betterment of our community. Tom Getz was active in an integral part of an almost unfathomable number of community organizations and causes. Some of these causes included holding the position of president and, later, chairman of the board of the YMCA; president of his Boy Scout council and recipient of a Silver Beaver award; board chairman of Augustana College; commodore of the White Lake Yacht Club. Tom's role was never that of a simple figurehead. He was always the person who quietly rolled up his sleeves, went to work, persevered and got the job done!!

Karen Getz became involved in many community activities and treasured the large circle of friends she grew to know and cherish. She was on the board of directors or a trustee of Arrowhead Ranch, The Moline Foundation, the Mark of the Quad Cities, U. S. Bank, Quad City Symphony Orchestra, Putnam Museum, Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau, Bettendorf Family Museum, and Marriage and Family Counseling Service. She was devoted to the Quad City Arts Festival of Trees, which nearly became her full-time job for over 18 years.

Together, the two enjoyed escaping to Lake Michigan on their sailboat and spending the warm sun. They even met while sailing! Their legacy will continue to be remembered through the Tom and Karen Getz Fund, an endowment fund with The Moline Foundation.

Garden Guardians founder Mary Lind said "To me, beauty helps define a community. And people who live in the community have the responsibility to make it be as beautiful as their home because the community is their home."

Tom and Karen Getz would be thrilled at the thought of making their home, their community, beautiful.

[Learn more about how you can leave a legacy](#)



First Tee-Quad Cities teaches more than golf

It all started with a question - why don't more more kids play golf? A partnership and shared mission between a group of golf oriented organizations sought to answer that question with First Tee in 1997. The mission of First Tee Quad Cities is "to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. First Tee soon discovered that through their programs, which blended the rules of golf with life skills, kids and teens were learning more than golf - they were learning important values.

"What makes First Tee so special is our character building programs. Out of the hour and 15 minutes kids are with us for each class, about 20 minutes of that time is spent on teaching kids how to apply the natural values of golf like honesty, integrity, and making good judgment, not only in their golf game but in life as well," said Sara Cross, Executive Director.

Utilizing a grant from The Moline Foundation, First Tee will build a brand new First Tee Learning Center inside a new clubhouse that is going to be built at Highland Springs Golf Course, with plans to break ground this October.

"We are excited to have a real 'home' at Highland that isn't made up of picnic benches anymore! It is going to be such a special place for kids of all demographics, ages, and abilities to come and feel comfortable while in our programs!" said Cross.

[Learn more about First Tee - Quad Cities](#)



What is a Donor Advised Fund?

Donor-advised funds are the fastest-growing charitable giving vehicle in the United States because they are one of the easiest and most tax-advantageous ways to give.

A donor-advised fund is like a charitable investment account, for the sole purpose of supporting charitable organizations that are important to you. When you contribute cash, securities or other assets to a donor-advised fund, you are generally eligible to take an immediate tax deduction. Then those funds can be invested for tax-free growth and you, the donor, can recommend grants to any IRS qualified public charity.

Important Dates

- Sept. 24 - Moline Foundation Fall Grant Deadline
- Nov. 1 - Scholarships Open for Applicants



Leaders in Philanthropy - Together

When someone asks me what a community foundation is and what it does, I think of one of my favorite quotes is by Margaret Mead - "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it's all that ever has."

-Paul Plagenz, CEO of the Moline Foundation

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