

## Named Endowed Funds

### The Pete and Grace Plankers Family Fund



When asked why she established the Pete and Grace Plankers Family Fund, Grace said, “Our interest in the Cloquet schools did not stop when our children graduated.”

The Fund, a lasting memorial to The entire Plankers family, helps support the activities and programs that have been important to the Plankers. “The Foundation gives children a chance to go on a trip, have a unique experience, or learn something new,” she explained. “It would make Pete happy to continue to support these types of programs,” Grace said.

Pete and Grace moved to Cloquet in the early 1960s as owners of the Ben Franklin store. Their six children attended Cloquet Schools and their last child graduated in 1985. They stayed involved in school activities by continuing to attend events and by volunteering their time. Grace remembers the Junior Achievement Program in Kraig Konetizko’s third grade classroom as a highlight in Pete’s life. On the first day of the five-day visit, Pete would introduce himself to the class by saying, “I’m going to call you little codgers and you can call me old codger.”

After teaching the “Our Community” curriculum three years, Pete amassed a large folder of thank you letters from the students. When Pete passed away, these letters became treasured mementos for his family. Following is a letter from a third grade student named Cory.

“Dear Pete Plankers, I loved the treat, I wish other people were like that but what I liked more was that you taught us. I still remember what the zones were business, farming, industrial and residential. I learned that zones are neat because there are different zones. And if we didn’t have zones every thing would look way different, business would be in residential, and residential would be in industrial, every thing would be screwed up. Cory”

“Providing the children of Cloquet a chance to take part in these kinds of activities –those are the kinds of things Pete and I wanted to see continue,” Grace said. “That is the real reason why we established this fund.”