



# Giving Back

with the Battle River Community Foundation

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## Community Builders' Dinner coming October 15

The annual Battle River Community Foundation Community Builders' Dinner is being held in Camrose on Friday, October 15, with Dave and Gail Stolee being celebrated for their contributions to the community.

To find out more about the Stolees and why they have chosen literacy as the focus of their special evening, turn to Page 2.

Tickets for the event can be obtained through any BRCF Board member, or through the office at 780-679-0449.



*Dave and Gail Stolee*

### Two copies of the newsletter?

If you received *Giving Back* in the mail, you will have received two copies. It is hoped that you will share the second copy with someone who may be interested in the work we do. If you feel that the Foundation is worthy of support, perhaps they will too.

We appreciate your assistance in helping to raise awareness of the Foundation throughout east central Alberta.

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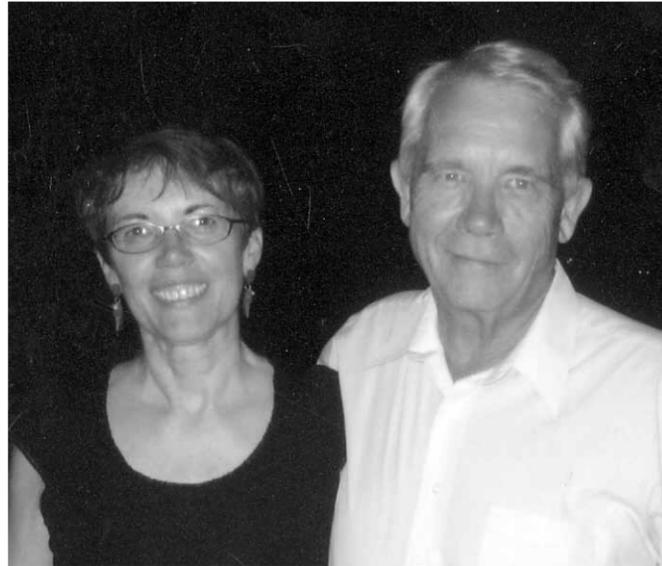
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## Dave and Gail Stolee believe that literacy is the key

Dave and Gail Stolee believe in creating opportunities for people to succeed.



*Gail and Dave Stolee in 2005.*

The Camrose couple have been active community members throughout their adult lives. They feel strongly about the importance of supporting and participating in the world around them.

Gail is a former English/French teacher and librarian who also taught English in an adult education environment before moving to a career in fund development. Most recently, she has served ten years as the Executive Director of Sahakarini, a third world development organization.

Dave spent twenty years with the Alberta Ministry of Social Services and Community Health, including seven years as Deputy Minister. He accepted the position of Administrator of the Bethany Group in Camrose in 1982 and retired as President in 1996. Almost immediately following this “retirement” Dave became the Executive Director of the Battle River Community Foundation, a role he performed until the spring of 2010.

The couple’s list of volunteer involvements is extensive – they’ve served on virtually every committee and held every office on their church council; Gail is a past president of

Rotary, while Dave is the current president; Gail served eight years on the Board of Regents of Camrose Lutheran College...and there’s plenty more.

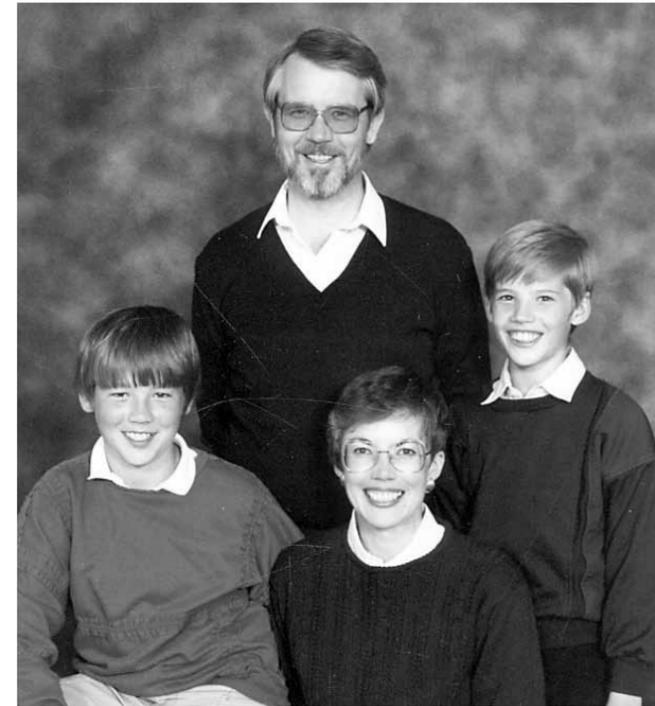
But the Stolees feel what’s most important is not the things they’ve been involved with as much as why.

“I think we’re all created the same,” Gail explains, “but we don’t all have the same opportunities. Dave and I get a lot of satisfaction and pleasure from helping to make things better.”

That’s why the couple has chosen literacy as the focus for the endowment fund that will be started as a result of this Community Builders’ Dinner.



*Gail, in 2000, when she was the Executive Director of Sahakarini.*



*The Stolee family in 1986, left to right, Jon, Dave, Gail and Drew.*

Whether it’s in developing countries or right here in Alberta, they say, the biggest thing that makes it possible for people to succeed is to be literate. Literacy – the ability to read and understand – allows people to participate and belong to society. Literate people, says Gail, can make decisions, be part of business and move forward in the world in so many ways. The Stolees hope that by creating a fund supporting literacy projects they, and

the Battle River Community Foundation, can also create opportunities for local people and communities to succeed.

“Endowment funds are permanent,” says Dave, “so this is the way we can support important literacy projects for the long term.”



*One of Dave’s favorite things at Bethany was the opportunity to participate in special event days.*

“Giving should involve joy for both the giver and the recipient. We’re excited about the focus of this fund and we believe it will make a positive difference to those it supports.”

### Deadline for grants approaching

The deadline for grant applications in the next cycle is Friday, September 24. Application forms are available from our website: [www.brcf.ca](http://www.brcf.ca).

As you are aware, our endowment funds took a pretty good hit in 2008. While earnings in 2009 were exceptionally good, our recovery is not yet complete. However, many donors have stepped forward with flow-through donations so there are grant dollars available for worthwhile projects throughout the Battle River community. Get those applications underway now!

If you would like to designate flow-through funds to a project close to your heart, consider funneling your donation through the Battle River Community Foundation. As always, all donations are fully tax deductible, resulting in a tax saving of 50% of your gifted amount. Please call any Board member if this appeals to you. Our phone numbers are overleaf.



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## **Cramers have been fans of the Foundation since the start**

Joe and Paula Cramer became part of the local community when they bought the Norsemen Inn in the mid-1980s. And when the Battle River Community Foundation came on the scene about a decade later, they were among the first to become donors and fans.

“We’ve always supported the work of the Foundation,” Joe says. “And we always will.”

The couple says that, in their minds, supporting community projects and causes is not an option, it’s part of their responsibility. “My Dad always helped others,” says Joe, “so I was brought up that way. My Dad taught me that, if you had more than the other guy, you should share.”

The Cramers are particularly attracted to the Foundation because of its ability to make decisions that are in the best interests of the local area.

“It’s a good way for us to spread our dollars in different directions,” according to Paula. “The Foundation Board makes a point of knowing what the greatest needs are and how they can be met. We really like the fact that our donations go to good causes, without us having to decide which ones to support.”

In addition, the local couple says they believe the Battle River Community Foundation is run by great people, who work hard for the citizens of east central Alberta. “We trust them completely,” explains Paula.



*Paula and Joe Cramer*

“The Foundation is set up to last for many generations. It will be around long after we’re gone. Right now we give because we can and we want to. But it’s nice to know that our gift to the Foundation will continue to make a difference even after we’re gone.”