

History leads to their planned g

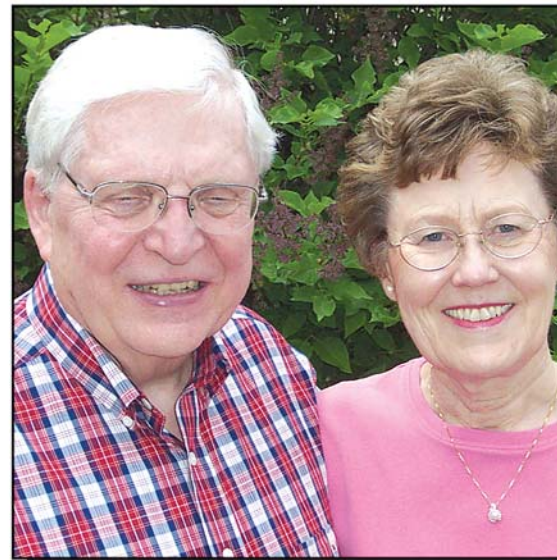
A love of history led Lois and Robert Jorstad to joining the Rochester Area Foundation's Community Heritage Society.

To understand, take a step back about three decades. In 1976, the Jorstads came to Stewartville, where Bob became schools superintendent for 17 years. After arriving in town, the couple became close with Dr. A.O. and Helen Hagen. "Doc," a dentist, was a cousin of Lois' father and was the closest relative to the newcomers.

Helen Hagen asked Lois Jorstad to monitor her estate after her death in 1998 and one beneficiary included a scholarship fund set up for Stewartville students. The fund got off to a slow start. When Byron Schools Superintendent Dr. Wendy Shannon started her teaching career in Stewartville, Bob Jorstad had mentored her. Dr. Shannon had started a fund for Byron schools with the Rochester Area Foundation in 1999 and suggested that the Stewartville funds be moved to the foundation, too.

After overseeing the scholarship fund move, Lois Jorstad said it made sense that the couple leave their own legacy and committed to giving the Rochester Area Foundation a gift out of their estate when they die. The funds will benefit the Stewartville Historical Society with help for upkeep of the Stewartville birthplace of Sears, Roebuck and Co. founder Richard Sears. The couple donated many items to the society when they moved from Stewartville to Rochester a few years ago.

"Our hope is that it will plant the seeds for others to have ideas," Lois Jorstad said of the couple's planned gift.



The Jorstads donated many items of interest to the Stewartville Historical Society when they moved to Rochester. As members of the Rochester Area Foundation's Community Heritage Society, they will leave a gift to the foundation upon their deaths to leave a legacy in Stewartville.

■ To learn more about the Community Heritage Society, go to www.RochesterArea.org, click on "donors" and then click on "Community Heritage Society."

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