

# Jackie & Martin Clompus

Natives of Chester County, Jackie and Martin Clompus have long been enthusiastic philanthropists in the community they love so dearly. Serving in capacities ranging from president to volunteer, both Jackie and Martin dedicate most of their free time to bettering Chester County. The couple married right after Jackie graduated from high school. Now 70 years later, they are the parents of 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Shortly after their marriage, Martin entered the Navy and served as a meteorologist on an aircraft carrier during World War II. After returning home, he took over his father's junkyard business and in the evenings worked as a welder at Sun Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Philadelphia. Between long hours working two jobs, Martin found time for the community service so dear to his heart. In 1954, Martin became the President of the West Chester Kiwanis Club, raising \$5,000 in his first year. After his presidency, Martin continued to serve on the board and helped establish Circle K, a youth philanthropy group at West Chester University. In the late 1950's Martin joined a committee of West Chester residents who helped to refurbish six homes on Adams Street in the Borough. "The paint was pulling away from the ceilings because the homes were so old... so... 'not good,'" Clompus said of the condition of the buildings. Martin also helped create, organize and implement the Chester County Night School, which began in 1956 and still carries on to this day. Now an Emeritus Board Member, Martin recalls one of the first dance classes the school ever provided: "I was sitting on the bleachers watching, and a man came up to me and told me to go out and dance. Jackie and I took dance classes for 30 years after that." In 1965, Martin served as President of the West Chester Civic Association. That year, he and other members provided \$5,000 in seed money to help found the West Chester Day Care Center. From 1972-74, Martin served as President of Keshet Israel Congregation in West Chester. Soon after, from 1974-79 he served as Chairman of the Jewish National Fund, specializing in the development of Israeli land and infrastructure. Martin also volunteered with the United Jewish Appeal, which presented him with a Recognition of Leadership award due to his successful fundraising in 1988. In the early 1990s, the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry was emerging. In his position as President of the Phoenixville Chamber of Commerce, Martin recognized the need for a centralized membership organization to represent the business interests of its members to elected officials, and he helped promote the formation of the CCCBI. Throughout its existence, the CCCBI has led the way in business advocacy and pro-business political involvement. Jackie Clompus has followed her own volunteer path. What Jackie sees as her proudest accomplishment took place in her own backyard. There, for over 25 years, Jackie helped the American Red Cross organize swimming lessons in the Clompus' backyard pool. "Over 1,000 children learned to swim in this pool," she says with pride. After 45 years of service, the Red Cross named Jackie a charter member of the Clara Barton Honor Society--the highest honor given by the American Red Cross to volunteers. Jackie served as President of Keshet Israel Sisterhood for two years and President of Hadassah at Keshet for two years. These volunteer women's organizations strengthen their partnership with Israel, ensure Jewish continuity, and realize Jewish women's potential as a dynamic force in American society.