




Washington

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Giving to Claysville to Continue Through Wilkerson Fund



Although he was born in Arizona and spent his early years in Texas, O.W. Wilkerson loved the town of Claysville, where he and his wife, Agnes, made their home for more than 56 years. The Wilkersons raised their two sons and daughter in the quiet little borough located in the southwest corner of Washington County, and founded Wilkie Contracting Company there in 1956. His love of Claysville motivated his daughter and son-in-law to initiate a permanent fund in his memory to support the Claysville community. A few organizations in particular will benefit from the Fund, including the Claysville Volunteer Fire Department, CAPRI, Communities that Care, and the Claysville Christian Church.

Wilkie, as he was known to his many friends, was a 45 year member of the Claysville Lodge 447, was inducted into the East Finley Friends Hall of Fame, and was a member of the Syria Temple. Wilkie was also on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank & Trust in Wheeling, WV, which is now part of WesBanco. For the many years he operated his construction company, Wilkie would “anonymously” support his community. He gave generously to the Claysville Volunteer Fire Department and various other community projects. And when the Borough needed to remove snow from the streets, Wilkie would donate the use of his equipment and labor. Always the gifts were to be anonymous, but the community knew Wilkie had arranged for the gifts, especially when the construction truck with the business name printed clearly on the side would arrive to remove snow from the streets.

The *O.W. Wilkerson “Wilkie” Fund for Claysville* was initiated with a \$50,000 gift which was matched with another \$16,667 from a special matching grant the community foundation received, bringing its value to \$66,667. The first award from the Fund, estimated to be \$2,500, will be made in 2008. The WCCF manages more than 100 permanent funds with a combined value in excess of \$3.3 million. To learn more about the special matching opportunity for endowed funds, please contact the WCCF at 724-222-6330.

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