

## Beth Smith - In memory of a community hero.

For some, actions speak louder than words. That was especially true for Beth Smith, a devoted mother of two and a charitably minded Miami County resident, whose actions spoke volumes for a community in need.

"She was always concerned with how she could help other people," says Abigail, her daughter.

Abigail glances at her father, Chris, a professional golfer and Peru, Indiana, native.

"She did a lot for a Lot of different organizations," he says. "It was all important to her because she believed in helping her community."



Beth Smith volunteering as a model at the 2009 Boomerang Sisterhood event.

On June 21, 2009, Beth was involved in a fatal car accident. Beth's generous spirit, a quality that's remembered by the many people who knew her, made a home in the hearts of the many lives she touched in the community.

Abigail laughs as she recalls a favorite story her grandmother would tell about Beth's giving nature. Abigail says her grandmother knitted a new pair of mittens that Beth wore to elementary school during the bitter winter months. When Beth returned home from school one day, her hands were bare because she had given her mittens to a classmate who had none.

"She was a very giving person at a young age," Abigail says. "She was always concerned with how she could help other people."

Providing money for much-needed field trips for the former St. Charles School, recataloging books in the school's Library, fundraising for school events, and even performing some accounting duties, Beth took joy in quietly helping her church and children's school, never asking for recognition or anything in return.

"She was an amazing person," says Marianne Savage, a family friend whose son attended the same school as Beth's children. "She left a big hole here because there were a lot of things that she touched that people didn't realize."

Beth also volunteered frequently as a board member at the Miami County YMCA and helped raise money for new bikes and the swimming pool, among the other numerous volunteer projects.

"You could tell by the questions she asked in committee meetings that she was very interested in the kids and how the YMCA could best help them," says Dick Fullmer, the YMCA's executive director.

With the help of the Community Foundation, Beth also helped raise money to convert an outdated room at the YMCA into a safe place where children now exercise after school.

"It's turned into a popular place for the kids of our community," Fullmer says. "As it was publicized more, more kids in the community made the commitment and started exercising. It was very well received."

"She taught me that giving never stops," Abigail says. "She never took a break on giving. It was a constant state of mind she was in."

Chris says that he and his family hope to carry on Beth's legacy.

"We are all proud of what Beth did," Chris says. "Our mission is to try to continue it."