

The Foundation Story



Donald F. Wood moved to the Fort Wayne area in 1977, and began his own company, 80/20, in 1989. Don started his business with a plan written on the back of a napkin, with his 3 sons. The first location was at the Enterprise Center, with one employee and a dream. The 80/20 business grew to 500+ employees and its final, current location is in Columbia City, IN. His passion was to create employment opportunities for the community and encourage the entrepreneurial spirit. With no college degree himself, Don was very supportive of the trade schools and concentrated much of his efforts in the technical arenas.

Darlene M. Richardson grew up in Columbia City, IN, but relocated to Fort Wayne, IN for the remainder of her adult life. Following the loss of her husband in 1987, she recognized a need in the community for grief and loss support. She schooled herself in this vocation and developed several support groups attended by many people in need. Dar was very active with Visiting Nurse, The Positive Resource Connection and Cancer Services, providing regular sessions and one on one care. She was also sought out often as a keynote speaker. This became her life's passion, and she continued this work until the fall of 2019.

When Don and Dar married in 1999, they combined their commitment to their community, giving to organizations they felt strongly about. They were both involved in several organizations in town and were committed to supporting and enhancing the Fort Wayne and NE Indiana areas. This involvement included their serving on multiple boards and began their legacy of giving. Because this continued, they started the Donald F. Wood and Darlene M. Richardson Foundation in 2005, as a way to give back to the community, and create a broader serving base for the greater Fort Wayne area.

In 2017, Dar asked us to join her efforts, learning more about the foundation and the interests it supported. We are both daughters-in-law to Don and Dar, so both sides of the family are still represented.

Audrey graduated as a RN, and later became a full time stay at home Mom. She splits her time between a home in Michigan and one here in Fort Wayne. She has 2 children and 3 grandchildren. Audrey is also active with her husband and the Don Wood Foundation, previously known as the 80/20 Foundation, which focuses more on manufacturing, education and leadership support.

Lisa spent 20+ years in the Veterinary Industry and recently retired. She is married, with 2 children and 3 loving dogs.

We are both honored to continue Don and Dar's legacy of giving, and as we expand our giving focuses, we too are following in the same arts, health, education, and program-based areas.

Sincerely,

Lisa and Audrey