



# RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

## Annetta Sweatt

Annetta Marie Sweatt was born on February 15, 1937, on a bitterly cold winter night in Burnett, Indiana. Her uncle, who ventured out to fetch the doctor, often reminded her of that night, humorously saying the snow was "a hole deep." Annetta was named after her mother, Luretta, and her Aunt Marie, both of whom were strong and compassionate women—traits that would shape her own life.

Annetta grew up in a close-knit household with her grandparents, which she considers one of the best things that ever happened to her. Her grandfather, Harry Ross, whom she lovingly called "Dad," was her hero and greatest influence. Annetta often speaks of him with immense admiration, saying, "I've never met another man like my 'Dad.'" In honor of his memory, she named her first grandson Ross, who, much like his great-grandfather, is a source of great love and pride in her life.

Growing up in the small country town of Burnett during the 1940s, Annetta was surrounded by a village that valued community, concern for neighbors, and a strong bond that provided a sense of warmth and security.

While kindergarten wasn't offered back then, five-year-old Annetta was eager to attend school with her friends. Though not officially enrolled, her cousin, the teacher at District #8 one-room schoolhouse, allowed her to "visit." With no option to ride the bus, young Annetta walked two miles each way just to be part of the learning experience.

This eagerness for education marked the beginning of her lifelong love for learning. After that brief year, she went on to attend Otter Creek School in North Terre Haute for the next 12 years. Summers, however, were special.

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As a teenager, Annetta spent two weeks each summer at Cedine Bible Camp in Spring City, Tennessee. There, she and other campers slept in tents, bathed in the river, and gathered on hillside seats made from fallen trees to sing, pray, and study the Bible. To this day, Annetta remains close to those friends and is thankful for those summers, which strengthened her faith and left a lasting impact on her life.

Her family's faith was ever-present, with her grandparents, mother, and siblings all being lifelong members of Lost Creek Baptist Church. A particularly poignant memory is the day she, her grandparents, and her mother were baptized together in Highland Creek—a moment straight out of a storybook. That foundation of faith has continued throughout Annetta's life, and she remains deeply loyal to the church and its teachings, often proclaiming, "What a mighty God we serve!" After graduating from high school, Annetta attended Indiana State University (ISU) and later enrolled in St. Anthony Nursing School. She worked in the Division of Teaching at ISU, helping with student-teacher training, while also working at local hospitals. She spent ten years as a secretary and assistant to Dr. H.M.S. Bristol, but it was her role as a wife and mother to her three children—Michelle, Clifton, and Jonathan—that became the true center of her world. Annetta jokingly admits to using "all sorts of excuses" for not returning to school once her children came along, but she never lost her passion for learning. Then came an opportunity that changed her life: an interview with Pfizer. When the HR manager told her, "We take care of our employees from cradle to grave," Annetta was intrigued.

She soon discovered that this was no idle promise. As an employee, she saw firsthand how Pfizer supported its staff throughout all stages of life—from sending gift baskets to new mothers to helping retirees and their spouses navigate benefits.

Annetta's career at Pfizer spanned many roles, but her longest and most cherished assignment was as Benefits Coordinator in Human Resources. It was in this role that she truly found her calling in helping people. Her volunteerism didn't stop there—she became deeply involved in Pfizer's community outreach efforts, serving as a reporter for the company newsletter, "The Vigo View," and even traveling to Madrid University for a two-week workshop for Pfizer's international reporters. Her contributions extended beyond Pfizer, as she joined the boards of several non-profits, including Trees Terre Haute, Swope Art Museum, and St. Ann Clinic. Annetta fondly remembers how Pfizer employees could volunteer for local causes and receive grants for their service—something that made a significant impact in her community. It was a bittersweet day when Pfizer moved out of Terre Haute, but the sense of belonging and camaraderie among the "Pfizer Pfamily" has stayed with her ever since. Annetta's work life brought her many opportunities, including travel to places like Hawaii, Alaska, Spain, Rome, Bermuda, and Canada. At one point, she even received an offer from the Agency for International Development (AID) to work abroad. Though Pfizer matched AID's offer, and Annetta ultimately chose to stay with Pfizer, she has never regretted the decision, feeling it was the right one for her and her family.

Now, as a resident of Westminster Village, Annetta reflects on the path that brought her here. She recalls reading the story of Mary Alice Banks, Westminster's co-founder, whose vision of helping people deeply resonated with her. Annetta has seen many of her former co-workers live at Westminster, and today, she is proud to be part of a community that values the same commitment to care and compassion that she cherished during her career.

Annetta is a proud mother of three children—all grown, with two already retired and her youngest set to retire in two years. She is also the grandmother of six and the great-grandmother of one, a family that continues to be the greatest source of joy and fulfillment in her life. As Annetta herself says, "My family has been my life," and their love and support have been the cornerstone of her journey.

Looking back on her life, Annetta feels blessed by the experiences, opportunities, and relationships that have shaped her. Whether through her faith, her career, or her family, one thing remains clear: Annetta has always been guided by her desire to help others, a legacy she continues to honor every day.