

CAROL ABRAMS

Carol Abrams grew up in Gary, Indiana and Chicago. She graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin in 1962, majoring in English and Education. She is married to Howard Abrams, her husband of 59 years, a retired retailer and outstanding community volunteer. They have 2 children, Polly & Tony (married to Laura) and a grandson, Sam. Carol's hobbies are traveling, reading, theatre, films, cooking and entertaining friends. She lived in Cleveland, Ohio and held many board positions and vice-presidencies of organizations in the Jewish community. As a free-lance writer for the Cleveland Jewish News for over 25 years, Carol won numerous national and regional journalism awards.

It was certainly Evansville, Indiana's lucky day when Carol Abrams moved there with her husband, Howard Abrams! She has been an active community volunteer from the beginning. She is more than a volunteer; she is an activist in education and the arts. She is a past recipient two times of the annual Mayor's Arts Award, a prestigious award that recognizes the person who has contributed the most to the city of Evansville's arts and culture. She is a tireless supporter and past president of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also been involved in the University of Evansville Theater, winning the highest honor of the UE Theater Society in 2019. She is the leader in project after project to bring the arts to her community. She was instrumental in transforming the historic Victory Theater in downtown Evansville from a worn out, endangered building into a dazzling venue. Carol has a way of gathering people together into groups that have a way of

accomplishing “big things” to make Evansville a better place to live. There are many other boards too numerous to mention that Carol has served on.

She is also a leader of Jewish life in Evansville. She has befriended Jewish students at UE over the years, and she and Howard made sure that they never spent a Jewish Holiday alone. Carol has also sought out Jewish young professionals and welcomed them to Evansville, making them a part of their family. Their door has always been open.

Carol has served on numerous boards; however, in 1999, she founded and has chaired for 25 years, CYPRESS (The Committee to Promote Respect in Schools) aimed at spreading the values of respect and tolerance in the Evansville school community has had a far-reaching effect. She and a small group of women (which has now grown substantially) have provided extensive teacher education with workshops and nationally- known speakers to build knowledge of the Holocaust, civil rights movement, acceptance of diversity and anti-bullying programs. Some of these projects have reached National levels. Carol, along with the help of others and Steven Spielberg’s funding, created a repository at the Evansville Library. It maintains stories of Holocaust survivors from Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. Evansville was among the region’s first to house these stories.

People have said that they do not know anyone else like Carol, who has the energy, passion and love for her community of Evansville.