



Nick, Nancy and Mary Yakovatz were born and raised in the Indiana Harbor, the children of Serbian immigrants who settled just a few blocks from the gates of Inland Steel.

The Yakovatz family home was a block away from church. Their father was a cantor. Nancy and Mary were lifelong members of the choir.

Mary spent her life working at Inland Steel. Nancy and Nick worked at the Standard Oil Refinery in Whiting.

In the early 50's Nick was picked to learn how to operate the refinery's brand new behemoth-sized IBM computers. Nick witnessed the dawn of the Digital Age almost from its inception.

The family was very close. Nick was a wonderful "big brother" who stood by his sisters. Since none of the siblings married, it fell to Nick to attend to Nancy in her futile battle against cancer; and later to Mary who suffered with Alzheimer's.

Although Nick was the sibling who successfully invested his earnings, he was insistent that the bequests from his trust also be credited to his beloved sisters.

His beneficiaries were charitable organizations that help the handicapped, the terminally ill, abuse victims and gifted children in need of scholarship help.

Tonight, the Munster Education Foundation honors our first Legacy Sponsor, the Yakovatz Family, for their generous gift.