

DOING GOOD IN  
*Your Backyard.*

Floyd Lounsbury  
Family

*Potter County*

Organization  
Endowment Fund

*A vision to sustain the  
Galeton Public Library.*

## The Little Library That Could—and the Family That Helped Make it Happen

In the small town of Galeton, Pennsylvania—a Potter County community of about 1,000 people—resides a quaint little library. The borough itself is nestled at the base of the mountains, its public library, built in 2004, sitting snugly along a lake, the same it's been since it was founded in the early 1900s.

“It’s a small community, but the library itself has a strong support base,” said Sue Miller, a Galeton Public Library board member. “People come down, sit outside, and read a book. The library is an integral part of the town.”

Among its champions, Floyd Lounsbury was one of the library’s most passionate. The former English teacher and his wife, Beth (who was also a teacher), were loyal supporters and frequent visitors, with Floyd making himself at home at the meeting table with a newspaper in hand.

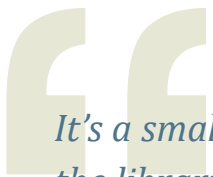
Floyd died in 2018 but knowing how he felt about the Galeton Public Library, Beth and the couple’s son and daughter created a memorial fund in his name with the library as the beneficiary.

“Funding is difficult in a small community,” Miller said about the importance of the donation. “State and federal funding has been reduced over the years, so it takes more local effort to keep the library doors open.”

But if the money would ever make the type of impact Miller knew the library needed, it had to be properly managed. And she knew just who to ask for help.

“When I called [Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) President and CEO, Suzanne Lee] for the first time, she came to Galeton,” Miller recalled. “We met at a little coffee shop, and I was





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sold. When she presented what we could do and what it would take to get there, she didn't make it seem like it was pie in the sky. When you think of foundations, you think of Bill Gates, but she made it seem doable."

Despite Miller's strong belief in Lee and CFTT's ability to represent the library's best interests, others on the board preferred the more traditional approach of a savings account. That's when Lee came to the library to present to the board and residents of Galeton about how an organization endowment fund with CFTT works and why it was a better option than a savings account that would likely yield little growth.

A vote took place following Lee's presentation, and CFTT was unanimously elected to oversee the fund.

"People started to really understand the value of earning money through a foundation and the value of keeping it there for the next generation," Miller said. "We're also doing this for the next generation and the generation after that."

The Galeton Public Library Fund, which started at \$12,000, has swelled in size and now has a balance of \$25,000, thanks to the Lounsbury family's original seed money and donations from the Friends of the Library and private supporters.

With COVID-19 heavily restricting the library's ability to carry out its traditional fundraising tactics of bake sales and raffles, the fund has helped the library stay afloat and purchase necessities.

The dream, Miller said, would be to expand the library so that it can offer more services, especially for children. Realistically speaking, the board's most important goal with the CFTT fund is just to keep the doors open, which Miller knows her old friend would appreciate.

"Floyd would be thrilled with the fund," she added. "We have a memorial to him on one of the easy chairs that's in the library. Because Floyd would come in every day, he'd pick up the newspaper and sit at one of the hard chairs at the meeting table and read. Every time I sit in Floyd's chair, I think, 'Floyd, you'd really like this. It's a lot more comfortable than that old wood chair.'"

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