

Named Endowed Funds

The Syzman Family Fund



Peter and Katie Syzman established the Syzman Family Fund for two reasons. The first was to honor Pete's parents, older siblings and the many Cloquet teachers and coaches who made a difference in his life. According to Peter, "My life in Cloquet had a huge influence on my development and who I am." The second reason, which is an outcome of the first, was to provide financial assistance for kids who otherwise would not be able to participate in extracurricular activities.

Peter credits the Cloquet community for many of the wonderful experiences and adventures he had while in Cloquet. Most of those were free at that time but now cost money. Dick Brenner, one of the CEF's founders, told Peter funding support from the Foundation helps many children overcome these financial barriers.

The Syzman family moved to Cloquet from Chicago in the winter of 1972. Bob, Peter's father, took a job at Northwest Paper. That first winter in Cloquet made a big impression on Peter with tons of snow and cold temperatures that are still vivid memories. While attending a hockey game at the "barn" two players suffered mouth injuries and had their teeth knocked out (these were the days before mouth guards). At that point, Peter decided basketball, rather than hockey, was a better choice for him.

Six of the Syzman children graduated from Cloquet High School and went on to receive graduate degrees in various fields. Pat, Peter's mother, instilled the love of learning in her children and modeled that behavior by completing a teaching degree and masters degree while raising eight children.

The Syzman Family Fund is his way for Peter and Katie to give back to the community that played such an important role in Peter's early development. He feels a loyalty to Cloquet and a commitment to Cloquet's youth that can make a difference in the life of a young person.

Peter honors the following A+ Teachers and Coaches: Ms. Alatala (principal of Washington), Mr. Bloom (elementary teacher), Jerry Erickson, Ken Schloer, Bill Kennedy, Rol Bromberg, P.K. Peterson, Bruce Plante, Steve Jezierski, Paul Arnovich, Marianna Elsentpeter, Tom Martinson, Pam Smith, Dick Nelson, John Buytaert, Gary Himango, Don Schroeder (singing with the Madigrals), Cecil Jons, Don Grant, Dale & Katharine Johnson, Tom Langley, Bob Gerlach, Jim Zack, Bob Cresap, Bill Norton, Don Hanson and Sandy & Jim Crowley.