

Go to school. Get your degree. Understand that higher education makes a difference, and don't be afraid to ask questions. These statements are just the beginning of **Carole Kuns'** advice for young people— which is no surprise, considering her lifetime devotion to education. From teacher, to school board member, to a representative of educational services on the Community Foundation's board, Carole has experience in many realms of the educational world, experience that qualifies her as one of the most prominent and insightful leaders of Erie County.

Carole graduated from Townsend-Wakeman High School (now Western Reserve) before attending Otterbein University to study Biology and Chemistry. She graduated from Otterbein in 1959, and after teaching at Parma City School District for half a year, came to Castalia where she taught 7th grade science at Margarett School District. Within one year after marrying Larry Kuns, the two had their first of three sons. Carole continued to substitute teach while raising her three boys, and also played a large role in managing the Kuns Dairy Farm, a family operation located in Castalia.

Throughout her lifetime, Carole has held a wide range of leadership positions, including serving on several school boards, as well as the Margarett Athletic Boosters and the Women of Church Bereavement program at Grace Lutheran Church. Currently, she serves as President of the Governing Board at North Point Educational Service Center, as well as Vice President of the EHOVE Board of Education.



When the Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation, now the Erie County Community Foundation, began the process of establishment, a few of its founding members went to a school board meeting for what was then the Erie County School Board. The ECCF wanted the President of both the Sandusky City School Board as well as the Erie County School Board to become members of the board at the Foundation, and Carole, serving as President of the Erie County School board, was nominated to serve on the Foundation's board. She held this role until 2014 when she was named as a Director Emeritus.



Along with her role on the board, Carole served as the first Chairman of the Grants Committee, an important position she found to be both necessary and rewarding. "We've helped out so many schools," she said. "They do so much for people. I've learned so much about the area and the needs of the area." A few of the projects taken on by the Foundation during Carol's term that stand out to her include the cleaning up of certain areas in Erie County, such as Hancock Street, and the assistance the Foundation provided to Firelands College.

As the Foundation continues working to improve the local area, Carole hopes that cleaning and beautification will remain a priority. She recognizes all of the work that has been done to keep Erie County clean for its citizens, and foresees a future in which local businesses will continue to drive the area's success. Her own family

business, the Kuns Dairy Farm, is a perfect example of a local legacy built on generations of hardworking individuals, one that plays an important role in promoting the prosperity of the area. Carole is currently a great-grandmother to seven great-grandchildren, and she knows that the family farm will continue to thrive with the lineage, as will her advocacy for education, philanthropy, and leadership— aspects that will forever leave a positive impact on the organizations she's a part of.

