

FREES FAMILY

The Frees family is well-known throughout Phoenixville and Chester County for its deep roots, successful community-based businesses, and longstanding civic engagement.

In 1933, David M. Frees opened the Frees Insurance agency in Phoenixville, PA.

In 1959, David Jr. began working at the company.

In 1984, Robb Frees began working at the company with his father, along with his wife Lisa Frees.

In 2016, Tyler Frees joined, making Frees Insurance a four generation family business.

Tyler is a volunteer firefighter with the Phoenixville Fire Department. He also volunteers with the Friendship Fire Company Diving-Rescue Unit. Tyler's brother Morgan pursued a different path. While Morgan is employed by JP Morgan Chase & Co in New York City, he remains committed to Phoenixville and Chester County.

David Jr.'s and Mary Jane's eldest son David M. Frees III, Esq. took the legal route. In 1990, Unruh, Turner, Burke & Frees was founded. The firm now has offices in West Chester, Phoenixville and Malvern. As he heads the firm's Trust, Estate and Wealth Preservation Section and co-chairs the firm's Elder Law Solutions Section, David III is dedicated to helping families and individuals that want to leave a legacy for their heirs. He also served as Chairman of the Chester County Community Foundation and has served on many charitable boards and in numerous capital and annual giving campaigns in Chester County.

In 1995 David III's wife Robin founded NewBorn Concepts, a challenging enterprise that allowed her the flexibility to raise Joshua, Jamie and Alex; especially important as Dave III has always been a frequent international traveler and speaker. NewBorn Concepts served Phoenixville and all of Chester County and Robin now works at Chester County Hospital where she is also a donor to the annual fund. This generation has now left the nest. Josh Frees is a freelance illustrator in San Francisco; Jamie Frees Miller is an anthropologist and Coordinator of the Center For The Environment and Society at Washington College in Chestertown MD; and Alex Frees serves as Director of Marketing for the Philadelphia region of CreditSuite.

David III recalls weekly tithing: "I remember eating spaghetti suppers and lots of tuna noodle casseroles. Simple meals. And every Friday, Mom and Dad would sit at the table with us and we would decide how much money we would put aside for charity." Robb elaborates, "Service and giving one's time and money is an obligation, regardless of age or wealth. We developed the habit of giving, even when time and money were scarce. The habit endures."

Over time, as Frees family members continued to grow and thrive, the family ventured into more formal philanthropy. In 1994 when the Chester County Community Foundation was just beginning, David Jr. became an original board member. In 1997, continuing the family's tradition of generosity, brothers David and Robb started the Frees Family Fund. Each family member donates modest amounts to the charitable fund, and the aggregated giving has grown over the years.

This intergenerational family legacy fund focuses its grants on "Neighbors helping neighbors." A fitting demonstration of the Frees family motto: "Bring more to the table than you take."