

Meet The Team: Jane and Tom Frantz



Donors

It takes a **team** to provide shelter and affordable housing to people experiencing homelessness and housing instability in our community. The Pillars team includes dedicated **staff**, selfless **volunteers**, and generous **donors** contributing to common goals:

SHELTER, SUPPORT, SOLUTIONS

"A lot of people think that you give to organizations. Really the organizations exist to help people. Really what you're doing as a donor is you're giving to other people," said Tom Frantz.

Tom and his wife, Jane, actively support several non-profits and charitable organizations as a couple, including Pillars.

"I've always had a heart for caring, serving others, especially those in need," said Jane.

Settling in Northeast Wisconsin

Many of the people they serve live right here in the Fox Cities. It is the place both Tom and Jane call home even though they traveled different journeys before putting down roots.

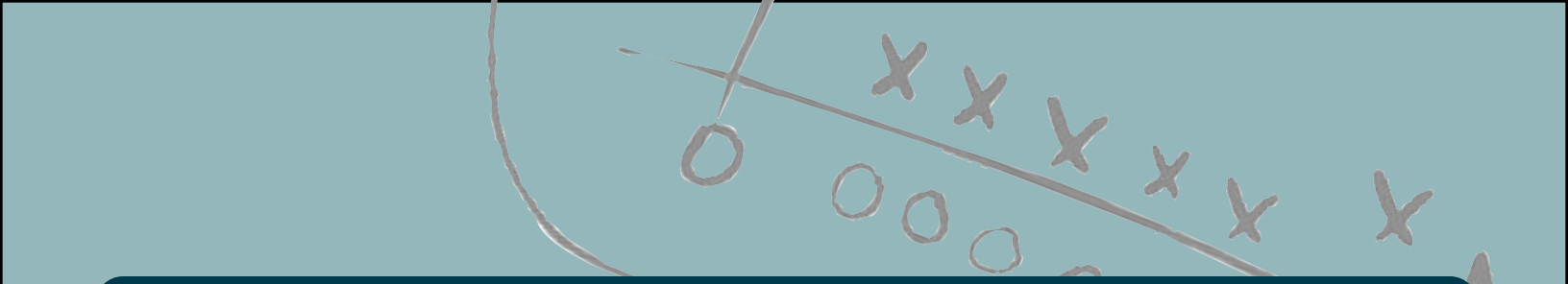
"I'm originally from Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh, and I came to the Fox Valley in 1981," said Tom. "I worked as a media specialist and taught media classes and video production classes, specifically, for UW-Fox Valley in Menasha. I eventually retired as the IT director for the campus."

"I'm a native. Pretty much we moved here when I was around 9 or 10, so I've been around here most of my life," said Jane. "I started my career here over 30 years ago."

A Lifetime of Giving Back

Jane's career started at United Way of Neenah, now United Way Fox Cities. After leaving the non-profit sector to work in a corporate setting and eventually become self-employed, she found her way back to non-profit life. "It doesn't feel like work for me. It feels like I'm feeding my soul."

Philanthropy is not new to the Frantzs who have adopted giving back not just as professionals but in their personal lives.



“We have common interests, and we each have individual interests for different non-profit organizations that we support, and I think that support has changed over time,” said Tom. “Sometimes I think in our younger days when we had less financial ability, we would support organizations through time, or they would have an event and we would participate in that event in some sort of capacity to help raise money because we saw that as being part of the service we might provide.”

“Time, talent, or treasure,” said Jane. “A gift of time is worth just as much as a gift of money. Some people can give time, some people can give talent, and some people can give money. They’re all valuable.”

Tom supports groups focused on the environment and higher education while Jane has a passion for addiction recovery programs like Apricity and Teen Challenge, and single moms. They also have shared interests that drive their giving such as mental health and housing.

“One of the basic human needs is housing and shelter. It’s really unfortunate when you think about people who lose their homes or a safe place, a warm place to be particularly at this time of year when we have inclement weather and low temperatures,” said Tom.

“We have a family situation that allowed us to become better acquainted with the housing options that are under Pillars’ domain or under your roof, so to speak,” said Jane. “I was blown away. I didn’t know you had all the properties and programs and things that you have.”

Taking that First Step

When it comes to getting started, Tom urges anyone with a desire to help people to take that first step of expressing interest to an organization and finding out how to get plugged in. He believes it is important for everyone to give back, even if that is not done financially. “In the end, I think you meet a lot of great people, you know that you’re supporting a worthy cause, you meet a lot of like-minded people that have the same values as you, and you know that you’re helping people and giving back to the broader community.”

For more information about how to join the Pillars team, visit our website:

www.pillarsinc.org.

