

Grate Family Fund

The church is an integral part of every small-town community. It is often the case that rural communities have churches on every other corner, and they bring in anyone who is close to worship. The impact the church has on community members is so great that it can linger with a family long after it moves away.



Donald and Donna Grate were members of the Main St. United Methodist Church in Peru for many years before they moved to

Puget Sound, Washington in 1999. While they lived in Peru they were very active in the church, mostly in the music department. They were both members of the church choir and part of many committees. Their three sons, Philip, Tom, and Steve, were also involved in music at the church. All three were attuned to the multimedia department, as well as members of the youth group and Boy Scouts chapter that the church sponsored.

While the Grate family lived in Peru, Donald and Donna ran a wholesale lumber business, and Donna was a teacher at Peru. Donna was also on the school board for 12 years, and Donald was the President of Peru's Kiwanis for many years and a leader of the Boy Scouts. Their sons were very active in youth programs in the community and all three became Eagle Scouts in Peru.

In 1999, the family decided to move to their present home in Puget Sound, Washington. When they left they felt something needed to be done for the church because of how much it meant to them. Since the whole family was involved in music, it was an easy choice to start a fund to benefit the music and multimedia programs at the church. Donna, Donald, and Tom worked with the Miami County Community Foundation to found the Grate Family Fund for Music and Multimedia Ministries at Main Street United Methodist Church. The fund goes towards keeping the music and multimedia departments outstanding and up-to-date.

For more information on the Miami County Community Foundation, or to learn how the Foundation can help you fulfill your charitable wishes, contact Patrick Close, Director of Development, at 765-475-2859 or visit nicf.org.