

DOING GOOD IN  
*Your Backyard.*

Susan Storch  
*Bradford County*

Designated Fund  
*To ensure ongoing support for  
the Allen F. Pierce Free Library.*



## Writing the Future for the Little Library in Troy

Close your eyes and picture the most wholesome scene of Americana you can envision. Whatever it is, hearing Susan Storch describe her childhood probably has it beat.

Storch's story begins in Franklin, Massachusetts—a well-established town about 45 miles outside of Boston—named after Founding Father Ben Franklin. To make things even more Rockwellian, the city is home to the country's first public library and houses a collection of books donated by Franklin himself.

“My mother introduced us early to libraries,” Storch said. “I spent a lot of time there, especially middle school and high school, when I would go and do work or socialize with friends. That’s where I developed my love for reading and libraries.”

A few short years later, Storch found herself working in Troy, Pennsylvania, by way of Selinsgrove, where she graduated with a psychology degree from Susquehanna University. Her location had changed, but her love for reading had not; that’s why after she and husband Bob started a family, she made it a point to instill the importance of reading and libraries in her children as had been done to her.

That’s also why Storch joined the board of the historic Allen F. Pierce Free Library in Troy some 30 years ago and why she and Bob started a designated fund with the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) in 2014 to help stabilize the little library’s operations.

“As I learned about the benefits of [CFTT] and how you could have a fund that could help a love that you have in perpetuity, it just made a lot of sense to us,” she added. “This library has always been thriving, but financially it’s been tough. We had to watch every penny we spent and limit the books we could buy. We wanted to offer as much as we could at our own library.”





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The Storch’s initial investment of \$20,000, paired with an annual grant the library receives, has enabled the fund’s total balance to nearly double in the seven years it’s been in existence. The fund’s structure dictates that only a percentage of the balance is disbursed each year. In doing so, library leadership can purchase adequate supplies and new books for its collection without depleting the entire fund.

In addition to her charitable giving and position on the board, Storch is a regular visitor to the library, where she participates in its book club. “That’s been great because it encourages you to read things you wouldn’t necessarily read otherwise,” she said.

The Storch children—Rob, Jonathan, Jenny, and Maggie—are all voracious readers, and the family frequently talks about what each other is thumbing through at the moment. For Bob, a lifelong dairy farmer before retiring 16 years ago, that’s usually farm magazines and journals, along with other periodicals delving into sawmills and machinery.

Storch said working with CFTT couldn’t be easier and that she appreciates how their gift can be directed to a cause that really resonates with them. The couple will often get together with a group of friends who also have a CFTT fund and discuss how best to support each other’s passions.

“To know, even after we’re gone, there’s going to be ongoing support for our little library,” Storch said when asked about what the fund means to her. “Libraries are just so important to communities—whether it’s people borrowing books, books on CD, or computer use, and we’ve got a great group of kids that come hang out every day after school.”

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