

Ruth Frost Parker, founder, president, and primary donor to the Frost-Parker Foundation, as well as one of the founders of the Erie County Community Foundation, was an avid philanthropist, benevolent community member, and innovative developer to the vision of Sandusky. During her life, she donated more than \$13 million of her own money to improving Sandusky and its surrounding areas, among other causes. Even after her death, Parker's legacy is one that continues to thrive and her story is one that continues to be told throughout the philanthropic world and beyond.

Parker was born in Cleveland in 1922. Her devotion to the City of Sandusky began in 1938 when her family moved nearly 70 miles west from Cleveland and settled within Sandusky's borders. She graduated from Sandusky High School in 1941, and continued her education at the College of Wooster, earning a B.A. in biology and chemistry. She then worked in the medical field in Detroit as well as in a California laboratory before being accepted at Northwestern University Medical School, where she studied to earn certification as a Medical Technologist. After briefly teaching in Northwestern's Medical School Laboratory, she returned to Sandusky where she became the Chief Medical Technologist at the former Good Samaritan Hospital. Five years later, in 1954, she married William J. Parker. The two had three children together: William John, Allison, and James.



Throughout her lifetime, Parker was passionate about an array of matters, each experience reflected in her charitable givings and philanthropic generosity. For instance, she began studying violin at an early age, and in doing so, fostered a love for music and the arts that encouraged her support for the Firelands Symphony Orchestra, the Sandusky State Theatre, and the Sandusky Concert Association during her adult years. Parker had an immense enthusiasm for traveling, for seeing the beauty of each region she visited— an envisionment that supported her work in improving the surroundings of the community, as well as many of Sandusky's historical buildings.

According to the Erie County Historical Society, Parker helped finance efforts to reestablish the Rush Sloane Mansion, located at 403 E. Adams Street. Parker also enjoyed spending time on the abundant waters of Lake Erie, often by sailing with her husband. Combine this with her passion for healthcare, and one can easily see her motivations behind supporting the creation and renovations of Parkvue Community— updates that include the 2016 installation of a 7,200 square foot aquatic center featuring a saltwater pool, hydrotherapy spa, lounge, changing rooms, and exterior deck. She was also imperative in other modernizations at Parkvue, such as Fast Track Rehab, Frosty's Activity Center, and the Life Enrichment Center, and her estate covered the \$600,000 makeover to the Memory Care Unit. Parkvue is owned by United Church Homes, a community to which Parker shared strong relationships.



Parker's selflessness in these activities represent only a few of the many organizations she gave back to, including Youth Group Inc., Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Care and Share, McBride Arboretum, Shoreline Park, Bowling Green State University, and the Merry-Go-Round Museum, among many, many others. She supported programs that improved surroundings, housing, economic development, health care, and services for both the elderly and youth in Sandusky and beyond. She also received countless awards throughout her lifetime, ranging from the 1986

"Beautification Award" from the Sandusky Area Chamber of Commerce to being honored by the Bowling Green State University President's Club in 1996 to even being named Republican of the Year representing Ohio in both 2002 and 2007.

Parker passed away on February 14, 2015 at Parkvue. She has previously established endowment funds with the community that will allow her generosity to continue for many years. After her death, United Church Homes launched The Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, an initiative that aims at collaboration and idea-sharing in order to understand and improve the experience of aging. Through it all, Parker's history and work will not soon be forgotten, and her legacy will continue to be appreciated by places such as Erie County for generations to come.