



The Mattingly Family Story...

In 1976, the Mattingly family moved from Chicago to Benton Arkansas. David and Nancy Mattingly had four children, Lance, Scott, Traci, and Jeffrey. The kids were very active and involved in sports growing up, so upon moving to Benton they were looking for athletic activities to join. David and Nancy knew this would also be a good opportunity to integrate into their new community. Baseball and football were easy to find, but for Jeffrey, who was in the fourth grade at the time, basketball was not yet an option for his age group. In the winter of 1977, Jeffrey joined the Boys Club in Benton to play in the winter basketball league. This opened the door to what would be a lifelong relationship with the Boys and Girls Club of Saline County. Jeffrey was able to make many friends through the Club, and developed relationships that carried on through the next several years. David and Nancy quickly realized the Club played a major role in the lives of many children.

In March of 1979, Jeffrey Mattingly lost his life in a tragic accident. After Jeffrey's passing, his older brother Lance continued to coach at the Club, and for many years would still go and watch games. David and Nancy said their favorite memory of Jeffrey at the Club was the year he got to play on the sixth-grade All-Star basketball team as a fourth grader.

The seed had been planted in the Mattingly family's heart for an ongoing relationship with the Club. They enjoyed being with the kids and wanted to know what more they could do. They became more involved with the Club and gave financially as they could. Not long after Jeffrey's death, David and Nancy established a foundation known as the Jeff Mattingly Foundation. It is through this Foundation, as well as the leadership and tremendous support of family and friends, that a professional relationship was formed, and the beginning of the Jeff Mattingly Foundation Youth of the Year Program was created.

The Jeff Mattingly Foundation has been awarding Benton High School students with scholarships and other community organizations since 1980, as they aligned with what David and Nancy believed Jeffrey embodied and what became the Foundations' ultimate goals: Scholarship, Citizenship, and Sportsmanship.

David says, "If we're not stimulated to do more with our blessings, we miss a great opportunity." The Mattingly's wanted to do more and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Saline County was a natural bridge that coincided with the Foundation's priorities. They are always looking for good ways to keep Jeffrey's name associated with strong, positive, youth activities.

When David was elected Mayor of the City of Benton in 2010, they knew the Boys and Girls Club was a branch of the community they felt passionate about supporting. In 2011 as Mayor, David, recognizing that Benton's sales tax rate was much lower than comparable cities in Arkansas, proposed two ½ cent city-wide sales tax increases. The first, a public safety tax, was designed to fill a desperate need for more police funding and fire stations. The second, earmarked for quality-of-life improvements, was, in part, used to build a brand-new facility for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Saline County. Additionally, along with fellow community members who wanted to honor Nancy in this endeavor, Nancy's Orchard was created. It encompassed her passion for making sure all the kids are taken care of. The orchard is located at the new Boys and Girls Club of Saline County and has become an integral part of programmatic activities. Club members help harvest the season's crop and can take the healthy fruits home. "It was extremely humbling" said Nancy, "and I asked myself if I really deserved that. I will always be appreciative of the honor."

David, along with Jeff Hamm, a board member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Saline County, has organized a fundraiser for the club through an annual golf tournament called 'Charity for Children'. The funds benefit, not only the Boys and Girls Clubs of Saline County, but also the Bryant Kids Closet at Friends of Christ Lutheran Church. Through this tournament, they have been able to donate more than \$23,000 through their efforts in only the first two years.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Mattingly's added this thought, "Our commitment to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Saline County was certainly enhanced by our relationship with Emmy Rogers, Krystal Askew, and the leadership of the Club.

Our commitment runs deep, and we are looking at other ways to help the Club in the near future."

Our interview was over and both David and Nancy were struggling just a bit to stem their emotions. If there is any truth to the adage, "It's better to give than to receive," then the Mattingly household is reaping many rewards.



